

The Silver Medal of the Operational Research Society

AT THE Annual Banquet of the Operational Research Society at Guildhall on Wednesday, 24 February, the Society awarded its Silver Medal to Professor Philip Morse.

The citation to the award reads:

Philip Morse has been a professor at MIT for more than thirty years, and he has also been director of the Computation Center there since its inception in 1956. As a distinguished American scientist, he has played many other roles. He is for instance a member of the Board of Trustees of the Rand Corporation, and is concerned with various publications (for example the *Annals of Physics*, of which he has been Editor since 1957).

Morse began his operational research career during the war with the U.S. Navy, and by the end of the forties was Director of Research for the Weapons Systems Evaluation Group in the office of the Secretary of Defense. He has continued to advise the American Government in various capacities ever since. In 1950 *Methods of Operations Research* was published, and "Morse and Kimball" became one of the first classic texts in operational research. It was natural that when the Operational Research Society of America was formed in 1952, Morse was elected its first president.

His interest in extending operational research throughout the world is of long standing. Since 1960, for example, he has been chairman of the NATO Advisory Panel on operational research and he now undertakes the same role for OECD. At Oxford in 1957 he represented the U.S.A. in the foundation of the International Federation of Operational Research Societies, and became its second international Secretary-General from 1962 to 1964. Furthermore, over the years, his methodological and technical contributions to the literature of operational research are legion.

Philip Morse's name will go down in history as a founder and builder of this new branch of science in most of the countries of the world.