

worker is necessary. Membership is open to all, no technical or other qualification being required, and now numbers about fifteen hundred—a remarkable achievement in six years. Fellowship is restricted “to those who possess some relevant scientific, technical or professional qualifications”, and its requirements are specified under seven categories which range from a degree, from a recognized university, in mathematics, engineering or medicine, to “considerable contributions to the development of astronautics”. A recent issue of the *Journal of the Society* (11, No. 1, January 1952) contains a number of articles, including one by Oscar Schachter with the title, “Legal Aspects of Space Travel”. It is suggested that there will be a demand that the use of outer space for military purposes should be outlawed, and Mr. Schachter seriously states that it does not seem to be too early for governments to give consideration to this aspect of the problem.

Museum of Applied Science of Victoria : Annual Report for 1950–51

THE annual report for 1950–51 of the Museum of Applied Science, Victoria (pp. 13; from the Museum, Melbourne, 1952), includes some interesting remarks concerning policy. When the Museum was established in 1870, its main functions were twofold, to give guidance to artisans and to accumulate a complete record of technological achievement in the form of exhibits. The former function has long since passed to organized technical education, and to some extent the latter has collapsed under its own weight. The past half-century has been one of unparalleled scientific achievement, with the consequence that science museums of moderate means have experienced difficulties in keeping abreast with modern knowledge. But the Museum staff are viewing their responsibilities in a new perspective and now tend to concentrate their attention on the presentation not of an uncritical accumulation of scientific material, but on selected facets that give the layman an understanding of the impact of science on society, preserving a careful balance between the historical and the modern, and exploiting new ideas of display.

British Internal Combustion Engine Research Association : Elections

At the recent annual general meeting of the British Internal Combustion Engine Research Association, the following elections were made: *President*, Viscount Falmouth; *Vice-Presidents*, Air Commodore F. R. Banks, Dr. S. F. Dorey (chief engineer surveyor, Lloyd's Register of Shipping), Sir Lynden Macassey (independent chairman of the British Internal Combustion Engine Manufacturers' Association), Vice-Admiral (E) the Hon. Sir Denis Maxwell (engineer-in-chief of the Fleet), Major-General H. E. Pyman (director-general, Fighting Vehicles Division, Ministry of Supply) and Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Wrisberg. At the same meeting, a new and smaller representative Council was elected as follows: Mr. H. N. G. Allen (*chairman*), Mr. Miles Beevor, Mr. G. W. Bone, Mr. F. A. Perkins, Mr. C. G. Tangye and Mr. A. C. Yeates, with Mr. C. A. Spencer as the representative of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

International Geographical Congress

THE Seventeenth International Geographical Congress, held at Washington, D.C., during August 7–15, attracted a record number of nearly 1,500 registra-

tions, of whom 1,200 were actually present. More than five hundred delegates came from the forty-one countries adhering to the International Geographical Union. At the concluding General Assembly, Prof. L. Dudley Stamp (Great Britain) was installed as president in succession to Prof. G. B. Cressey (United States), who becomes vice-president, and Mr. G. H. T. Kimble (American Geographical Society of New York) was re-elected secretary-treasurer. The remaining six vice-presidents to be elected were His Excellency Dr. Hans W. von Ahlman (Sweden), Prof. Hans Boesch (Switzerland), Prof. George Kuriyan (India), Prof. Orlando Ribiero (Portugal), Prof. Max Sorre (France) and Prof. H. O'R. Sternberg (Brazil). By a large majority the Assembly accepted the invitation of Brazil to hold the eighteenth Congress in Rio de Janeiro in 1956. Prior to the Washington meeting, many of the delegates had participated in the centenary celebrations of the American Geographical Society, at which J. M. Wordie, president of the Royal Geographical Society, received the Daly Gold Medal.

Chemistry of Cement : Symposium in London

THE Cement and Concrete Association, in conjunction with the Building Research Station, is organizing an international symposium on the chemistry of cement, to be held in the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London, W.1, on September 15, and in the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.2, during September 16–19. The symposium will be under the presidency of Sir Ben Lockspeiser, secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, with Sir Francis Meynell, director of the Cement and Concrete Association, as vice-president. The five sessions, to be held on successive days, will be devoted respectively to the following topics: introductory addresses (followed by two papers and discussion); the constitution of Portland cement; the setting and hardening of Portland cement; special cements; and applications of research. The sessions will be mainly devoted to the reading of papers and subsequent discussion. A number of excursions have been arranged (with one on September 14 and several on September 20) and these include visits to the Building Research Station and to the Research Station of the Cement and Concrete Association. Attendance at the symposium is by invitation only. Further information can be obtained from the organizing secretary, Philip Gooding, Cement and Concrete Association, 52 Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1.

French Metallurgical Society : Autumn Meeting in Paris

THE Societe Française de Métallurgie will hold its 'Journées Métallurgiques d'Automne' during October 20–25 at the Maison de la Chimie, 28 bis rue St. Dominique, Paris 7^e. The two main subjects to be discussed will be: faults and fractures observed in metals during service; and methods of effecting economies in metals in short supply, including the rational use of alloys and the substitution of different varieties or qualities of alloys or methods of fabrication to ensure the best possible use of scarce elements. A few communications on other subjects of particular interest will be allowed at some of the sessions. The programme will include communications by metallurgists from many European countries and from the