

Zones, has been appointed general director. The following have been elected members of council: Prof. Edrich Retener, director of the Institute of Physics, Technical High School, Stuttgart; Prof. Adolf Windaus, formerly director of the Chemistry Institute, University of Göttingen; Dr. Wilhelm Boetzkef, Banking Boetzkef, banking director, of Düsseldorf; Prof. Georg Schrieber, professor of theology, University of Münster; Dr. Theo Goldschmidt, director of the chemical manufacturing firm in Essen bearing his name; Adolf Grimme, Minister for Education, Land Niedersachsen; Prof. Richard Kuhn, director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Medical Research, Heidelberg; Dr. Alfred Petersen, president of the Frankfurt Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Senator Landahl of Hamburg; and Prof. Heinrich Weiland, formerly director of the Institute of Chemistry, University of Munich. Prof. Hahn, Dr. Telschow and Prof. Max von Laue are *ex officio* members of council. In addition to the president and the general director, the following will constitute the administrative council: Prof. Retener (vice-president); Prof. von Laue (general secretary); Prof. Kuhn (deputy general secretary); Dr. Boetzkef (treasurer); and Dr. Petersen (deputy treasurer).

#### Serological Museum of Rutgers University

THERE has been established at Rutgers University, in New Jersey, a museum for the collection, preservation and study of the proteins of the blood and other tissues of the bodies of organisms, in the belief that such proteins are as characteristic as other constituents and are as worthy of preservation and comparison as skins and skeletons. The establishment of the Serological Museum is a logical consequence of the studies in systematic serology which have been conducted at Rutgers University since 1925, by Dr. Alan Boyden and his students and colleagues. Dr. Boyden has himself collected many representative samples of the blood sera of animals from laboratories in the United States and Great Britain, and others have been contributed by institutions and individuals; in recent years lyophilized (frozen and dried) samples of animal sera or of the purified fractions of such sera have been contributed by industrial laboratories. The principal objectives of the Serological Museum will be to preserve representative sera or other proteins of organisms and to study the means of improving methods of preservation; to build up a collection of sera and other proteins of as many kinds of organisms as possible; to share the samples collected with competent workers; and to study the methods used in systematic serology. Although the sera of hundreds of species of animals have already been collected, no group of animals is as yet adequately represented in the collection. The sera of many kinds of animals—vertebrate and invertebrate—are still needed. The growth of this Museum and its capacity for service will depend largely on co-operative efforts by many individuals and institutions. Those interested in the subject are invited to correspond with Dr. Alan Boyden, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey, U.S.A.

#### Climatic and Ecological Changes in Northern Waters

AT the meeting of the North-Western Area Committee of the Conseil Permanent International pour l'Exploration de la Mer on October 22, 1947, the possible influence of the present climatic changes on the lives of marine animals (density, distribution,

reproduction, migration, etc.) was discussed. Having regard to the probable importance of these changes in fisheries investigations, it was decided that every opportunity should be taken, by fishery research vessels and other suitable ships, to obtain without delay all possible data bearing upon this problem, especially in waters north of the Faroes, north and east of Iceland and in the Denmark and Davis Straits. It was also decided that relevant information from sources other than those of fisheries research would be of great value and should also be obtained. The information required comprises hydrographical, meteorological, glaciological and associated changes in northern regions, and the influence of those changes on the habits and distribution of animals and plants, both terrestrial and marine. Records should include locality (latitude and longitude), depth (if marine records), date, name and profession of observer, and references to relevant publications. Especially important are new records of animals and plants from localities recently included within their range of distribution, or the absence of species from previously populated areas. All data should be given exhaustively but concisely, and arranged so far as possible under the following headings: (1) meteorology; (2) hydrography; (3) glaciology; (4) animals: (a) Mammalia, (b) Aves, (c) Testudinata (especially observations on the west coasts of the British Isles), (d) Pisces, (e) Invertebrata; (5) plants; (6) other items. Contributions to this inquiry are earnestly requested from everyone in possession of useful information, and should be addressed to Dr. Å. Vedel Tåning, Charlottenlund Slot, Charlottenlund, Denmark, preferably during December of each year.

#### Science and Religion

FOR two hundred years, popular writers have attacked traditional religious beliefs in the name of science and pretty well undermined the faith of the plain man. Now, however, the sceptical attitude is turned against science itself, at a moment when, thanks to recent developments of physical theory, science appears vulnerable intellectually and, thanks to recent developments of military and political technique, still more vulnerable morally. Modern men, finding themselves with nothing to put their faith in, fill the spiritual vacuum with bogus religion based on bogus science, like Nazism and Communism. Even the more modest alternative, the assurance that all problems are technological and that the salvation of mankind depends on bigger and better gadgets, is not entirely satisfactory. The new quarterly magazine, *Science and Religion* (edited by Dr. Robert E. D. Clark, Paternoster Press, Ludgate House, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4. 1s. 6d. per copy), is intended, as the editor says, "to make science cultural; to show how science may strengthen religious belief instead of being allowed to develop independently and unconnected with our deepest needs". It is intended for the general public and particularly the young who learn something about science at school and are eager to know more. The articles in the first two numbers are excellently designed for their purpose. They are short, simply written and informative. Many of them are reviews of recent important books. The subjects include chemistry, biology, anthropology, psychology on the more purely scientific side, also historical and philosophical work. If the present standard can be maintained, the venture deserves to be a success.