will suffer under nationalization if such men are no longer attracted by the conditions of service. Similarly, he discusses the difficult question of effective Parliamentary control over the operation of public monopolies, and suggests that the safeguard of publicity can and should be made fully effective.

Prof. Allen offers no answer to the fundamental question whether it is possible for the State to formulate far-reaching plans for the disposition of economic resources intended to promote objectives of which men in their political capacity approve, and at the same time to afford adequate opportunities in the industrial sphere for the free movements of the mind and will, without which progress is in jeopardy. Certain dangers and problems, such as those of economic discipline, of the transfer of important categories of decision from the individual to the bureaucracy, and the establishment of an administrative machine capable of reaching speedy and wise economic decisions in those fields, and the danger of perpetuating the *status quo* in circumstances inherent in 'gentlemen's agreements' between the Government and organised bodies in industry, are indicated. Prof. Allen, while indicating the limits and dangers of such methods, believes that we are likely to be so hard put to it to find help in pursuing the middle way that we should not reject any method which offers even moderate prospects of success.

Permanence of Residence as a Social Factor

A PAPER by Dr. H. M. C. Luykx, "Family Studies in the Eastern Health District: IV. Permanence of Residence with Respect to Various Family Characteristics", reprinted from *Human Biology*, is one of several studies in a district of the city of Baltimore. Its findings are summed up in a table showing the family characteristics associated with the highest and lowest proportions of families remaining in the district between the triennial censuses of 1933, 1936 and 1939. The highest proportion of permanence was found among whites, owning their houses or paying the highest rent, with children and several wage-earners in family, where the family head was a skilled worker or foreman, middle-aged, foreign born, and not highly educated. With the present concern over labour mobility between industries, this study has considerable 'social significance'. Education, and renting rather than owning houses, seem indicated as favourable factors that social policy can control.

Directory of Natural History Societies

IN December 1943 the Committee of the Amateur Entomologists' Society agreed to compile a Directory of Natural History Societies. Quite independently, Miss R. S. Shove suggested in *School Nature Study* of January 1944 that a list should be prepared of school natural history societies and field clubs. As a result it was decided to trust the entire work to the Amateur Entomologists' Society, the School Nature Study Union agreeing to assist in the preparation of a schools section. In its early stages the compilation was directed by W. G. Rawlings; he was later succeeded by H. K. Airy Shaw. The Directory has now been completed and contains a list of all organisations with any biological interests, excluding bodies of an economic or professional nature. All societies, past and present, of which the Society could find any record in the British Isles, have been included. These have been arranged first to give information about national societies and then local societies, arranged in order of counties. The material arranged under each entry in the Directory is sufficient to guide naturalists in a distant county to a group of like-minded individuals. Not the least important parts of the Directory are the particulars of so many school natural history societies. The Directory can be obtained from the Secretary, Amateur Entomologists' Society, 1 West Ham Lane, London, E.15.

Nairobi Scientific and Philosophical Society

IN spite of the speed of modern communications, the sense of isolation arising among scientific men working in the Colonies and elsewhere overseas is still very real; one way of mitigating the difficulty is the formation of local scientific societies. The Nairobi Scientific and Philosophical Society is such a body, which arose from the need for co-operation between various scientific and technical officers working in Kenya. A meeting was held at Nairobi on April 9, 1947, at which the chairman, Mr. A. Walter, stressed the need for a central meeting place for scientific men, and the first formal meeting took place a month later. Now the Society has been able to issue vol. 1, part 1, of its *Proceedings*, and to claim a membership of fifty within six months of formation; this shows a very creditable interest among the necessarily small number of scientific and technical workers within reach of Nairobi. The *Proceedings* includes accounts of five meetings held by the Society; the subjects dealt with include *radio-sonde* in meteorology, the sociologist in industry, primitive agriculture in the modern world, development planning for the African and hormone weed-killers. The sociological bias shown is accounted for by the facts that advantage had to be taken of the availability of visiting guest speakers, and that the Society itself has arisen in a country where the development of a primitive people is taking place at an unprecedented pace. The Society is to be congratulated on the progress it has made as a centre for the discussion of problems of broad scientific and technical interest in Kenya. The officers of the Society are: *President*, A. Walters; *Vice-Presidents*, Dr. E. B. Worthington and V. A. Beckley; *Joint Honorary Secretaries*, W. A. Grinstead, P.O. Box 931, Nairobi, and H. E. Watson, P.O. Box 560, Nairobi; *Honorary Treasurer*, Dr. D. Harvey; *Honorary Librarian*, Dr. H. C. Pereira.

Earthquake in Iran

ON October 5, a great earthquake shook large areas in the province of Khurasan in north-eastern Iran, together with parts of Russian Turkestan. The large area of destruction appears to indicate either that the depth of focus of the shock was greater than normal, or that there was more than one shock. Two hundred people are reported killed and thousands injured at Meshed, with two hundred killed at Dereges. Askhabad, a Russian town with 150,000 inhabitants, suffered severely, four hundred people being reported killed. Six thousand injured people have been evacuated by air, and a temporary water supply has had to be organised to replace the town's water supply disrupted by the earthquake.

