

ment, should be segregated in an inviolable reserve ; and that legislation similar to that in force in New Guinea for the protection of natives should be imposed in their interest. Watering depots for pearlshells on the coast of Arnhem Land should be abolished. The policy of administering native justice should be revised ; the police should not be allowed to act as protectors ; and special courts for the aborigines should be established. It is recommended further that the Commonwealth Government should set up a Department of Native Affairs under a trained protector and staffed by men trained to apply anthropological methods ; while eventually the administration of native affairs throughout Australia should be brought under one control. The Arnhem Land natives should not be permitted to leave the reserve, and missions should be requested to remove their stations to the outskirts of the reserve to prevent the entry of outside influence.

SETTING aside the larger question of the unification of control of aboriginal affairs throughout Australia, for which much is to be said, Dr. Thomson's recommendations represent the absolute minimum of immediate and urgent reform essential for the preservation of the aborigines of the Northern Territories. Mr. McEwen, Commonwealth Minister of the Interior, is reported to have expressed the view that, as it is inevitable that sooner or later the aborigines must come into contact with civilization, they should be prepared for it. Apparently he accepts an opinion attributed to "some anthropologists" that the segregation of tribalized natives "is undesirable and impracticable". Without a more precise statement of its authority, such an opinion carries little conviction ; and it is contrary to the views of anthropologists most competent to speak. How far segregation is practicable and likely to be beneficial depends upon the will of the Australian people to ensure that full effect shall be given to that policy, which past experience shows alone to be capable of affording the aboriginal an opportunity to survive. Segregation does not necessarily entail a state of stagnation in which the aboriginal tribe is a museum piece. When once conditions favourable, and indeed essential, to the continued existence of the aborigines have been secured, it will be possible to plan their future and guide development along lines consistent with their character and tradition.

### Segregation in Polish Universities

NEARLY one thousand outstanding scholars in leading universities in the United States have signed an open letter to their colleagues in some of the universities of Poland, where Jewish students are now segregated from their fellows, and repeated acts of violence are reported against them and Jewish professors. It is realized that the university authorities are faced with great difficulties on account of religious and racial differences, but to bring these conditions of strife into the classrooms and laboratories by adoption of a policy of segregation violates the principle of intellectual freedom upon which university life must be based. "Such discrimination",

the signatories protest, "seems to us alien to the spirit of academic freedom and of the free co-operation in the pursuit of knowledge that is so essential to the world of scholarship". The distinguished members of the faculties of Polish institutions of higher learning who have raised their voices against this discrimination will, it is hoped, be encouraged by this support of their American colleagues to continue their efforts to maintain the high tradition of such institutions in the free republic of scholarship. Sympathy with suffering, and sensitiveness to injustice, are attributes which distinguish man from all his fellow creatures ; and any deliberate action which evokes them cannot be other than a reversion to primitive instincts. In this twentieth century it is depressing to see the law of the jungle being accepted and applied to secure racial and national domination, when such great powers and opportunities exist for the progressive evolution of man's higher nature. Those of us who believe in a nobler destiny for the human race than has yet been reached find a certain amount of comfort in the dismay expressed by American scholars at the extension to Poland of a spirit of intolerance foreign to every principle for which a university should stand.

### Institute of Economic and Social Research

ANNOUNCEMENT is made of the formation of a new Institute of Economic and Social Research. Sir Josiah Stamp is to be the first president of the Institute, and Prof. N. F. Hall, professor of political economy in the University of London (University College), is to be director. Among the functions of the Institute are the carrying out of research, either by its own staff or by others temporarily associated with it, into the facts and problems of contemporary human society, and the publication of the results of researches, subject to adequate safeguards for the impartial and scientific character of these publications. Financial support for the Institute is being provided by the Sir Halley Stewart Trust, the trustees of the late Lord Leverhulme, the Pilgrim Trust and the Rockefeller Foundation. An annual income has been guaranteed of £10,000 for five years, and £5,000 for two years after. The offices of the Institute will be at 32 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.

### Physical Society's Exhibition

THE Catalogue of the Physical Society's Exhibition, held in the Imperial College of Science and Technology on January 4, 5 and 6, covers 226 pages, has many illustrations and is well arranged. The paging is on the bottom edge of the page, the number of the stall on the top outer corner and the name of firm exhibiting on the top inner corner. It is divided into two sections, Trade (177 pages) and Research (36 pages), and an alphabetical list of exhibitors in each section is provided which gives also the number of the stall. A four-page index of the instruments exhibited with indication of the pages on which they are described is also provided. Reference to the catalogue is therefore easy and quick. New exhibits are indicated in the catalogue by an asterisk and on

the stalls by a red star. As compared with last year, the exhibits in the Research Section have nearly doubled, while those in the Trade Section are about the same with a somewhat larger proportion of red stars. Some of the illustrations convey more information as to the working parts of the instruments than in past years, and are more useful to prospective buyers. Those on pp. 28, 165, 176 and 179 may be taken as examples. Discourses were delivered on January 4 by Captain G. C. C. Damant on "Diving in Deep Water and Shallow", on January 5 by Prof. A. F. C. Pollard on "Mechanical Amplification of Small Displacements" and by Sir Richard Gregory on "Science and Citizenship" jointly to the visitors to the Exhibition and to those attending the Exhibition of School Apparatus by the Science Masters' Association.

