

logy), Dr. W. B. Turrill (Botany), Mr. W. F. Okeshott (Education), Prof. H. D. Kay (Agriculture). The Lord Mayor of Birmingham is the local patron, and Sir Raymond Priestley, vice-chancellor of the University of Birmingham, is chairman of the Local Executive Committee. The Lord Mayor of Birmingham has issued an appeal for a local fund of £6,000, and more than two hundred local volunteers are already making preparations for what is expected to be one of the largest meetings in the history of the British Association. The meeting will be the sixth to be held in Birmingham.

Tribute to Prof. A. Einstein

IN the July issue of the *Review of Modern Physics* (published September 19), thirty-eight articles written specially by well-known physicists from many different countries have been collected together by Dr. W. Pais in commemoration of the seventieth birthday of Prof. Albert Einstein, which occurred on March 14. A recent photograph of Prof. Einstein, showing him sitting at his desk, forms the front-piece, and in the first four articles, the authors of which are Profs. R. A. Millikan, L. de Broglie (in French), M. von Laue (in German) and Philipp Franck, an appreciation and brief description of Einstein's remarkable contributions to physics and philosophy are given. It is left to these four to convey to Prof. Einstein, for the entire group of authors contributing to the issue, the messages of debt and gratitude which each individually would have liked to express. The theory of relativity, relativistic dynamics, and cosmological applications of relativity are the subjects dealt with in many of the articles; but others are concerned with quite unrelated topics such as turbulence, thermodynamical equilibrium and the transfer-rate of the Rollin-Simon film of liquid helium. From Great Britain there are contributions by Max Born and P. A. M. Dirac; Canada by L. Infeld and A. Schild; India by H. J. Bhabha; Belgium by G. Lemaitre; Holland by A. D. Fokker, J. A. Schouten and W. J. de Haas and G. J. van der Berg; Sweden by O. Klein; Switzerland by W. Pauli and F. Villars; Israel by G. Racah; Mexico by M. S. Vallarta; and Japan by H. Yukawa. The other contributions are from the United States and include articles by G. Gamow, the late R. C. Tolman, H. P. Robertson, E. P. Wigner, R. Ladenberg, H. von Kármán and O. Stern.

Oceanography in Germany

REFERENCE was made in *Nature* of September 4, 1948 (p. 364) to the first issue of the German hydrographic journal, *Deutsche Hydrographische Zeitschrift*. It has now concluded its first volume with the issue of Nos. 5/6 which, among many papers, contains four on purely oceanographical subjects. W. Hansen gives a fundamental essay on computing tides in ocean areas of any shape by means of the method of boundary values, of which the validity is demonstrated for the English Channel. K. Kalle describes a handy method of measuring surface currents at sea by producing and following a coloured patch. F. Model compares five hundred reliable observations of surface temperature from almost all Atlantic regions with the average values, and discusses the possibility of a change in climate or of a systematic defect in the earlier method of observing being the cause of systematic discrepancies. O. Pratje, in a geological paper, discusses the variation in sediment type over very limited areas. Of the papers not specifically

concerned with oceanography, F. Errulat contributes a chart of the magnetic declination at mid-1945 for the German Bight and the southern Baltic. In a comprehensive article, H. C. Freiesleben discusses position lines (based on terrestrial and wireless bearings as well as on star observations) from a uniform point of view. E. Romer reviews the first seventy years of "German Sailing Directions", and two papers by A. Schluter and J. Nauen deal, theoretically and practically, with the problem of adjusting magnetic compasses and ascertaining their deviation in case of low visibility. Moreover, there is a report on the geomagnetic records at Wingst Observatory in 1942 by O. Meyer and a review of S. Chapman's isomagnetic charts by H. G. Macht. The succeeding issue (Vol. 2, Nos. 1/3) will contain several papers read before a geophysical and meteorological meeting held in Hamburg in September 1948.

Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors

THE Treasury, with the concurrence of the Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors, has issued a notice fixing December 31, 1949, as the final date for the lodging of claims with the Departments. The Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors under the chairmanship of Lord Justice Cohen was set up by Royal Warrant in May 1946 to assess the awards to be paid for the use by, or on behalf of, the Crown of inventions, designs, drawings or processes, particularly in connexion with the Second World War. Both the Commission and the Treasury feel that it would be inappropriate for the work of the Commission to be unduly protracted. As more than four years have elapsed since the conclusion of hostilities, the Commission considered that no hardship would be inflicted on inventors if a time limit for the lodgement of claims with the Government Departments were imposed. The expiry of the time limit will in no way deprive a claimant of his right to present a claim in the High Court if his invention is covered by a patent or registered design.

Birmingham Lectures for Research Workers in Industry

THE University of Birmingham Extra Mural Department, in co-operation with the Departments of Metallurgy and Chemistry, is providing a course of lectures in the new year for research workers in industry. This series of twenty-four lectures, the most ambitious which the University has so far provided extra-murally, commences on January 14, 1950, at the University, Edmund Street. The course was originally conceived by members of the Institute of Physics and the Institute of Metals, and was planned in response to a request made by them to the Extra Mural Department. The course has the general title "Modern Views of the Solid State". An introductory section on the general theoretical background of wave mechanics (F. R. N. Nabarro) leads on to specialized courses dealing with non-metallic solids (J. E. B. Randles) and with metals and alloys (B. A. Bilby). Further details can be obtained from the Director of the Extra Mural Department, University, Edmund Street, Birmingham 3.

Proceedings of the Physical Society : Sections A and B

ONE of the main reasons for dividing the *Proceedings of the Physical Society* into two sections A and B was to give the advantage of an increased volume of publication without burdening the Fellows with a further compulsory increase in subscription;