

of marine algæ, particularly kelps, calcareous algæ and parasitic red algæ. In addition, he is the author of several papers on mosses, fungi and flowering plants. At the same meeting Mr. John Ardagh, clerk in charge of the Library, Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), was elected associate of the Society. Mr. Ardagh has an extensive knowledge of botanical literature, and those engaged upon investigations in taxonomy or botanical history greatly appreciate the readiness with which this knowledge is placed at their service.

#### Dr. E. W. R. Steacie

DR. E. W. R. STEACIE has been appointed director of the Division of Chemistry, National Research Council of Canada, in succession to Dr. G. S. Whitby, who recently resigned to accept the post of director of the Chemical Laboratories of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Great Britain. Dr. Steacie, who will assume his new duties in July, has been a member of the teaching staff of McGill University for the last ten years, being at the present time associate professor of chemistry. During this period most of his time has been spent in the supervision of research by graduate students working on problems in the fields of hydrocarbon chemistry, combustion, chemical kinetics and photochemistry, in which work he is recognized as an authority. Dr. Steacie's studies have been directed largely along lines of fundamental research on problems of industrial importance, such as gaseous combustion, catalysis, pyrolysis of organic compounds, gases in metals, and high-pressure reactions. He has published many scientific papers and treatises, and is an associate editor of the *Journal of Chemical Physics*.

#### Sir John Eliot, K.C.I.E., F.R.S., 1839-1908

ON May 25, 1839, the distinguished meteorologist Sir John Eliot was born at Lamesley, Durham. Though the son of a schoolmaster, he did not matriculate until he was twenty-six years of age, and he then entered St. John's College, Cambridge. In 1869 he graduated as second wrangler and he was first Smith's Prizeman. After graduating he went to India and successively was professor of mathematics at Roorkee Engineering College (1869-72), at Muir College, Allahabad (1872-74), and professor of physical science at the Presidency College, Calcutta (1874-86). This last post he relinquished to succeed Henry Francis Blanford (1834-93) as meteorological reporter to the Indian Government. He had already served as reporter to the Government of Bengal. In 1899 he became director-general of Indian observatories, retiring from this post in 1903, being made K.C.I.E. He wrote largely on meteorological subjects, and his "Handbook of Cyclonic Storms in the Bay of Bengal" proved of great use to commerce and shipping. Elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1895, after his return to England in 1904 he was president of the sub-section of astronomy and cosmical physics of the British Association. He died suddenly at his estate at Var, in the south of France, on March 18, 1908.

#### Civil Defence Research Committee

SIR JOHN ANDERSON, the Lord Privy Seal, has appointed a Civil Defence Research Committee, to be constituted as follows: Dr. E. V. Appleton (chairman), formerly Jacksonian professor of natural philosophy at the University of Cambridge, now Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Prof. J. F. Baker, professor of Civil engineering at the University of Bristol; Prof. J. D. Bernal, professor of physics at Birkbeck College, University of London; Dr. C. G. Darwin, director of the National Physical Laboratory; Prof. A. J. S. Pippard, professor of civil engineering in the Imperial College, University of London; Prof. R. V. Southwell, professor of engineering science at the University of Oxford; Prof. G. I. Taylor, Yarrow research professor of the Royal Society at Cambridge; Prof. W. N. Thomas, professor of engineering at University College, Cardiff. The secretary of the committee is Dr. E. N. Fox, Cleland House, Page Street, S.W.1. The committee will advise the Lord Privy Seal on programmes of research and experiment. The aim is to secure the fullest possible co-ordination over the wide field of work now comprised in civil defence.

#### Pottery from Mersin, Cilicia

EXAMPLES illustrative of the whole of the remarkable range of pottery discovered by Prof. John Garstang in his archaeological investigations on the prehistoric Cilician site of Mersin in Asia Minor (see NATURE, March 18, p. 464) are to be available for study in Great Britain. Prof. Garstang, in the course of an account of his excavations before the Society of Antiquaries of London on May 11, paid a tribute to the Turkish Government not only for the facilities afforded him for excavation, but also for the generosity with which the authorities had allowed a selection of no fewer than five hundred pieces to be brought to England for exhibition on long-term loan. In making his selection, Prof. Garstang added, his aim had been to secure that the series should be as representative as possible of the whole sequence of development on this very ancient site, and also to demonstrate in the sequence the position of the remarkable early architectural remains, which had been discovered—at present the oldest known. A number of specimens of the pottery were shown by Prof. Garstang to illustrate his lecture, including wares of the Cilician-Hittite periods, as well as of the whole range of the series of the chalcolithic culture, in which several new types are included. Attention was specially directed to the examples of the black ware with white decoration of the late chalcolithic culture of about 3000 B.C., and the trichrome ware from the sixteenth level, showing direct contact with predynastic Mesopotamia and the Tell Halaf culture. Wares from the neolithic level, still incompletely explored, were also shown. Arrangements are being made for the pottery to be allocated to the British Museum and museums at Oxford, Cambridge, Birmingham, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow and elsewhere. Prof. Garstang also spoke of his discoveries in Cilicia in a Friday evening discourse at the Royal Institution on May 12.