

Everdingen, that a conference of directors of meteorological institutes and observatories should be held at Utrecht in 1923, either in the spring or autumn as may be found the more convenient.

The meetings of the committee were held in the library of the Meteorological Office, South Kensington, and those of the commissions in the council-room of the Air Ministry in Kingsway.

Dr. and Mrs. Simpson received the visitors at the Meteorological Office, South Kensington, on the evening of Wednesday, September 7. The Government entertained them on September 9 at a luncheon, at which Sir Frederick Sykes, Controller-General of Civil Aviation, welcomed them. Capt. C. J. P. Cave, of Stoner Hill, Petersfield, gave a luncheon in their honour on September 15, and the evening of September 16 was devoted to a dinner given by the president.

### The International Illumination Commission.

THE first technical session of the International Illumination Commission was held in Paris on July 4-8, many delegates from the chief countries of Europe and the United States being present. The proceedings were opened by the Minister of Public Works in the name of the French Republic.

Dr. E. P. Hyde (U.S.A.) was elected president for the forthcoming period, M. Th. Vautier being nominated an honorary president in recognition of his past work on behalf of the Commission; and Mr. C. C. Paterson was elected hon. secretary. After the conclusion of formal business international technical committees were nominated to deal with the subjects of nomenclature and symbols, heterochromatic photometry, factory and school lighting, and automobile headlights. The unit of candle-power at present in use in this country, in France, and in the United States was adopted for international purposes, and is to be known as the "international candle." It is maintained by means of electric incandescent lamps at the national laboratories of the three countries named. Definitions of various photometric quantities, such as luminous flux, illumination, and luminous intensity, were also adopted.

Reports dealing with nomenclature and symbols were presented by a sub-committee of the British National Illumination Committee, by the Illuminating Engineering Society in the United States, and by Prof. A. Blondel, some differences in procedure being evident. These matters will doubtless be dealt with by the international technical committee referred to above. A paper by Mr. E. C. Crittenden referred to the growing recognition of the desirability of a primary standard based on the luminous radiation from a surface under specified conditions, in preference to the construction of certain types of lamps. Recent researches on the light yielded by a black body at a prescribed temperature have led to promising results; for example, it appears that such a body at 2077° K. emits 70·2 candles per sq. cm. Confirmatory researches are, however, needed. Papers by Mr. L. Gaster, Mr. L. B. Marks, and others dealt with industrial lighting, special reference being made to the question of legislation, as exemplified in the codes of some American States. While there was a recognition that the time is ripe for statutory provisions requiring adequate and suitable lighting in general terms, it was felt that it would be premature to attempt to frame a detailed series of requirements as a basis for legal procedure. Ultimately, however, an "international code" of factory lighting may be realised. Other papers dealt with motor-headlight regulations, which, like the preceding subject, was

referred to a committee; and there were a number of contributions summarising recent progress in heterochromatic and physical photometry. Of special interest was a paper by Dr. E. P. Hyde, giving results for the mechanical equivalent of light, the most recent determination being in the neighbourhood of 0·00150 watts per lumen.

It was provisionally arranged that the next meeting should take place in the United States in 1924.

### University and Educational Intelligence.

BIRMINGHAM.—On the recommendation of the Senate, a University Research Committee has been appointed. This committee consists of fifteen members, viz. the Vice-Chancellor, the Principal, and five other members elected by the Council of the University, together with eight members of the Senate, elected on the nomination of the faculties as follows: three from the Faculty of Science, two each from the Faculties of Arts and Medicine, and one from the Faculty of Commerce. These members are appointed in the first place for two years, and are eligible for re-appointment at the end of that period. The object of the committee is "to facilitate by all means in its power the prosecution and publication of original research in all branches of knowledge." The members appointed by the Council are Sir Richard Threlfall, Messrs. T. S. Walker, W. Waters Butler, Hugh Morton, and William Tangye; and the Faculty of Science is represented by Profs. F. W. Burstall, F. W. Gamble, and S. W. J. Smith. The Registrar is to act as secretary.

The Durham Coal Owners' Association has announced that the Northumberland Coal Owners' Association is prepared to recommend its members to join with those of the former association in contributing a total sum of 500*l.* per annum for a period not exceeding three years to the Mining Research Laboratory of the University of Birmingham, unless the fund constituted under the Mining Industry Act should be drawn upon for this purpose.

Mr. L. Eastham has been appointed lecturer in zoology, and Miss Laura M. Ligertwood lecturer in physiology (to succeed Dr. Frost).

CAMBRIDGE.—Messrs. A. B. Appleton, Downing College, D. G. Reid, Trinity College, A. Hopkinson, Emmanuel College, and V. C. Pennell, Pembroke College, have been reappointed demonstrators in anatomy. Mr. E. W. Hulme has been elected to the Sandars readership in bibliography and palæography for the year 1921.

The address of the retiring Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Giles, master of Emmanuel College, refers to many interesting points. On extensions and new buildings more than 130,000*l.* was spent in the last year. The greater portion of the money was for chemistry, biochemistry, parasitology and the low temperature station, and was provided from special endowments. But more money is still required to meet the expenses incurred in the new engineering school. It may be of interest to other institutions to note that the University has now to provide more than 10,000*l.* in local rates for the present year. Fear was expressed by the Vice-Chancellor that increased cost of maintenance might compel the University to make a small charge for admission to the Fitzwilliam Museum and the Botanic Garden. Reference was made to the increase in the number of research students, and to a beginning made in the exchange of teachers between universities. The new Vice-Chancellor is Dr. E. C. Pearce, master of Corpus Christi College.

The vote on the admission of women to the University will take place on October 20. This is presum-