

TWO BRITONS WIN SHARE OF NOBEL PRIZE

WORK ON HEREDITY

STOCKHOLM, Oct. 18

Two Britons and an American were today jointly awarded this year's Nobel Prize for medicine for work on heredity. The Britons are Dr. Francis Crick, 46, a molecular biologist at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge, and Dr. Maurice Wilkins, 45, deputy director of the Medical Research Council's biophysics research unit at King's College London. The American, Dr. James Watson, is Professor of Biology at Harvard, and worked at Cambridge, England, in 1951-52.

Professor Ulf von Euler, chairman of the Caroline Institute's Nobel committee, which selects the medicine prize winners, said the work of this year's winners was of great importance to the whole study of heredity and the reason for the passing on of hereditary diseases. It may even be found to provide an explanation for the deformities of thalidomide babies, he said.

CODE DISCOVERED

The work of the trio, meant, in effect, the discovery of a code, or working instructions, for the formation of enzymes which govern heredity. This was another link in the work of making clear the whole "blueprint" for the production of



Dr. Wilkins



Dr. Crick

living beings, he said. It could lead to an explanation of why one species was different from another and why each individual was unique in some respect.

The official announcement said the three men had received the award for their work in achieving a breakthrough on a "most fundamental biological problem"—the discovery of the molecular structure of deoxyribonucleic acid. This is a biological structure which makes possible the passing on of characteristics from parents to child.

Earlier this month Dr. Crick was awarded the \$25,000 (about £8,900) Gairdner Foundation prize. He was also one of three Britons who shared the 1960 Albert Lasker awards presented in New York by medical and health organizations. Dr. Wilkins was another of the joint winners.

Dr. Wilkins, who is on a visit to America, was born in New Zealand and went to King Edward's School, Birmingham, and St. John's College, Cambridge.

Dr. Watson, who is 34, was also named as one of the Albert Lasker award winners two years ago. A native of Chicago, he was a National Science Foundation fellow in Copenhagen in 1951.

Asked by reporters at Cambridge Massachusetts, whether he was surprised at getting the Nobel Prize, Dr. Watson replied: "Somewhat, but not very." He said he had been told that research into heredity would win the scientists involved the award.—*Reuter*.