

Isles. He has also been directing research on a hypsometric survey of Scotland, and it is hoped that his retirement will not cut short this work.

#### Dr. Ronald Miller

RONALD MILLER, who is to succeed Prof. Stevens at Glasgow, was the first member of the University of Edinburgh to graduate as M.A. with honours in geography, in 1931. As an Orcadian naturally interested in the sea, he then turned appropriately to oceanography and, after two years as a Carnegie Research Scholar, working in the Marine Laboratory of the Fishery Board in Aberdeen and on its research vessel, he earned the degree of Ph.D.(Edin.) for his contribution to the hydrography of the northern North Sea. As an assistant lecturer in geography under Prof. H. J. Fleure at Manchester (1933-36), he developed an interest in cartography, a subject on which he has since published several papers. He then entered the Colonial Service as geography specialist at Katsina Higher College, Nigeria, which was intended eventually to attain university college status. Working with African students in the field, he published studies of the Hausa and was engaged in further research on Nigeria when the Second World War supervened and he was embodied from the Supplementary Reserve into the Nigeria Regiment, where he served until 1944 and then reverted to civil employment at the request of the Colonial Office. He visited many parts of West Africa and acquired an intimate knowledge of the Hausa people and fluency in their language. He returned in 1946 to his Alma Mater as lecturer under Prof. A. G. Ogilvie, and has been primarily concerned with physical aspects of geography and with departmental work in the field. He has written on African topics and is continuing his work on Nigeria.

#### Harrison Howe Lecture: Prof. H. C. Brown

THE Harrison Howe Lecture for 1953 of the Rochester Section of the American Chemical Society will be delivered on November 21 by Prof. Herbert C. Brown, professor of chemistry in Purdue University, Lafayette. The Lecture was founded in 1945 to commemorate the services to chemistry of Harrison E. Howe and his influence on American industry through his researches. Prof. Brown has been chosen this year for his contributions to stereochemistry and also for his work in the synthesis of hitherto unknown boron hydride derivatives. In the field of stereochemistry his studies have shed new light on the abnormal behaviour of strained molecules, and recently he has developed a method of measuring the magnitude of the strain factor in structurally related compounds. His work on the chemistry of boron hydride was conducted at the University of Chicago during the Second World War as part of a war-time project connected with atomic energy research and is noteworthy for the preparation of a new type of organoboron substance which is very useful as a reducing agent and source of hydrogen.

#### Advisory Council on Scientific Research and Technical Development

THE Ministry of Supply announces the following appointments to the Minister's Advisory Council on Scientific Research and Technical Development: Prof. H. W. Melville, Mason professor of chemistry in the University of Birmingham; Prof. J. L. M. Morrison, professor of mechanical engineering in the University of Bristol; Prof. L. Rosenhead, professor

of applied mathematics in the University of Liverpool; Prof. I. N. Sneddon, professor of mathematics in the University College of North Staffordshire; Prof. A. R. Todd, professor of organic chemistry in the University of Cambridge.

#### Committee on Adult Education

MISS HORSBRUGH, Minister of Education, has appointed the following committee to inquire into the adult educational service of Great Britain: Dr. Eric Ashby, vice-chancellor, Queen's University, Belfast (chairman); Mr. A. L. C. Bullock, censor of St. Catherine's Society, Oxford; Prof. W. L. Burn, professor of modern history, University of Durham; Mr. T. Mervyn Jones, chairman, Wales Gas Board; Sir Wilfrid Martineau, formerly chairman of the Birmingham Education Committee; Mr. C. M. Skinner, a member of the Court of Governors, University of Manchester; and Mr. G. B. Thorneycroft, member of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress. The committee's terms of reference are: "To review the present system by which the extra-mural departments of universities, the Workers' Educational Association and the other responsible bodies provide local facilities for adult education, with special reference to the conditions under which these facilities are organized and are aided by grants from public funds; and to make recommendations".

#### Technological Education in Britain

THE reply of Mr. Kenneth Pickthorn, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education, to an adjournment debate on technological education, initiated by Mr. James Johnson on May 21, did not indicate that the Government has yet formulated any real policy. Mr. Pickthorn rightly pointed out that there had not yet been much time for technical colleges to obtain grants, or promises of grants, under Circular 255, but he could only express the hope that colleges with courses which attract the maximum—the advanced rate of grant of 75 per cent—would develop more and more into institutions for technological work only, and that the remaining colleges would concentrate on the needs of technicians. Mr. Johnson had particularly stressed, besides the desirability of developing the work of the major technical colleges (some thirty of about two hundred), the shortage of science teachers in secondary schools, pointing out that in 1951 not one of the 51 honours graduates in the honours school of chemistry at the University of Oxford went into teaching. Mr. Pickthorn said he thought that the quantitative shortage of science teachers is being exaggerated; indeed, the situation is slightly improving. He emphasized the impossibility of finding a rapid solution of this problem.

#### City and Guilds of London Institute: Report for 1951

THE annual report of the council of the City and Guilds of London Institute for 1951 (pp. 64; 1952), in referring to the election of the Duke of Edinburgh as president, recalls that in 1881 the Prince of Wales became the first president and that the office has remained vacant since he became visitor and patron on accession to the throne in 1901. The report records a year of consolidation, but no long-term solution of the acute problem of accommodation is possible until the resources of the Institute are considerably increased. The council is desirous that the Institute's work in the field of art should be more widely known and appreciated. Honorary associate-