

to be placed on long-term research for industrial application. Mr. Prime's background is suited to this objective, as he is at present manager of the Application and Control Division of the Brush Electrical Engineering Co., Ltd., at Loughborough, having been during 1955-58 chief electronic engineer in the same firm. Mr. Prime, who is forty-two, was educated at the North Manchester Grammar School and the University of Manchester, from which he obtained an honours degree in physics in 1942 and later an M.Sc. He spent the years from 1942-46 in the Admiralty Signal and Radar Establishment, where he worked on radar and made a particular contribution to the work on displays. During 1946-50 he was a lecturer in electronics at the University of Liverpool and during 1950-55 was a senior lecturer in electronic engineering in the University of Adelaide, South Australia. During these years of academic work he did research in various fields of electronics including instrumentation, microwave measurements and ionized gases. In his eight years at the Brush Co., Mr. Prime has been responsible for some notable design and development work in control engineering. Perhaps the most spectacular has been his design of the control gear for both the Jodrell Bank radio telescope and the huge aerial installed at Goonhilly Down in connexion with satellite communication. But of more direct value to industry, no doubt, has been his work on the control of electrical machines. It is expected that Mr. Prime's appointment as the new professor at Birmingham will enable the Electrical Engineering Department eventually to make as big a contribution to industrial research as it is already making in various fields of communication and electronic engineering.

#### Controller of Aircraft, Ministry of Aviation :

M. B. Morgan, C.B.

MR. M. B. MORGAN has been appointed to be the controller of aircraft, Ministry of Aviation, in succession to Sir George Gardner, who retired from the public service on April 29. Mr. Morgan was born in 1912 and educated at Rutlish School, Merton, and St. Catharine's College, Cambridge. He entered the Scientific Civil Service in 1935 at the Royal Aircraft Establishment and remained there until 1959. At the Royal Aircraft Establishment he was concerned, during 1935-39, with flight test work including aircrew tests, drag measurements, turbulence performance, stability and handling. During 1939-45 he was in charge of a group in the Aero Flight Section, dealing with handling stability and control, accident investigation liaison with firms, etc. From 1946 until 1948 he was superintendent (stability and control) and head of the Aero Flight Section concerned with all aspects of flight test work from helicopters to high-speed testing. In 1948 he was appointed head of Guided Weapons Department, and in 1959 became deputy director. In 1959, Mr. Morgan was appointed Scientific Adviser, Air Ministry, a post which he filled until 1960 when he was appointed Deputy Controller of Aircraft (Research and Development) in the Ministry of Aviation.

#### Royal Ontario Museum:

Dr. W. E. Swinton

DR. WILLIAM E. SWINTON has been appointed director of the Royal Ontario Museum (University of Toronto). Dr. Swinton, head of the Life Sciences Division of the Museum since 1961, succeeds Dr. T. A. Heinrich, who resigned last year. An internationally known authority on dinosaurs, Dr. Swinton, who is sixty-two, is the author of sixteen books and more than two hundred scientific papers and reports. During 1925-61, he was on the staff of the British Museum (Natural History), rising to principal scientific officer in charge of fossil amphibians, reptiles and birds. He was also training officer for non-curatorial staff and, for a time, chairman of the scientific staff association. Dr. Swinton was educated in Scotland at Trinity College, Clenlmond, and the University of

Glasgow. In 1932 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. He was president of the Museums Association (Great Britain) during 1958-60.

#### Earthquake in Yugoslavia

ON July 26, 1963, at approximately 5.18 a.m. local time, an earthquake of intensity about 9 on the Mercalli Scale (maximum 10) occurred with epicentre near latitude 42° 1' N., longitude 21° 26' E., near the centre of the town of Skoplje (Uskub) near the northern borders of Macedonia, in Jugoslavia. This follows smaller tremors in southern France a week earlier, and between then and July 26 in central Italy (Terni, 46 miles north-east of Rome). There was a slight earth tremor in Skoplje on February 22, 1963.

About half the buildings in the centre of Skoplje are reported to have been destroyed, including the Makedonija Hotel, the Jugoslav Army Club, the City Hall, the National Bank and a Teachers Training College. The Post Office was badly damaged and the telephone lines cut. The ancient fortress and the railway station were partly damaged, but the central hospital was not badly affected. Sewer and water pipes were cracked, electricity supplies cut, and fires were started because embers were thrown out of the grates. The death-roll is tentatively estimated at 1,000 from a population of some 215,000. In Gnjilane, 40 miles north of Skoplje along the Morava Valley, 24 houses were damaged, and the tremors were felt 100 miles away from the epicentre. After-shocks are continuing. The ruins of the ancient town of Scupi, near by, are considered to have been caused by an earthquake in the year A.D. 518. Skoplje is approximately along the median line of a wide belt of epicentres which stretches from Mid-Atlantic, through southern Spain, Italy, Albania, Jugoslavia, Greece, Bulgaria and Turkey to Georgia, Azerbaijan and the Himalayas. An earthquake with epicentre west of Skoplje (42° N., 21° E.) occurred on 1942, August 27d. 06h. 14m. 11s. G.M.T., which is nearer to Tetovo than to Skoplje. It had magnitude  $5.6 \pm 0.3$  on the Richter logarithmic (instrumental) scale. Further news from the locality, from Belgrade and from seismological observatories throughout the world is awaited.

#### Electric Power in Scotland

IN a statement in the House of Commons on July 10, the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr. M. Noble, said that the Government had given very careful consideration to the findings of the Mackenzie Committee, including its central recommendation that the functions of the two electricity boards in Scotland should be transferred to a single authority. In making this recommendation, the Committee's purpose, which must also be the Government's, was to ensure that the whole operation of generating, transmitting and distributing electricity in Scotland was carried out on the most economic basis possible, and that judgments on questions arising, such as the erection of new generating stations, were not influenced by narrow financial considerations. It was clear, however, that the proposal was unwelcome to a wide range of interests, and Mr. Noble did not think that it had yet been established that the continued existence of the two boards was incompatible with the most economic provision of electricity. He intended to see what could be done by close consultation and co-operation between the two boards, and, in the expectation that their purpose could be achieved by this means, the Government had decided not to proceed at the present time with the legislation that would be necessary to implement this recommendation of the Committee. Discussions were proceeding on the comparative cost of providing electricity by the proposed hydro-electric generating schemes published by the North of Scotland Board, and by the installation of additional thermal generating capacity elsewhere in