

to normal conditions can be based on the character of the past winter. Another discouraging feature is that the deficiency of rainfall is equally well marked over a large part of Europe. The immediate cause of the deficiency is the abnormal frequency and persistence of anticyclones over the area affected, combined with a displacement northwards of the tracks of the eastward-moving depressions with their attendant rain; but in the absence of any clue to the cause of these abnormal features of the general circulation of the atmosphere, their duration cannot be predicted.

### Sky Survey by the Schmidt Telescope at Palomar

A PROJECT of photographing the heavens has been announced by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C., which is sponsoring the scheme, and by the Mt. Wilson-Palomar Observatories, which will carry out the programme, and will be known as the National Geographic Society-Palomar Observatory Sky Survey. The main work will be done by the 48-in. Schmidt telescope on Mt. Palomar, and the first photographs will be taken on July 19, weather permitting, on which night a ceremony will be held in the Schmidt dome. It is expected that the work will be completed in 1953, when three-quarters of the sky out to an average distance of 300 million light-years will have been photographed. Unusual phenomena recorded by the Schmidt telescope will be studied more intensively later by the "pin-pointing instrument of maximum penetration"—the 200-in. giant at Palomar. Virtually identical exposures of each area will be made by using both blue and red filters to permit comparisons of the widely different pictures obtained in the different colours. When completed, the Survey will record about 500 million stars and perhaps 10 million extra-galactic nebulae. The "Sky Atlas" which includes this survey will be the equivalent of about twenty large volumes, and it is hoped that the Atlas can be produced at a cost of 2,000 dollars a copy. These will be supplied at cost price to observatories, astronomers, and higher educational institutions throughout the world "to advance the cause of human knowledge". The relatively low cost of production is due to the generous financial assistance rendered by the National Geographic Society. This Survey will prove invaluable as a research guide for the great observatories and will also be an immense boon for the smaller observatories, and for astronomers engaged in theoretical studies, who will be able to use the Survey photographs without recourse to their own telescopic observations. It is believed that the results will be an astronomical bible for at least a century to come.

### American Geologists for British Colonial Development

REFERENCE was made in *Nature* of May 28 to the proposed recruitment of American geologists for service in various British Colonial geological surveys. It is stated in *Economic Geology* of May that the Economic Co-operation Administration has undertaken to finance in part the employment of about twenty-five geologists, petrographers and chemist-assayers for this purpose. The men will be employed by the U.S. Geological Survey, and it is proposed to recruit seventeen field geologists, two petrologists, two chemist-assayers and four ground-water geologists. The qualifications suggested are an honours degree in geology with five years professional field experience, and it is hoped that a few men of longer experience will also be attracted. They will be placed

in grades 6-8 of the U.S. Geological Survey according to qualifications, so that their salaries will range from about 8,000 dollars a year upwards. The fields in which they will be employed are given as Nigeria, Gold Coast, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda, Nyasaland, North Borneo and Sarawak, and British Guiana. Recruitment is to be for three years, after which it is expected that British-trained geologists will be available. The measure is intended to be a temporary expedient devised to overcome lack of personnel in the Colonial geological surveys attributed to the interruption of training during the War.

### Uganda Society

RECENTLY in these columns, accounts have been given of the formation of philosophical societies in two British Colonies in Africa. In Uganda there exists such a body which is well established, both in terms of years and activity of membership. The Uganda Society, a non-racial, cultural and scientific society, was reborn in its present form in 1933 through the inspiration of Mr. E. J. Wayland, then director of the Geological Survey, and Mr. (now Sir) Ralph Home, then attorney-general in Uganda. Its transactions are published in the *Uganda Journal* (Oxford University Press) and include a range of subjects embracing ethnology, archaeology, geology and local history. The Society has sponsored two major publications, namely: "A Guide to the Snakes of Uganda", by Captain C. R. S. Pitman; and "Uganda Memories", by Sir Albert Cook. Other books are in course of publication. The present membership of this Society, which it is hoped to increase further, is now more than seven hundred. The officers for 1949 are: *President*, Dr. Goronwy ap Griffith; *Vice-President*, Rev. Father F. B. Gaffney; *Editor*, Mr. W. V. Harris; *Librarian*, Mrs. Barbara Saben; *Hon. Secretary*, Mr. J. Addington; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. C. W. Stuart. The address of the Society is P.O. Private Bag, Kampala, Uganda.

### Education in Industry: Topics for Research

IN an interesting article in *Further Education* (3, No. 1; June-August, 1949), Dr. P. Dunsheath, the chairman of the British Association for Education in Industry and Commerce, discusses some of the problems which have arisen as the result of the growth of education in industry. When considering the range of ability, outlook and intelligence among individuals, Dr. Dunsheath indicates that considerable research should be done on the basis of selection for technical courses. Then, remembering that the people affected by education and training in industry are of all ages and positions, he suggests that the problem of how far industrial organisation should concern itself with educational facilities for employees already well established should also be resolved.

Among other questions raised by the author are the following. Should the practical training of engineering students precede a full-time course at a university or technical college, or should it follow the academic course on entry into industrial employment, or should periods of practical work be interposed during the academic years in the form of vacation or sandwich courses? Is it right for a young man destined to become a draughtsman or a designer to spend years at the bench becoming a skilled fitter? Can education be planned for co-operation? To what extent can arts graduates compete with science graduates for the senior posts in industry? Is management within the next decade