

Monash University, Victoria, Australia. After graduating at the University of Durham he served in the Royal Air Force and was later a senior research officer in the Research Techniques Unit at the London School of Economics, a senior lecturer at the University of Melbourne, and a Fellow in the Department of Statistics at the Australian National University, Canberra. He has written many papers on queueing theory and has lately directed his attention to problems of statistical inference. His appointment at Monash will strengthen an already vigorous school headed by Profs. K. C. Westfold and G. B. Preston.

#### Second Chair of Geography in the University of Birmingham :

Prof. H. Thorpe

DR. H. THORPE, at present reader in historical geography in the University of Birmingham, has been appointed to the newly established second chair of geography from October 1. Dr. Thorpe was born in Derbyshire in 1913, and from Chesterfield Grammar School gained an exhibition to the University of Durham in 1931. There he graduated with first-class honours in geography and was awarded the Maltby Prize for the best thesis presented in ancient history and archæology. After graduation he remained at Durham as demonstrator in the Department of Geography, and was awarded an M.Litt. degree for a thesis on rural settlement in 1936. During the Second World War he served with the Survey Branch of the Royal Engineers, first in the European theatre and then in south-east Asia, where he became senior survey officer, Malaya. After the War he was appointed lecturer in geography in the University of Birmingham, but continued to command 529 Field Survey Squadron, Royal Engineers (Territorial Army), for the Midlands until 1958. He has remained in the University of Birmingham ever since, being promoted senior lecturer in 1951, and given the title of reader in historical geography in 1954. Over many years he has directed his principal research to the elucidation of the evolution of the landscape of the West Midlands and especially of Warwickshire over the past five or six centuries, and the reconstruction of the geography of the area at certain periods in the past. Dr. Thorpe's monograph on the City of Lichfield, published a dozen years ago in the Staffordshire Historical Collections, may be known to some, and his volume on *The Printed Maps of Warwickshire, 1576-1900*, written in collaboration with Mr. Paul Harvey of the British Museum, is a model of its kind. Dr. Thorpe has two comparable volumes in hand, the first on *The Printed Maps and Plans of Warwickshire and the second on The Printed Maps of Worcestershire, 1577-1900*. Dr. Thorpe is a well-known figure in geographical planning and archæological circles in Birmingham and the West Midlands. He is chairman of the Birmingham Branch of the Geographical Association, and vice-president of the Birmingham Archæological Society.

#### New University at Stirling, Scotland

ON the advice of the University Grants Committee, the Government has agreed to establish a new Scottish university at Stirling. The site recommended by the University Grants Committee is the Airthrey Estate, which is at present owned by the Scottish Home and Health Department. The preliminary steps for planning the new university will begin at once and the University Grants Committee will be in close consultation with the sponsoring Committee at Stirling. The target for student numbers recommended by the Robbins Committee for 1967-68 will be met by expansion of the existing universities. The object will therefore be that the new university should be planned so as to enable it to make a growing contribution to the need for university places in the latter half of the ten-year programme envisaged by the Robbins Committee. Stirling will be the eighth new university foundation to be established in Great Britain in the past

five years. In recent weeks, also, the Royal College of Science and Technology at Glasgow has been granted a charter and has become the University of Strathclyde. The new university at Stirling will therefore be the sixth in Scotland.

#### Overseas Students in Britain

A LEAFLET issued by the Association of Commonwealth Universities gives the total number of students from other countries enrolled for full-time study or research in United Kingdom universities in 1963-64 as 14,117, compared with 14,020 in 1962-63, and 13,385 in 1961-62. Of these, 8,280 were from other parts of the Commonwealth and 5,837 from non-Commonwealth countries; 313 were in agriculture and dentistry; 3,310 in arts; 128 in dentistry, 1,965 in medicine, 2,448 in science, 2,574 in social studies, 3,269 in technology, and 110 in veterinary science. Postgraduate students totalled 6,926 and 6,858 held an award of some kind. India sent 1,543, the United States, 1,295, Nigeria, 1,022, Pakistan, 749, Canada, 652, Iraq, 530 and Egypt, 452.

#### International Survey of Scientific and Technical Personnel

THE June 1964 issue of the *O.E.C.D. Observer*, besides an article on the co-ordination of foreign aid, summarizes the findings of the *Third International Survey of Scientific and Technical Personnel*, recently published by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development under the title "Resources of Scientific and Technical Personnel in the O.E.C.D. Area". The Survey provides no answer to the question whether some countries are over-investing in education while others are neglecting it. Moreover, the general correlation between gross national income and educational efforts in member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development does not suggest a final answer to the question as to the optional reserve allocation to education in individual countries. Whereas in Britain about 90 per cent of new entrants obtain a first degree, in some other countries, including the United States, only 50-60 per cent of university entrants do so, and while, in Italy, France, Germany and Britain, more than 80 per cent of secondary school leavers qualified for admission to higher education in the United States and some other countries the proportion was 50 per cent or less. The proportion of university graduates qualifying in engineering, science and agriculture varied from 75 per cent in Austria to 20 per cent in the United States and 15 per cent in Greece. The output of scientists in Western Europe is increasing much more rapidly than that of engineers. The number of scientists and engineers, excluding technicians, in member countries of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in 1959 was 2.6 million and is expected to increase 6-7 per cent in the early 1960's.

#### The Lace Research Association

THE fifteenth annual report of the Lace Research Association, for 1963, refers to the complete change in the basis of membership with the abandonment of the levy, with the effect that the work of the Association is directed much more towards the interests of the Leavers makers, Leavers and Raschel finishers and Leavers and Raschel dyers providing the basic income (Pp. 22. Bilborough, Nottingham: The Lace Research Association, 1964). In the investigation of the packing density of the yarns wound into brass bobbins, a special technique has been developed to fix the yarns in position by 'potting' them in resin before a cross-section of the bobbin is made. Work has been initiated on a device to provide an automatic dropping in of bobbin threads on the brass bobbin winder. Steady progress was made in supplying and fitting beam-thread-breakage detectors on Leavers lace machines and further development work was undertaken with the prototype equipment for detecting holes appearing in the lace due to thread breakage, which is designed to traverse