

tried out on a large scale by employees, who are given the footwear free, and are then asked to report on attractiveness, comfort, wear, etc.

Members of the Assembly also visited the new Medical Faculty, created at Hradec Králové in 1945. The building, which had been a military school, and had been occupied by the Red Army, was vacated

by the Soviet Commander in order to provide accommodation for the new school, with the comment that it was fitting that Mars should make way for Athene.

After visiting the Medical Faculty, the members were received at the Institute of Glass Technology, a research and consulting centre for one of Czechoslovakia's chief industries. J. G. CROWTHER

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Experimental Zoology at Manchester :

Dr. Ralph Dennell

THE science of zoology underwent a profound change at the end of the First World War. The orthodox approach to the subject through a study of comparative anatomy was largely abandoned, and all energies were devoted to the new outlook afforded by experimental zoology. Despite this complete change-over, no new academic posts were created to cater for this new method of approach. For a short time, there was a readership at Cambridge, but that was all. Now, to fill this obvious want, the University of Manchester has established a full chair in experimental zoology, to which Dr. Ralph Dennell has been appointed. Dr. Dennell has the advantage of having made his name first of all as a functional morphologist. He commenced work on the feeding mechanism of various Crustacea, and later turned his attention to the luminous organs of certain deep-sea prawns. During the Second World War, he undertook a study of the feeding mechanism of the grain weevil, and this led him to an experimental investigation of the process of hardening of the insect cuticle, a problem which he is extending to the whole of the Arthropoda. At present, he is in Bermuda, with a Leverhulme fellowship, studying deep-sea luminous forms.

### Assyriology at the British Museum :

Dr. Sidney Smith, F.B.A.

It has been announced that Dr. Sidney Smith has retired from the post of keeper of the Department of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities at the British Museum, and has been succeeded by Mr. C. J. Gadd, formerly deputy keeper of the Department. Dr. Sidney Smith entered the British Museum in 1914 and has been keeper since 1930. There are probably few living Assyriologists who can speak with authority, as he does, not only on textual and philological matters, but also on every subject connected with Near Eastern and Egyptian archaeology. He was one of the first to correlate the complicated stratigraphical and epigraphical data yielded by recent excavations in Syria and the Hatay, and his new scheme of chronology published in 1940 is being accepted by an increasing number of scholars. He is a controversialist who does not tolerate loose thinking; but serious students have always had reason to be grateful to him for his constant readiness to place the fruits of his learning at their disposal. It is understood that as professor of ancient Semitic languages and civilizations at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, he hopes to have more time in future for his own researches.

Mr. C. J. Gadd, F.B.A.

MR. C. J. GADD, who in terms of service in the British Museum is only five years junior to Dr. Smith, is an Assyriologist of no less eminence than

his predecessor, and is a profound and erudite scholar, whose deep understanding of the ways of thought of the Babylonians and Sumerians is exemplified in his Schweich Lectures, recently published under the title "Ideas of Divine Rule in the Ancient Near East". With his generous and self-effacing personality, he brings to his new appointment the goodwill of his staff and of all who know him.

### Festival of Britain, 1951

GENERAL LORD ISMAY, chairman of the Council of the Festival of Britain, 1951, presided at a meeting on October 14 to announce progress in the plans for the Festival. Mr. Gerald Barry, director-general, emphasized that it is hoped to mark 1951 in three ways: by events centrally organised and financed by the Festival organisation itself; by events organised by other interests, which may be associated with and assisted by the Festival authorities; and by unofficial events throughout Great Britain. There is to be a central exhibition in London on the south bank of the Thames between the County Hall and Waterloo Bridge; the river front is to be cleared and a concert hall built on the site. The exhibition itself will be in temporary fabric structures of a new type; it will be on a small scale and an attempt will be made to tell the story of British life and achievement. It was emphasized that it will not be a trade fair. The Council of Industrial Design will be responsible for selecting contemporary industrial exhibits. A Council of Science and Technology, specially created for the Festival, will ensure that scientific achievement will be adequately represented both in the central exhibition and in other ways. An Architectural Exhibition, elsewhere in London, will take the form of a full-scale cross-section of a residential area in various stages of building, which can be completed and handed over for actual use after the Festival closes. There will also be one or more travelling exhibitions visiting the principal cities of the country; and it is hoped to co-operate with bodies holding annual meetings, such as the British Association. Finally, the Vice-Chancellors of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and London have been invited to arrange special vacation courses in the summer of 1951 in subjects relevant to the main theme of the Festival. In this way, it is hoped to demonstrate the contribution of British thought in philosophy, literature, religion and science to the progress of civilization.

### Research and Recovery

MR. HERBERT MORRISON, Lord President of the Council, addressed the chairmen of councils and directors of the industrial co-operative research associations at a conference in London on October 15. The express purpose of this conference was that the delegates should acquaint the Government of their progress and difficulties in research so that the