

Dr. Moore to become the first director, a post which he still holds. He has served for some twenty-five years on committees of the British Standards Institution dealing with subjects related to instruments and to glasses for a variety of purposes; and since 1933 on the inter-departmental committee on optical glass set up by the three Service Departments. In April 1944 Dr. Moore was elected to the presidency of the Society of Glass Technology, and has been nominated for a second year of office. Dr. Moore, with his wise and genial personality and his wide experience of glass and its manifold applications, is an excellent choice for the variety of important activities centred in the work of the Department of Glass Technology of the University of Sheffield.

#### Fisheries Adviser at the Colonial Office:

Mr. C. F. Hickling

THE Secretary of State for the Colonies has appointed Mr. C. F. Hickling to be his fisheries adviser. This is the first time that the position has been filled on a permanent and full-time basis, Mr. Hickling's predecessor, Dr. E. S. Russell, having acted in a part-time capacity during a period of approximately two years. The possibilities for development and research in Colonial fisheries are very considerable, and the post of fisheries adviser is one of great opportunity. Mr. Hickling, who will take up his duties immediately, will be assisted and supported in his task by the Colonial Fisheries Advisory Committee which was appointed in 1943.

After taking his degree at Cambridge, Mr. Hickling engaged in postgraduate research at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Plymouth, and the Department of Oceanography, University of Liverpool, and in 1927 was appointed to the fishery research staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, in which he rose to the rank of senior naturalist. His work as a fishery investigator was of a high order; he published in several parts an excellent monograph on the hake and the hake fisheries, on which he became an acknowledged authority, together with many other papers on cognate subjects. His Buckland Lectures on the hake were published in 1934. During the War he has been acting as port fishery captain at Milford Haven with conspicuous success, and he has also found time to make a statistical study of the effects of the War upon the hake stocks, as yet unpublished.

#### Colonial Medical Research Committee

THE Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Medical Research Council have jointly created a Colonial Medical Research Committee to advise them on medical research for the benefit of Colonial territories. It is constituted as follows: Sir Edward Mellanby, secretary of the Medical Research Council (chairman); Colonel J. S. K. Boyd; Prof. P. A. Buxton, professor of entomology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Dr. A. N. Drury, director of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine; Brigadier N. Hamilton Fairley; Dr. W. H. Kauntze, chief medical adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies; Prof. B. G. Maegraith, professor of tropical medicine at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine; Dr. B. S. Platt, director of the Human Nutrition Research Unit, Medical Research Council; and Major-General Sir John Taylor. The secretary of the Committee is Dr. F. Hawking, of the National Institute for Medical Research, London, N.W.3.

#### Restoration of Pulkovo and Kiev Observatories

A FIVE-YEAR plan for rebuilding the famous observatory at Pulkovo on the outskirts of Leningrad is announced by the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. The main building is to be restored as it was originally, and such of the valuable equipment and instruments as were removed to safety before the Germans began the bombardment of the besieged city will be installed again. The Observatory was completely destroyed, and the cost of reinstatement is estimated as 137 million roubles. The world-renowned library could not be removed in time, and many irreplaceable books and manuscripts are lost to posterity. Adequate provision to restock the library includes the earmarking of 200,000 dollars for purchases abroad. Plans for work in the future suggest that the character of the institution is not to be changed: both fundamental astronomical work and astrophysical researches will be undertaken.

At Kiev, where less damage was done, work is so far advanced that this year's centenary of the foundation of the Observatory should see the whole of the staff back at work in a reconstructed establishment. With more warning of what was coming than their Pulkovo colleagues, the Ukrainian astronomers were able to transport most of the instrumental equipment to Sverdlovsk, 3,000 km. to the east, where they were given refuge during the occupation. On their return they found the observatory buildings empty, plundered and partly ruined by the fleeing Nazi army. Rebuilding has proceeded at such a speed, however, that new pavilions already house the 257-mm. refractor and the 120-mm. meridian circle, and regular observations and instruction have started again. Extensions on which work has already begun include a building for a proposed big modern refractor, an astrophysical laboratory and a deep basement for seismic work.

#### Technical Education in Scotland

SCOTLAND, a country that has long been education-conscious, is fully alive to the importance of technical education in modern social life, and the Interim Report on Technical Education recently issued by the Special Committee of the Advisory Council on Education in Scotland (H.M. Stationery Office, Edinburgh, 3*d.*) advocates national planning on an extensive scale in order to bring training facilities within the reach of all. The core of the planning consists in the proposed establishment of a National Advisory Council for Technical Education, and four regional advisory councils (with a fifth for the Highlands, if necessary), all fully representative of industrial, commercial and educational interests, in order to survey both national and local requirements and to co-ordinate development schemes. The needs of part-time as well as full-time students have been considered in connexion with the organization of central institutions and local technical colleges, the former capable of dealing with work of the most advanced type and in some cases performing the functions of peak institutions for specialized subjects; technical instruction is also envisaged in the new colleges for compulsory further education of young persons and in voluntary day and evening classes where technical colleges cannot be established. It is realized that the new proposals will involve heavy financial commitments, and the National Council would therefore be required to make recommendations to the Secretary of State as to expenditure that is desirable. The proposals in the report are on a bold scale and well