

British Council films from the Central Film Library, "Life Cycle of the Maize" and "Development of the Rabbit", were shown.

Russian Astronomy Resurgent

A TELEGRAM from Moscow gives the news that the Astronomical Council of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. has already made a start on the task of rebuilding those Russian astronomical institutions which have suffered at German hands. Plans are being made both for the reconstruction of wrecked observatory buildings and for the design of new ones. A workshop under the direction of Prof. D. D. Midsutov, builder of the telescope with all-spherical surfaces, has been organized for the design of instruments and construction of scale models. The rebuilding of Poulkovo Observatory will begin in the near future: the new buildings, especially that which will house the great refractor, are designed to meet all the requirements of modern astronomical technique.

A site has been selected for the projected Central Asiatic Observatory on Zaili, a spur of the Ala Tau Mountains near Alma Ata. This observatory is not to be confused with the new astrophysical one, plans of which have already been drawn up, which in its scope and equipment is to be on a level with the best modern observatories. The site for this latter institution will probably be in the Crimea. The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences has decided to build a new observatory near Kiev, and Simeiz Observatory is already being rebuilt. In Moscow an astronomical laboratory is being established where visiting astronomers will be able to calibrate their photometric apparatus. The Leningrad Astronomical Institute will in future engage in purely theoretical work, including an attack on some problems in celestial mechanics, and will publish such periodical works as annual ephemerides.

Total Solar Eclipse of June 9, 1945

A SOVIET broadcast announces that a commission set up by the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. to observe the total solar eclipse of June 9 next year has opened its first plenary session in Moscow. Prominent astronomers from Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and other cities are taking part in the scheme. The band of totality passes from America through Norway, Sweden and Finland, crossing into Soviet territory near Lake Ladoga, and then stretching through Yaroslavl, Ivanovo, south of Gorki and Kuibyshev and north of Uralsk. The longest period of totality in the U.S.S.R. will be near Lake Ladoga, where it will last 61 seconds. Twenty Soviet expeditions are being organized. The Sternberg Astronomical Institute and similar bodies in Kiev, Kharkov and Kazan are to take part. Most of the sites of the expeditions are concentrated in the areas of Rybinsk and Yaroslavl. Preparations for observing the eclipse are also well forward in Sweden. A paper by Grönstrand, which is to appear in the *Annals of the Stockholm Observatory*, gives the circumstances of the eclipse in northern Sweden, and a party led by Lindblad plans to observe the flash spectrum.

University of Melbourne

THE trustees of the estate of the late E. L. Baillieu have given the University of Melbourne £A105,000 for a new library to commemorate Mr. Baillieu's brother, the late W. L. Baillieu.

The following appointments have recently been

made: Dr. L. H. Martin, formerly associate professor of physics in the University, but recently on leave for special duties under the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, to be professor of physics; Dr. E. S. Hills, hitherto associate professor of geology in the University, to be professor of geology and mineralogy; Dr. S. Dattilo Rubbo, hitherto senior lecturer in bacteriology in the University, to be professor of bacteriology.

Director of Army Education

BRIGADIER CYRIL LLOYD has been appointed director of army education under the Director-General, Mr. P. R. Morris. Brigadier Lloyd was educated at Brighton Grammar School and at the University of London, where he took his B.Sc. with first-class honours in 1926. He taught at Sir George Monoux Grammar School and later at Brighton Grammar School until the outbreak of war.

Announcements

MR. D. A. OLIVER, research director of William Jessop and Sons, Ltd., and J. J. Saville and Co., Ltd., Sheffield, while continuing in this position, has also been appointed director of research to the Birmingham Small Arms Group, of which Jessops and Savilles form part. The B.S.A. Group research activities, in addition to being carried on in the existing laboratories situated at the different works of the Group, notably the Daimler Co., Ltd., Coventry, the B.S.A. Co., Ltd., Small Heath, Birmingham, and B.S.A. Tools, Ltd., Birmingham, are to be considerably expanded. Recent additions to the research staff include Dr. A. J. Bradley, formerly of the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, and Mr. P. H. Lawrence, formerly of the Ministry of Aircraft Production, London.

THE Clough Memorial Research Fund, which was instituted in 1935 for the purpose of encouraging geological research in Scotland and the north of England, provides a sum of approximately £30 annually. Applications for grants are invited for the period April 1, 1945–March 31, 1946, and should state (1) the nature of the research to be undertaken; (2) the amount of grant desired; (3) the specific purpose for which the grant will be used, for example, travelling expenses, maintenance in field, excavation of critical sections, etc.; (4) whether any other grant-in-aid has been obtained or applied for. Applications must be in the hands of the Secretary, Clough Memorial Research Fund Committee, Edinburgh Geological Society, Synod Hall, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh, not later than March 1, 1945.

THE Summary of Current Technological Developments issued by the U.S. Department of Labour is prepared each month by the Productivity and Technological Development Division of the Bureau of Labour Statistics. Started at the end of 1941, it summarizes recent changes in processes, materials and manufacturing techniques as reported in current trade and technical periodicals, of which about two hundred are now covered each month. In addition to short abstracts of the articles or notes appearing in the periodicals cited, brief special reports are frequently presented on matters of current interest, based on a number of sources or on the work of the Division. The February 1944 issue, for example, includes a fifth article in a series on labour utilization, dealing with employee training and upgrading.