

they are hard to beat. With regard to the letterpress, Mr. Stuart Smith's advice on bird-watching will be very helpful to young people, especially his hints on identifying birds in the field; in short, his book is not only a good addition to the School Aid series, but is to be recommended for any boy or girl who shows an inclination for bird study.

### The Caribbean Commission

THE Caribbean Commission, instituted by the Governments of France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States, has published its first annual report (Port of Spain: Caribbean Commission. London: Crown Agents for the Colonies). From the scientific point of view its most important work is that of the Caribbean Research Council. The Commission is a consultative and advisory body fully representative of all the Colonies (islands and mainland) in the Caribbean area. Its Research Council is specially concerned with scientific, technological, social and economic problems. After its war activities, concerned largely with provision and distribution of food to the various Colonies, the Commission and its various committees are now again getting down to work. Problems of forestry, livestock, grain crops and grassland have been investigated or are under investigation. The Commission has also been concerned with the transference of West Indian agricultural labour to the United States.

### Ray Society: Annual General Meeting

THE hundred and fourth annual general meeting of the Ray Society was held on March 17. It was announced that Pennant's "Tour on the Continent 1765", edited by Prof. G. R. de Beer, would be published shortly as part of the issue to members for 1947, and other volumes relating to the British fauna and flora are in active preparation, including Prof. Berrill's work on the Tunicates, Mr. Dandy's volume on British vice-counties, Messrs. Locket and Millidge's "British Spiders", the late Prof. W. M. Tattersall's monograph on the Mysidacea, and a second volume of Prof. Balfour-Browne's "British Water Beetles". The greatly increased cost of printing is likely seriously to hamper the activities of the Society, and an urgent appeal is made for new subscribers—both institutions and individuals. Prof. G. R. de Beer, Mr. A. C. Townsend and Dr. Errol White were re-elected president, honorary treasurer and honorary secretary respectively; Capt. C. Diver and Dr. W. S. Bristowe were elected vice-presidents and Dr. Malcolm Smith, Dr. John Hutchinson, Major Maxwell Knight and Dr. Ethelwynn Trewavas new members of council.

### Summer School in X-Ray Crystallography

A SUMMER SCHOOL in fundamental and applied X-ray crystallography will be held in the College of Technology, Manchester, during September 6-17. The course will be conducted by Dr. H. Lipson, Dr. H. E. Buckley and other members of the staff of the University and the College of Technology. During the course emphasis will be laid upon fundamentals such as the analysis of the basic types of X-ray photograph, and enough detail will be given to enable the student to deal with more advanced types by himself; in addition, directions of practical application will be indicated. It is hoped that, by these methods, students will have received a clear outline of the application of X-ray methods in general and that they will thus be able to assess its value to

their own researches in particular. Applications to attend the course should be sent to the Director of Extra-Mural Studies, University, Manchester 13, and must be received not later than May 12.

### Announcements

WE regret to announce the death of Prof. Alfred Lacroix, For.Mem.R.S., permanent secretary for thirty-four years of the Paris Academy of Sciences, on March 16, aged eighty-five; and of Prof. E. Waymouth Reid, F.R.S., professor of physiology at University College, Dundee, during 1889-1935, on March 10, aged eighty-five.

THE honorary degree of doctor of laws has been conferred by the University of Aberdeen on Sir George Thomson, professor of physics, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London; and on Major-General D. N. Wimberley, principal of University College, Dundee.

ON the occasion of the installation of Lord Halifax as chancellor of the University of Sheffield on July 2, the honorary degree of doctor of laws will be conferred on the following: The Hon. Lewis W. Douglas, Ambassador for the United States of America; Mr. Anthony Eden; Lord Addison; Admiral of the Fleet Lord Cunningham; Sir Frank Stenton, vice-chancellor of the University of Reading; Sir Henry Tizard, chairman of the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy; and Mr. Ernest S. Graham, Lord Mayor of Sheffield, 1946-47.

DR. V. PETROW, lecturer in chemistry at Queen Mary College, University of London, has been appointed chief research chemist to the British Drug Houses, Ltd., London, in succession to Dr. W. Bradley, who has accepted an invitation to the chair of colour chemistry and dyeing in the University of Leeds.

A PRELIMINARY meeting with the view of the establishment of a Scottish Society of the History of Medicine will be held in the Library of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, on April 23, at 5 p.m. Dr. Douglas Guthrie will make a statement regarding the constitution and object of the proposed Society, and a paper by Dr. Henry J. C. Gibson on "The Early Days of Dundee Royal Infirmary" will be read. Communications should be sent to Dr. Douglas Guthrie, 21 Clarendon Crescent, Edinburgh.

THE National Research Council of Canada has established post-doctorate fellowships in pure chemistry tenable in its laboratories in Ottawa. The normal stipend will be 2,820 dollars, but may be varied depending on the qualifications of the candidate. A travelling allowance may be made. The awards are tenable for a period of one year but may be renewed for a second year. The subjects for investigation include photochemistry, radiation chemistry, spectroscopy, organic chemistry, radioactivity, low-temperature investigations, surface chemistry, and the properties of gases at high pressures and temperatures. Information and application forms may be obtained from the Chief Scientific Liaison Officer, Canada House, London, S.W.1.

ERRATA. In the note on the Max Planck Society in *Nature* of March 20, p. 427, the president's name should have been Prof. Erich Regener; misprints also appear in the names of Prof. Georg Schreiber and Prof. Heinrich Wieland.