

RADIO TELESCOPE

At Jodrell Bank, in Cheshire, the greatest radio telescope in the world is nearing completion; a giant with 2,000 tons of moving parts, surmounted by a reflecting bowl 250 feet across. The object of the bowl - to concentrate radio waves from outer space, so that radiations which have been travelling for millions of years at the speed of light can be detected, measured, and analysed. To do that, the bowl can be pointed accurately in any direction - even in a high wind

In charge of the station is Professor A.G.B. Lovell (on the right).. Mr. H.C. Husband designed the telescope, which is operated from a control building. Like many great research centres, it is a university project - in this case, Manchester. In the past quarter-century, huge optical telescopes have revolutionised our concept of the universe; but as this radio giant scans the heavens, knowledge which seemed unattainable a few years ago will be an open book. It can operate as a radar set, too - probing with its own echoes the moon and even the planets. A new universe to explore - thanks to British scientists and British engineers.