

AWARDS

Atoms for Peace Award

SIR John Cockcroft, British physicist and Nobel laureate who is now Master of Churchill College of Cambridge University, has been chosen to receive the 1961 Atoms for Peace Award, which is symbolized by a gold medallion and includes an honorarium of \$75 000. The presentation ceremony will take place on the 6th of this month at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In announcing the award, James R. Killian, Jr., chairman of the Trustees of Atoms for Peace Awards, said: "Sir John's contributions to the peaceful uses of the energy within the atom range from the first demonstrations that this energy can be released by man's ingenuity and skill to the direction of the development of full-scale nuclear-powered generating stations supplying electricity to England. He has taken a leading part in the development of large-scale test reactors, in the organization and direction of one of the great research centers for the exploration of the peaceful uses of atomic energy at Harwell in England, in the distribution of radioactive isotopes for research and for medical therapy to many countries throughout the world, in the organization of a Middle Eastern Atomic Research Center in Teheran, in the organization of the Geneva Conferences on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy under the sponsorship of the United Nations, in the training of scientists and engineers from many parts of the world at the school for the study of isotopes founded at Harwell, and in the discussions among scientists and diplomats about the ways in which the potential for benefiting mankind made available through atomic power can best be realized."

Sir John, a native of Yorkshire, England, studied at Manchester and Cambridge Universities. In 1930 he became a lecturer in the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge, where, with E. T. S. Walton, he developed the apparatus with which he and Walton, in 1932, were the first to disintegrate atomic nuclei with artificially accelerated particles in place of the radiations from naturally radioactive elements. For this work they were jointly awarded the 1951 Nobel Prize for Physics. In 1939 Sir John was appointed Jacksonian Professor of Natural Philosophy at Cambridge, a chair which he retained until the end of World War II. During the war he served first as chief superintendent of Britain's Air Defense Research and Development Establishment and later as director of the Atomic Energy Division of the National Research Council of Canada. In 1946, he returned to England as director of the British Atomic Energy Establishment at Harwell, where he remained until his appointment in 1959 as Master of Churchill College, a



Sir John Cockcroft

new foundation in Cambridge University established for study and research in science and technology.

Atoms for Peace Awards, Inc., was established in 1955 as a memorial to Henry Ford and his son Edsel Ford. Its Trustees are directed by charter "to select from among the world's scientists, engineers, and others, an individual or group of individuals, or organization who or which is determined by the Trustees each year to have made the greatest contribution to the peaceful uses of atomic energy". It also provides that the award be made without regard for nationality, politics, or any other consideration except the merit of the contribution.

Rumford Premium

ON March 8, the Rumford Premium of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences was presented to Charles H. Townes, professor of physics at Columbia University, for his origination of the maser. Dr. Townes is the 52nd recipient of the award, which was established in 1796 by Benjamin Thompson, Count Rumford, and which originally consisted of "two medals struck in the same die, the one of gold, and the other of silver, and of such dimensions that both of them together may be equal in value . . . to three hundred dollars". At the present time an award of five thousand dollars accompanies the medals. Count Rumford also stipulated that the recipient should be "the author of the most important discovery or useful improvement . . . on Heat or on Light . . ."

Dr. Townes, who is at present on leave from his post at Columbia while serving as vice president and director of research of the Institute for Defense Analyses in Washington, D. C., will become provost of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology next fall. A former member of the Bell Telephone Laboratories technical staff, he joined Columbia's faculty in 1948. Since that time he has seen service both as head of the Physics Department and as director of the University's Radiation Laboratory.

The award was presented by President Kirtley F. Mather at the 1429th Stated Meeting of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, at the House of the Academy in Brookline, Mass. Dr. Townes was introduced by Harvey Brooks, dean of engineering and