### Engineering and Economics

In an address to the Society of Engineers on October 4, entitled "Engineering and the New Economics", Dr. H. Chatley suggested that the engineer can contribute to the solution of economic problems of to-day in three ways. In the first place, the engineer can study the problem in terms of realities, such as goods, energy and services, and endeavour to disentangle them from the cobwebs of finance. Secondly, some engineers by entering politics can assist in spreading ideas on the realities of life. Thirdly, the engineer both by speech and by writing can help to explode some old fallacies and to educate the public in newer ideas and especially in that of the impartial application of scientific method to public affairs. Dr. Chatley illustrated his argument in respect of the last point by outlining in some detail the way in which the engineer can assist in the development of a sound fiscal policy in regard to coal and oil as well as in regard to the prevention of atmospheric pollution, the preservation of amenities, the question of values and prices, international debts, and population limits, and concluded by asserting that it is the duty of the engineer to understand the problems which have been raised by the misapplication by others of his skill. Scientific method should play an important part in citizenship since the classification of facts, the recognition of their sequence and significance and the habit of forming an unbiased judgment upon the facts which are characteristic of the scientific frame of mind are also essentials of good citizenship.

### Awards for War Inventions

THE final report of the Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors, which has now been published (Cmd. 5594) shows that, in all, 1,834 applications were received by the Commission, of which 369 were dealt with by the Commission direct. Of the remaining 1,465, which were in the first instance considered by the Investigating Committee, 846 were withdrawn or apparently abandoned, 75 were referred to and later heard by the Commission and 544 were rejected by the Committee as having no reasonable chance of success. In 200 of them the claimant exercised his right of a personal appearance before

the Investigating Committee. The total amount of awards was about £1,500,000, and a summary of the awards is appended to the report. Claims submitted to the Commission before the final date fixed by Royal Warrant (March 31, 1932) were virtually determined by December 31, 1933, but there were at that date certain claims the position of which had not been finally determined. The claims in question have since been otherwise disposed of, but while further sittings of the Commission were not necessary, the submission of a final report was delayed. The actual sittings of the Commission covered a period of fifteen years, and in that time the Commission lost by death its chairman, Lord Tomlin, as well as two members, Mr. A. C. Chapman and Prof. W. E. Dalby.

### Commonwealth Fund Fellowships

THIRTY-FOUR of these fellowships, enabling British university men to devote two years to study and travel in the United States of America, are offered for award in 1938. Twenty-four are open to candidates of British descent, domiciled in the United Kingdom, who are graduates of universities therein, unmarried and less than thirty years of age; two to graduates of a university in a British dominion or colony; five are 'service fellowships' open only to candidates holding Government appointments in the British Empire over-seas; and three are Home Civil Service fellowships. The Committee of Award (chairman, Sir Walter H. Moberly) give primary consideration to intellectual ability, personality and initiative; account is also taken of character and health. Application, in the prescribed form, approved by the authorities of the college or university of which the candidate is or has been a member, must reach the Secretary to the Committee (35 Portman Square, W.1) by February 1. In 1937, awards were made to candidates from Cambridge (5), Cardiff, Glasgow, Liverpool (2), London (4), Manchester (2), Oxford (9), Reading, St. Andrews, New Zealand and South Africa. The subjects of study were very various, comprising: physics (3), chemistry (2), biophysics, zoology, physiology, medicine (2), engineering, architecture (2), law, political science, economics, international relations, education, modern languages, English literature, American literature, theology. The fellowships, in some respects complementary to the Rhodes scholarships, were established with the view of promoting mutual amity and understanding between Great Britain and the United States.

### Constable's Portrayal of Weather

MR. L. C. W. Bonacina's paper on "John Constable's Centenary: His Position as a Painter of Weather" (*Quart. J. Roy. Meteor. Soc.*, October 1937) is a notable contribution to that affiliation of the Nature studies of the artist and scientific worker which is so much to be desired. The character of the country in which Constable was born and bred evidently influenced his practice of emphasizing cloud effects in landscape. The Suffolk countryside where the celebrated pictures of Flatford Mill, Dedham Mill and Stoke-by-Nayland were painted is the plain seen by the traveller on the London and North-Eastern Railway when