

Research Council fellowship at the Chalk River Laboratories of Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd., where he later joined the permanent staff. He was for a time head of the radionuclide standardization group and has become known internationally for his contributions to the technique of absolute activity measurements. He also carried out investigations on reactions involving radiative neutron capture in various elements as well as making precision determinations of some neutron cross-sections. In 1960 he returned to the United Kingdom as head of the Radiology Section, Applied Physics Division, at the National Physical Laboratory. He is a member of the Comité Consultatif pour les Étalons de Mesure des Radiations Ionisantes of the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures at Sèvres.

#### Applied Magnetism at the University of Liverpool :

Dr. H. Edels

DR. H. EDELS, at present reader in electric power engineering in the University, has been appointed to the newly established chair of applied electromagnetism. Dr. Edels is forty-two and was educated at Manchester Central High School and the College of Technology of the University of Manchester, where he was awarded a B.Sc. Tech. in 1943. From 1943 until 1947 he was a research engineer in industry, engaged on researches into circuit breaking, fuses and welding. From 1947 until 1949 he held a research fellowship in the University, and in 1949 was appointed a lecturer in the Department of Electronics. He was awarded a Ph.D. in 1950. Dr. Edels was promoted to a senior lectureship in 1955 and to a readership in electric power engineering in 1958. He served on the Senate from 1961 until 1963 as the representative of the non-professorial teaching staff in the Faculty of Engineering. Since 1961 he has been the representative of the Council of the University on the Northern Universities Joint Matriculation Board. In 1963 he was awarded the Snell Premium of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. His main research interest is the investigation of properties and theory of arc discharges.

#### Nuclear Propulsion for Merchant Ships

IN reply to a question in the House of Lords on February 26, the Earl of Bessborough said that the £3 million allocated for research into nuclear propulsion for merchant ships was spent by the beginning of this year. The programme included the joint *Vulcain* project undertaken with Belgonucleaire, as well as research into and investigations of other water-moderated reactor systems and their variants. The results had been given to the Working Group on Marine Reactor Research and, pending the Group's report, work was continuing this year on the scale of about £2 million per annum. He thought that most of the systems used would be water-moderated.

#### Royal Society Research Professorships

IN a written answer in the House of Commons on February 21, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. J. Boyd-Carpenter, announced that he proposed, subject to Parliamentary approval, to provide the Royal Society with additional funds in its grant-in-aid for 1964-65 for the establishment of a further three research professorships at a cost, including supporting staff and research equipment, of some £45,000 in 1964-65 and £75,000 in a full year of operation.

#### Research in Education

IN a written answer in the House of Commons on February 24 the Minister of Education, Sir Edward Boyle, listed five research projects directly relevant to the Newsom Report and sponsored by the research fund of his Department, with the estimated cost and date of completion: a study by the Institute of Education, University of London, of the relation between language,

social class and learning ability (£32,000; 1968); an investigation by the Institute of Education and Department of Sociology, University of Liverpool, of the relation between educational achievement and environmental factors (£14,000; 1967); a study by the National Foundation for Educational Research of the effects of ability-streaming in primary schools, with reference to socio-economic variables, achievement and attitudes (£58,000; 1968); an investigation by the University of Durham of the relation between behavioural, emotional and cognitive components of morality, with special reference to the influence of socio-economic factors on moral development (£5,000; 1965-66); and a study by the University of Manchester of attainment in primary schools in the Manchester area, related to school and socio-economic variables (£2,500; 1965). The Central Advisory Council for Education (England), which commissioned the last-mentioned study, had also asked the Social Survey of the Central Office of Information to investigate the relation between home and school, with special reference to socio-economic factors. He was considering whether establishment of an experimental school in co-operation with a teachers' training college, as recommended in the Newsom Report, was the best way of helping people whose abilities were artificially depressed by mental and linguistic handicaps. He was also taking into consideration the place of such a project in the general research and development to be undertaken in consequence of the decision to raise the school-leaving age. He stated that he would be consulting departments concerned on the establishment, also recommended in the Newsom Report, of an inter-departmental working party to deal with general social problems, including education in slum areas, and particularly with the need for stability of staffing and the design and function of school buildings as part of the general community provision. The need for closer co-operation was agreed and he hoped to make an announcement shortly as to its form.

#### University Places in Britain

IN reply to a question about university places in the House of Lords on February 27, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Science, the Earl of Bessborough, said that about 35,100 full-time students for first degree or comparable courses entered universities in Great Britain in October 1963. According to provisional information from the Universities Central Council on Admissions, 51,600 students applied for admission but about 11 per cent failed to obtain the minimum academic qualifications. Of the remainder, 26,500 obtained admission to universities other than Oxford and Cambridge and an unknown number obtained admission to Oxford and Cambridge. It is believed that 60 per cent of the remainder continued in full-time education.

#### Technological Awards in Britain

A STATEMENT issued by the National Council for Technological Awards warmly welcomes the Robbins Report and regards the Robbins Committee's guiding principle—that equal academic awards should be for equal performance—as representing a major change in the climate of opinion since the Council began its work in 1956 (*Statement on the Report of the Committee on Higher Education*, Pp. 4. London: National Council for Technological Awards, 1964). It believes that the work of all concerned with the establishment of Diploma in Technology courses, including the students themselves, has demonstrated that the principle can be applied. In particular, it is glad to have had the opportunity of working with the colleges of advanced technology in attaining university status. The Council strongly recommends that if awards in a new style of title are granted either by the Council for National Academic Awards or by colleges of advanced technology, such awards should be granted retrospectively to holders of the Diploma in Technology and the award of Membership