

(Prof. R. A. McCance and Dr. E. M. Widdowson); the quantitative approach to hospital biochemistry (Dr. I. D. P. Wootton, Prof. E. J. King and Dr. J. Maclean Smith); measurement of public health (Dr. Percy Stocks); measurements of the growth and form of the British people (Dr. G. M. Morant); and clinical evaluation of chemotherapy in tuberculosis (Dr. Marc Daniels).

#### Geological Survey of the Scottish Border

IN order to encourage research in geological field-work, leading to a Ph.D. degree, the Shell Petroleum Co., Ltd., has in recent years been offering a number of postgraduate studentships tenable at universities in Great Britain (see *Nature*, 166, 1099; 1950). The only conditions of these awards are first that the student must change the university of his graduation, and second that the subject of his study must in some way be related to the conditions, sedimentary and tectonic, of oil occurrence. One of the areas in Great Britain where conditions are eminently suitable for training is the Border region of Lower Carboniferous rocks between Carlisle and Berwick. There are sedimentary and tectonic conditions of great interest, and much of the ground has not been surveyed since the first geological mapping of the 1860's. In this area there are already five research workers, holding Shell studentships at the Universities of Leeds, Glasgow and Edinburgh, and at King's College, Newcastle. The Department of Geology at King's College, Newcastle, has been engaged in mapping the Border for some years, and research on the limestones of Eskdale is also being done in the University of Nottingham. All the geologists working on this project are in touch with the regional offices of H.M. Geological Survey; and it is hoped that the results of this co-operative research may, when it is complete, make a substantial contribution to the mapping of this region.

#### Physical Society's Annual Exhibition

THE thirty-sixth annual exhibition of Scientific Instruments and Apparatus arranged by the Physical Society will be held during April 3-8, excluding Sunday, in the Royal College of Science Main Building, Imperial Institute Road, and in the Huxley Building, Exhibition Road, London. All tickets will be valid for entry into both buildings. The first day will be reserved for members of the Society and Press only. Discourses will be delivered by eminent men of science on April 4 and 7, and the prize-winning entries of the Society's annual Craftsmanship and Draughtsmanship Competition will be on show. A handbook of the Exhibition, containing descriptions of exhibits, will be available early in March (price 7s. 3d., including postage) from the Physical Society, 1 Lowther Gardens, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7.

#### Conference on Phase Changes

THE Société de Chimie Physique, in conjunction with the Thermodynamics Commission of the International Union of Physics, is holding a meeting in Paris during June 3-7 on "Phase Changes". The meeting will be divided into ten sessions as follows: general principles, condensation, critical phenomena, fusion, theories of co-operative phenomena in solids, ferromagnetism and lambda-points, polymorphism and rotational transition, solutions, transition in amorphous substances, and transitions in superficial

phases. Each session will open with a general review lasting about 30-45 minutes, followed by papers, each 10-15 minutes in duration, and then general discussion. The texts of papers (the titles of which should already have been submitted) must be sent in before March 1. All communications should be addressed to Prof. G. Emschwiller, École Supérieure de Physique et de Chimie, 10 rue Vauquelin, Paris 5<sup>e</sup>.

#### Announcements

DR. JOHN JACKSON, recently His Majesty's Astronomer at the Cape, has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Astronomical Society for his work on stellar parallaxes and his contributions to the general problems of star positions and proper motions.

PROF. HENRI HUMBERT, professor of phanerogamic botany in the National Museum of Natural History, Paris, has been elected a member of the Botany Section of the Paris Academy of Sciences in succession to the late M. Joseph Magrou.

MR. D. B. WATERS has been appointed officer-in-charge of the Scottish branch of the Road Research Laboratory (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research), in succession to Dr. R. S. Millard. Mr. Waters was formerly in the bituminous materials section of the Laboratory. For the past year he has been with the United Kingdom Scientific Mission in Washington, D.C., studying American methods in civil engineering. Dr. Millard is now head of the bituminous section of the Materials Division of the Laboratory.

THE Warren Research Fund Committee of the Royal Society is initiating a programme of research on low-pressure gaseous discharge, and for this purpose has appointed the following research workers for a period of three years: Mr. L. W. Kerr, to work at the University of Birmingham; Mr. C. G. Morgan, to work at University College, Swansea; Dr. E. J. Smith, to work at University College, London. A grant has also been made to Mr. J. M. Somerville, of New England University College, Armidale, Australia, to enable him to work for one year at University College, Swansea.

THE Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has recently made available to Aslib (formerly the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux) a special grant to establish a consultant service in the special library and information field. This service, drawing upon the existing resources of Aslib, and backed by new research into information techniques, is now available to advise those who are considering the establishment of special libraries and information services in industry and research establishments, and to assist the development of existing services. Details regarding this Service and other facilities provided by Aslib can be obtained from the Director, Aslib, 4 Palace Gate, London, W.8.

ERRATA. In the article entitled "Metal Economics" published in *Nature* of January 5, p. 12, the total deficit of copper should be 259,000 tons instead of 295,000 tons as printed. Prof. W. R. Jones is wrongly described as from University College, Cardiff; he is emeritus professor of mining geology in the Imperial College of Science and Technology.