

moment, very few Indian universities have well-equipped geological laboratories and perhaps none is equipped for research in coal petrology. Dr. Ganju's appointment will help to initiate this work in this new field so necessary in the investigation of the coals and coal-fields of India.

#### College of Aeronautics, Bletchley :

Prof. W. S. Hemp

A CHAIR in aircraft structures and aero-elasticity in the Department of Aircraft Design of the College of Aeronautics, Bletchley, has recently been established, and Mr. W. S. Hemp, formerly senior lecturer in aircraft structures and the deputy head of the Department, has been appointed as the first holder. Prof. Hemp, who is a graduate in mathematics of the University of Cambridge, joined the staff of the College in September 1946. During 1938-46 he was engaged on design and research work, mainly on structures, at the Bristol Aeroplane Co., Ltd., and during 1944-45, while in charge of the Project Stress Office, he carried out the preliminary structural and dynamical investigations on the *Brabazon* air-liner. He is the author of numerous research reports and a small monograph on stressed skin construction.

#### International Union of Biological Sciences

THE tenth triennial General Assembly of the International Union of Biological Sciences was held at Stockholm during July 7-11, presided over by Prof. M. J. Sirks (Netherlands), sixty-seven delegates from nineteen countries being present. The Union is one of a number of Unions representing different sciences under the ægis of the International Council of Scientific Unions. It comprises Sections of Biometry, Botany, Embryology, Entomology, Experimental Cytology, Genetics, Limnology, Microbiology and Zoology. It possesses limited funds derived from payments by adhering countries, and also acts in an advisory capacity to Unesco for the expenditure of money by the latter body on biological projects. Financial support has been given to nineteen type-culture collections of micro-organisms and *Drosophila* in various countries, to certain abstracting periodicals, to the preparation of directories of botanists, geneticists and zoologists, to the preparation of a list of the location of zoological type specimens, to international congresses and more particularly specialist symposia, to international commissions on zoological and botanical nomenclature, to the Zoological Station of Naples, to the International Depot of Cytological Preparations at Louvain, etc. A Commission of the Union is concerned with the biological control of pests, and there is a Joint Commission with certain other Unions on oceanography. At the close of the General Assembly the following officers were elected : *President*, Prof. H. Munro Fox (Great Britain); *Vice-President*, Prof. J. Rünström (Sweden); *Secretary-General*, Prof. P. Vayssière (France); *Secretary*, Prof. Stuart Mudd (United States); *Treasurer*, Prof. F. Chodat (Switzerland).

#### Rhodesian Agricultural College

THE opening of the Rhodesian Agricultural College at Gwebi by the prime minister of Southern Rhodesia, Sir Godfrey Huggins, on February 15, is a landmark in the country's farming history and will, it is hoped, prove a first step towards the creation of a Rhodesian university. The administration of the College is in the hands of an advisory committee, composed of

prominent members of the farming and business world, and Dr. W. L. Fielding, formerly of the Cotton Research Station at Barberton, has been appointed the first principal. The farm covers 3,800 acres and contains a considerable arable area as well as extensive livestock paddocks. It originally formed part of the Government Experimental Farm and is already largely mechanized. Many buildings are in consequence available; but a hostel, lecture hall and staff houses have recently been built. New workshops are planned and the main college building will be also added later. A start has been made with twenty-four students and a staff of four. Officers of the Department of Agriculture and Lands will assist with lectures on special subjects, and instructors acting under a superintendent are to be in charge of the practical work. A general standard of education equivalent to that of the Cambridge School Certificate will be expected on entry, and the students will study a diploma course designed to cover two years. Emphasis will be laid on the practical aspects of farming, and sons of farmers will be specially encouraged to enter the College.

#### Scraper Tools in Prehistory

MANY years ago an author of a small book on prehistory described a scraper as "any odd bit of flint for which the prehistorian could not find a better name". Such a definition is no longer possible, and those who used to think it so should read Mr. A. D. Lacaille's exhaustive study, "The Scraper in Prehistory" (*Trans. Glasgow Archaeological Soc.*, 11; 1947). Obviously at all periods scraping tools were needed for many purposes—fashioning bones or wood, preparing skins, etc.—and, equally obviously, a variety of different forms would be required. The author passes these matters under review throughout prehistoric times. There is a large number of illustrations.

#### Organising for Output

IN order to help the man on the shop floor to understand some of the problems of production management, the British Institute of Management has prepared a booklet describing the technical side of a works manager's job ("Organising for Output"; 2s. 6d.). It does not pretend to teach men how to become managers but tries to show how the production side of a works is organised, the job that each member of the management staff is doing, and its effect on the productivity of the worker and the factory. Since so much has already been written about them, discussion of the work of joint production committees, works committees, and of the welfare department has been deliberately omitted. Among the topics discussed are managerial problems, the cost of the product, works organisation, production planning, storekeeping and stock control, work measurement and methods, engineering, shop and factory layout, work study and the worker's method, inspection, maintenance and incentives. A useful appendix describes the American labour unions' production engineering departments, and the booklet also contains a discriminately selected bibliography.

#### Indian Earthquake Observations

THE observatories of the India Meteorological Department, under the direction of Dr. S. K. Banerji, have seismological installations at Bombay, Calcutta, Kodaikanal, New Delhi and Poona, equipped with Milne-Shaw, Omori-Ewing and Wood-Anderson