The area is a particularly seismic one, 140 earthquakes of varying intensity having been experienced during the last seventy years, and large earthquakes having occurred, according to Sir Arnold Wilson, at Kuchan in 1852, 1871, 1872, 1893 and 1895, at Meshed in 1673 and 1895, and in the whole area in 1929. This latter shock was also reported in *Nature* of May 11, 1929. On May 1, 1929, twelve distinct

shocks were felt within twenty-four hours at widely separated points, running from Bandargaz to Kalat. The towns of Shirvan, Bujnurd and Jajarm were severely damaged, and a thousand people were killed in Askhabad. A cleft three yards wide is reported to have been opened between the towns of Khaki and Bagham, to a distance of eighteen miles. The total Persian casualties were 3,253 killed, 1,121 injured, 88 villages destroyed and 6,542 cattle injured. Further news is awaited concerning the present earthquake.

International Council of Scientific Unions

THE annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Council of Scientific Unions was held at Brussels in September, Prof. E. Borel presiding in the absence of the president, Dr. J. A. Fleming. A resolution from the Royal Society was adopted, that all adhering bodies, national academies and scientific unions be consulted before the Executive Committee accepts any new union. A resolution from the United States asking the Council to consider its constitution and the distribution of subjects covered by the Unions was referred to a committee in the hopes that a report might be available for discussion at the next General Assembly of the Council at Copenhagen during September 14–15, 1949. New joint commissions between the unions were agreed upon to deal with standards and units of radioactivity, spectroscopy, and high-altitude research stations. The adhesion of one new country, Pakistan, was reported. The recommendation from the Committee of Science and Social Relations that a journal should be started by the Committee was referred to the General Assembly. Dr. Establier was reappointed liaison officer with Unesco; representatives of Unesco present at the meeting were Prof. P. Auger and Dr. Wang-hsi-chin.

International Commission on Glass

THE International Commission on Glass held its first post-war meetings at Sheffield and Buxton during September 30–October 2 under the presidency of Prof. W. E. S. Turner. Decisions were taken to revise the constitution of the Commission, and arrangements were made for the preparation of scientific and technical reports on subjects of fundamental importance in glass technology. Until the adoption of the new constitution, the following comprise the International Commission: Prof. A. H. M. Andreasen (Denmark); Prof. J. A. de Artigas (Spain); Dr. B. P. Dudding (Great Britain, *honorary secretary*); Dr. M. Fanderlik (Czechoslovakia); Prof. P. Gilard (Belgium); Dr. J. C. Hostetter (United States); Dr. B. Long (France); Dr. H. Maurach (Germany); Dr. Atma Ram (India); B. Simmingskõld (Sweden); Dr. J. A. Stevels (Holland); Prof. W. E. S. Turner (Great Britain, *president*).

American Physical Society: Division of Fluid Dynamics

THE Division of Fluid Dynamics of the American Physical Society, which was established by the Council of the American Physical Society in June 1947, has been organised, and the following have been elected members of the Executive Committee: Jesse W. Beams, Howard W. Emmons (*secretary-treasurer*), Theodor von Kármán, Hugh L. Dryden (*vice-chairman*), Paul S. Epstein, Raymond J. Seeger (*chairman*), and John G. Kirkwood. The first meeting of the new Division took the form of a one-day symposium on June 23, when the Division joined with the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Southern California, and the California Institute of Technology as part of a three-day meeting to discuss heat transfer and fluid dynamics.

British Museum (Natural History)

THE southern half of the Invertebrate Gallery (which used to be known as the Starfish Gallery) in the Zoological Department of the British Museum (Natural History) has now been re-opened. The Gallery was dismantled during the War, and an entirely new arrangement of starfishes and other Echinoderms has been prepared, showing many species in their vivid natural colours. Their usefulness to man and their methods of feeding and breeding are among the subjects illustrated in the new exhibit. In addition to Echinoderms the Gallery is being used temporarily to house a full-sized model of a giant squid, and a small selection of shells. These have been chosen mainly for some interesting peculiarity; there is, for example, a display of venomous cone shells. A series of common British shells is also exhibited. Certain groups of small invertebrates are also on view here, notably the great group of worms, including earthworms, leeches, many marine forms and parasites. Another new feature is a large-scale relief map coloured to indicate the main movements of the oceans, and the zoo-geographic regions into which the land masses are usually grouped for purposes of biological study.

National Certificates in Textiles

THE Textile Institute, which is jointly responsible with the Ministry of Education for the award of national certificates in textiles, announces that this year there were 131 entrants for the ordinary certificate, of whom 109 passed, and 85 for the higher certificate, of whom 82 were successful. Fifteen distinctions were obtained in the Higher National Certificate examination. Of the 191 successful candidates, 125 studied cotton subjects, 46 woollen and worsted, and 20 studied general textile subjects.

University of Sheffield: Appointments

THE following appointments have been made in the University of Sheffield: Dr. William Hobson, senior lecturer in preventive medicine in the University of Bristol, to the newly instituted chair of social and industrial medicine; Miss Ellinor I. Black, senior lecturer in the Department of Social Science, University of Liverpool, to be director of the newly instituted Department of Social Studies; S. Armstrong, lecturer in civil engineering; Dr. A. E. Beet, at present demonstrator in fuel technology, to be lecturer in fuel technology; A. W. Nicholls, assistant lecturer in glass technology; P. H. Price, research assistant to the professor of fuel technology; James S. Hough, research demonstrator in botany; P. Wright, Glass Delegacy research fellow.

Announcements

SIR WALTER MOBERLY, chairman of the University Grants Committee, will deliver the Rede Lecture in the University of Cambridge on November 18. He will speak on "Universities and the State".

FOR the future, the Universities Bureau of the British Empire will be known as "The Association of Universities of the British Commonwealth". Its new address is 32 Woburn Square, London, W.C.1 (Telephone No.: Museum 4578/9).