

Mr. Ford will take over scientific staff and equipment greatly exceeding what existed before the War. Apart from Dr. A. P. Orr, recently appointed deputy director, and Dr. Sheina M. Marshall, who did so much to establish the reputation of the Laboratory before the War, the staff now consists of three zoologists, a chemist and an algologist, while a further post has been authorized but is not yet filled. A new research vessel, the *Calanus*, has recently been acquired and is now operating from the Laboratory. She is a motor fishing vessel, 75 ft. long, of which the hull only was built when she was purchased from the Admiralty, so that it has been possible to fit her out as a research vessel with all the modern equipment needed for both physical and biological investigations in the sea. She carries a permanent crew of five, and will enable the Millport Laboratory to extend the range of its work from the Clyde sea area to the west of Scotland generally. A much belated addition to the facilities of the Laboratory is the provision recently of electric current from the hydro-electric grid system. It will now be possible to use standard electrical equipment; further, a workshop with power-driven tools is being constructed. The Millport Laboratory, which has always had the advantage of being adjacent to clean waters with a rich fauna and flora, has now both the research vessel and the laboratory facilities for making full use of its natural advantages.

Prof. P. C. Mahalanobis, F.R.S.

PROF. P. C. MAHALANOBIS retired from the Indian Educational Service and from his post as principal of Presidency College, Calcutta, on June 30. He is chiefly known as a mathematical statistician with wide interests, and particularly as a pioneer in the theory and practice of sample survey. His work in building up the Statistical Laboratory at Presidency College is appreciated throughout the world, and it is undoubtedly one of the best centres for statistical research and advanced teaching. In recent years, Prof. Mahalanobis has been largely engaged on the Statistical Commission of the United Nations. He is still carrying on his scientific work, especially in the Indian Statistical Institute, of which he is honorary secretary.

Plant Physiology at Ghent: Prof. Paul Froeschel

DR. PAUL FROESCHEL has been appointed professor of plant physiology at Ghent State University as a successor to the late Prof. G. L. Funke. Dr. Froeschel was born in Vienna in 1888. He studied botany and especially plant physiology with Julius v. Wiesner, Richard v. Wettstein and Hans Molisch, and became known for his work on plant irritability and especially short phototropic presentation times. After graduating, Dr. Froeschel worked with Prof. Linsbauer (Czrnowitz), Prof. Goebel (Munich) and Prof. Wasitzky (Vienna). At the end of the First World War he took up agriculture; he worked on the cultivation of medicinal plants, and as an agricultural consultant he had the opportunity of becoming closely acquainted with agricultural problems. In 1938, Dr. Froeschel emigrated to Belgium, where he was given a place in the department of Prof. Funke, director of the plant physiology laboratories of Ghent State University. There Dr. Froeschel in the first place worked on the growth-inhibiting substances of plants, and furnished valuable contributions not only to the physiology of these substances, but also to their practical use.

Cocoa Disease in the Gold Coast

THE Secretary of State for the Colonies has appointed the following commission to visit the Gold Coast and report on the measures necessary for the eradication of swollen shoot disease of cocoa trees: Dr. G. Berkeley, of the Dominion Laboratory of Plant Pathology, Canada; Dr. W. Carter, head of the Department of Entomology, Pineapple Research Institute, Hawaii; and Prof. van Slogteren, of Holland. Their terms of reference are: "Having regard to the research work in swollen shoot disease of cocoa trees in the Gold Coast being carried out by the West African Cocoa Research Institute, to study the incidence and nature of the disease and to report on the technical measures necessary for its speedy eradication".

British Museum (Natural History): Acquisitions

THE following acquisitions to the British Museum (Natural History) have been announced: Sir Sidney Harmer, director of the Museum from 1919 to 1927, has presented 374 volumes of reprints and zoological publications dealing principally with Cetacea and Polyzoa, together with card-indexes of authors and subjects. The Governing Body of King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, have given about 10,000 slides of Crustacea and Foraminifera containing the type specimens of many species collected by the *Challenger* and other expeditions for the exploration of the sea; these slides were prepared by the late Prof. G. S. Brady. The extensive collection of Diptera formed by the late Colbran J. Wainwright, a recognized authority on the study of this order of insects, has been presented by his daughters, Miss Wainwright and Mrs. Reid; the collection is estimated to contain approximately 65,000 specimens, of which the greater part are from the palæarctic region, although some 18,000 are from other parts of the world. Finally, three important bequests have been made to the Department of Botany, the first being the remainder of the late Colonel A. H. Wolley-Dod's herbarium and consisting of about 10,000 sheets of British plants mainly of his own collecting (Colonel Wolley-Dod was the author of "Flora of Sussex", and his herbarium contains many of the specimens on which records were based). Second is the very important collection of British and European plants estimated at 30,000 specimens and brought together by the late Mr. Herbert William Pugsley; the material is excellently preserved and the alpine plants are exceptionally good. The third bequest is that of the late Mr. J. W. Long's herbarium of about 15,000 sheets of British and European plants.

Marconi Jubilee Congress

THE publication is announced of the *Proceedings* of the International Congress held in Rome last September in connexion with the Marconi Jubilee (see *Nature*, November 29, 1947, p. 473). The volume, which comprises some 970 pages and 470 illustrations, is published by Dr. Giovanni Bardi, Salita de' Crescenzi 16, Rome, at the price of 4,000 lire. In a preface, Prof. Gustavo Colonnetti, president of the Italian National Research Council, describes the aims of the Congress, and the success which accompanied it with the interested support of many participants from various nations. The full texts of the fifty-nine papers, of which ten are by British authors, are reproduced in the volume, classified in four sections under the titles of electromagnetic waves, electric

and acoustic oscillations, electronics and radio-communication. The papers are published in the language in which they were submitted by the authors. The numbers of papers in the four sections, with those in English indicated in brackets, are: 14 (9), 21 (8), 8 (5) and 16 (10). The publication provides an interesting survey of the many scientific and technical developments in this field in the half-century following Marconi's first successful demonstration of wireless signalling.

