

supply. The rural schemes already installed prove that an overhead distribution at 11,000 volts (11 kv.) is economical when the loads are small. When heavier loads are anticipated, 33 kv. is generally adopted. In a paper by R. Dean read to the Institution of Electrical Engineers on May 15, the available data relating to rural design have been collected and the many numerical tables given will enable engineers to obviate many tedious calculations. Official regulations and a number of practical details in design are also given. For rural supply, it has been found that wood poles are the best. Both concrete and steel poles are about 12 per cent more expensive. The admissible factor of safety for wood poles has now been reduced to 3·5. At the time of constructing the 132 kv. grid, steel-cored aluminium was the most popular conductor to use, but the author's tables show that copper-cored steel or steel-cored copper provide rather cheaper lines. The requisite experience has not yet been obtained of the effects of electro-chemical action on these lines after a number of years exposure to the weather. There are many subsidiary advantages in favour of steel-cored aluminium for high-voltage lines.

Prof. Patrick Abercrombie

THE University of Liverpool gave London its first professor of town planning in Prof. S. D. Adshead, who has held the chair of town planning in the Bartlett School of Architecture at University College since 1914. The University of London is fortunate in securing as his successor Prof. Patrick Abercrombie, who since 1915 has been Lever professor of civic design at Liverpool. During these last twenty years he has been engaged in educating town planners, and has himself been a leader in every movement for the improvement and preservation of town and country alike. His interest in planning is not confined to town and industrial areas : he was one of the three mainly concerned in the founding of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, and his work there has shown the necessity of proceeding by country preservation to country planning, and finally to national planning. He has recently been appointed to prepare the plans for a national park in Snowdonia. The series of town planning schemes published by the University Press of Liverpool, the *Town Planning Review* started in 1910 and issued for the last twenty-five years under his editorship, form a fine written and pictorial record not only of the work of Prof. Abercrombie himself, but also of all those who have devoted themselves to these problems during recent years.

Health of the Army during 1933

LIEUT.-GEN. J. A. HARTIGAN, Director-General of the Army Medical Services, details in his first report, recently issued, the health of the Army at home and abroad for the year 1933. (H.M. Stationery Office. 2s. 6d. net.) The total strength at home and abroad was 184,000 men. The general health of all ranks fell little short of the high level reached in 1932, some increase in the admission rate being almost wholly accounted for by an increase in the incidence of

influenza. The chief causes of death were injury, tuberculosis, pneumonia and suicide, and of invaliding, tuberculosis and inflammation of the middle ear. Venereal diseases have again diminished, but tonsillitis still claims a number of victims and has slightly increased. The admissions for diphtheria show a welcome reduction, and it is remarked that at the depots at Caterham and Woolwich, where Schick testing and immunisation when necessary are carried out as a routine, the disease is practically non-existent. In addition to the statistics, details are given of the various measures that are being adopted at home and abroad for the prevention of disease.

Conference on Atmospheric Pollution

THIRTY-SIX representatives of local authorities and other organisations co-operating with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in the investigation of atmospheric pollution met on May 27 in the half yearly conference on atmospheric pollution at the offices of the Department. A report was received from Dr. G. M. B. Dobson on the progress of the researches carried out under the Atmospheric Pollution Research Committee. Dr. Dobson informed the conference that a full-time investigator has been appointed by the Department as a preliminary to the undertaking of an intensive survey, at a selected centre, of various types of pollution with a larger number of instruments. The method developed at the Building Research Station for estimating sulphur in the atmosphere is now being adopted more widely by the local authorities. Further experiments combined with weather observations are being taken in hand to facilitate the interpretation of the data collected by means of the deposit gauge observations.

Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine

AT the general meeting of the members of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, which was held on May 21, the governing body presented the Institute's forty-first annual report. This report contains an excellent summary of the important research work carried out in the laboratories and Serum Department during the past year. The amount of research seems to be more voluminous than usual, and the list of communications published occupies several pages. With the aid of a grant of £3,400 by the Rockefeller Foundation, a Svedberg velocity and equilibrium centrifuge is to be installed, a new and valuable equipment that should find useful application in protein, virus and other researches.

Czechoslovak Institute for the Study of Sound

AN institute for the study of sound has just been established in Prague under the management of Profs. K. Teige, M. Seemen and V. Vojtěch. The purpose of the institute will be to bring together scientific and practical workers to investigate sound in its physical, technical and physiological aspects. In pursuit of these aims it is proposed to arrange inquiries, excursions, lectures, both scientific and popular, and to carry out experiments and publish the results. The first important step to be taken in this connexion will be the equipment of a research