New Zealand Earthquakes during June

DURING June, five strong earthquakes were registered on the New Zealand seismographs at Arapuni, Auckland, Christchurch, Kaimati, New Plymouth, Tuai and Wellington. The one on June 28 was that which destroyed the Japanese city of Fukui, and that on June 29 was felt at Apia with Modified Mercalli Scale 5. In addition, twenty-three earthquakes and earth tremors occurred within 10° of Wellington. The greatest two of these both occurred on June 19 and were felt extensively in South Island but particularly near Bruce Bay with Modified Mercalli Scale 6.

The Night Sky in November

NEW moon occurs on Nov. 1d. 06h. 02m., U.T., and full moon on Nov. 16d. 18h. 31m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: Nov. 3d. 17h., Mars 2° N.; Nov. 4d. 20h., Jupiter 4° N.; Nov. 24d. 02h., Saturn 3° S.; Nov. 28d. 06h., Venus 2° N. Mercury rises at 5h. 10m. and 5h. 49m. on Nov. 1 and 15, respectively, and can be seen in the eastern sky. The planet reaches its greatest easterly elongation on Nov. 4. At the end of the month Mercury rises only half an hour before sunrise and is then too close to the sun for observation. Venus rises at 3h. 15m., 3h. 55m. and 4h. 40m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively, and can be seen in the morning hours, stellar magnitude -3.5; 0.75 to 0.84 of the illuminated disk is visible. Mars is too close to the sun to be favourably observed, setting about 1½ hours after the sun throughout the month. Jupiter sets at 18h. 55m., 18h. 10m. and 17h. 25m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively, and can be seen low in the western sky; but it is not favourably placed for observation through the greater portion of the month. Saturn, in the constellation of Leo, rises at 0h. 45m., 0h., and 23h. at the beginning, middle and end of the month, respectively, and is visible throughout the morning hours, stellar magnitude 0.9. Occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 are as follow: Nov. 8d. 17h. 51.1m., 35 Capr. (*D*); Nov. 19d. 01h. 13.1m., 112B Auri. *m*, (*R*); *D* and *R* refer to disappearance and reappearance, respectively, and the latitude of Greenwich is assumed. A total eclipse of the sun takes place on Nov. 1. The eclipse is invisible at Greenwich, but is visible over large portions of the southern hemisphere. The central line passes through lat. + 3° 42', long. - 22° 03', at the beginning of the eclipse and ends at lat. - 43° 23', long. - 165° 27'.

Announcements

THE Lord President of the Council has made the following appointments to the Advisory Council for Scientific Research: Mr. James Bowman, vice-president of the National Union of Mineworkers, and a member of the T.U.C. Scientific Advisory Com-

mittee; Mr. E. Fletcher, secretary of the Research and Economic Department of the T.U.C.; and Dr. H. W. H. Warren, managing director of Associated Electrical Industries, Ltd.

THE Cambridge Philosophical Society announces that the adjudicators for the Hopkins Prize have made the following awards: for the period 1939-42, to Prof. H. J. Bhabha, for investigations on the theory of elementary particles; for the period 1942-45, to Dr. C. F. Powell, for experimental investigations in nuclear physics, including development of the photographic plate technique for the study of nuclear reactions.

AN Eddington Prize of 50,000 Belgian francs is being offered by the Institut International des Sciences Theoriques for an exposition and critique of the conceptions of Eddington concerning "The Philosophy of Physical Science". The committee of award consists of Dr. I. Dockx, director of the Institute; Prof. L. de Broglie (Paris); Prof. Th. de Donder (Brussels); Prof. F. Gonseth (Zurich); and Prof. E. A. Milne (Oxford). Memoirs (five copies) must be submitted to the secretariat of the Institut International des Sciences Theoriques, 221 avenue de Tervueren, Brussels, before December 31, 1950. Participants must sign their memoirs by a device, and include a sealed envelope containing name and address.

THE Atomic Scientists' Association is holding its annual conference at the Beaver Hall, Garlick Hill, London, E.C.4, on October 30. There will be two sessions, the first from 2.30 to 5 p.m., and the second from 7 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. The first session is concerned with "Atomic Energy and Society", and speakers will include Prof. P. M. S. Blackett on atomic weapons, Sir George Thomson on international control, Prof. N. F. Mott on national policy, and Prof. M. H. L. Pryce on the constructive applications of atomic energy. In the evening, speakers will include Sir Henry Dale, Prof. R. E. Peierls and Prof. M. L. Oliphant on the position of scientific men with regard to atomic energy and related problems. The hon. general secretary, Dr. F. C. Champion, will conclude with an outline of the future policy of the Association.

A SERIES of lectures for schools, which began on October 20, has been organised by the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the Institution of Municipal Engineers, in co-operation with the Education Officer of the London County Council. The lectures are being given at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, Westminster, S.W.1, and deal with such subjects as railway transport, water and electricity supply, tunnelling, telecommunications, etc. These lectures, which can be given either at individual schools or for groups of schools, are supplemented by the annual Christmas lectures to boys at the Institution of Civil Engineers. For Christmas 1948 the subject will be "Big Ships and their Docks"; three lectures will be given: "Building Big Ships"; "Running and Navigating a Ship"; and "Constructing a Dock".

ERRATUM.—In "Dielectric Properties of Mixed Barium and Strontium Titanates at 10,000 Mc./s." printed in *Nature* of October 23, p. 655, Fig. 2 should be rotated 90° clockwise; the descriptions of the axes remain as they are.