

has justified to the full the appointment of a geologist to the staff of the Chief Engineer. His election to the chair of geology at Sheffield, while enabling him to return to the pursuit and teaching of pure science as a basic study, will enable him to continue to maintain and emphasize the value of geology to all civil engineering practice, as he has done to military engineering in its widest sense.

Chair of Geology at Leeds: Prof. W. Q. Kennedy

DR. W. Q. KENNEDY, who has been appointed to the chair of geology in the University of Leeds, is a senior geologist on the staff of the Geological Survey in Scotland. Before joining the Geological Survey in 1928, Kennedy studied under J. W. Gregory in Glasgow and under Niggli in Zurich. As a result of his Continental training, he became one of the first geologists in Britain to apply Fedorow and Sander 'universal stage' technique to the microscopic study of rocks, and early in his career published a translation of Chudoba's text-book on the determination of plagioclase feldspars by 'universal stage' methods. Kennedy has made notable contributions to geological research. In petrology he has dealt with pyrometamorphic ore-deposits, composite lava-flows, the parent magma of the British Tertiary Province and, in conjunction with Dr. E. M. Anderson, the origins of basaltic magma. His conception of volcanic and plutonic associations has been acclaimed as a fundamental contribution to petrogenetic theory. Perhaps his most notable work in Scotland is his study of the Great Glen Fault, which led him to infer a lateral shift of some 65 miles along this fracture and to discuss its tectonic and metamorphic implications. His official Survey work with Dr. J. E. Richey on the Moine and sub-Moine rocks of the Morar district has also produced notable results in Highland stratigraphy and tectonics.

Prior to the opening of the new Geological Museum in London in 1935, Kennedy spent a year or two in London preparing the ground-floor exhibits illustrating volcanicity and glaciology. During the War, he has been concerned with economic investigations on Scottish feldspar mica, iron-ore, oil-shale, mineral oil, natural gas and dolomite. His pre-war discovery of a valuable muscovite deposit in the Scottish Highlands has proved to be of national importance.

University Development at Birmingham

THE University of Birmingham has launched an appeal for £1,500,000 for purposes of development, and promises of £638,636 have already been received. Outstanding items in the proposed scheme are £100,000 each for four additional halls of residence (three for men and one for women), £200,000 for a new library, £170,000 for new laboratories for mechanical and electrical engineering, £150,000 for buildings at Edgbaston to house the Faculties of Arts, Commerce and Law, and central administration, and £40,000 each for the endowment of chairs of geography and electronics. In the words of the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Raymond Priestley, "Men and women who must guide and control a great industrial people, and the experts who are to be the spear-point of scientific industry, are best educated within sight and sound of the factory and the market-place. We are moving forward into a world in which technical development will take place at an accelerating rate.

To equip ourselves for the competition we shall have to face in order to maintain our standard of living—if not our very existence—in the post-war world involves mobilization of the skill and talent of the whole people, together with development of character, to put the programme through. We need to combine the best features of the older universities with the specialities of the new that are in closer touch with the industrial world. Given the will and the apparatus, there is nowhere that this could be done better than here in Birmingham."

Industrial Ophthalmology

THE Institute of Ophthalmology, Royal Eye Hospital, St. George's Circus, London, S.E.1, proposes to devote a considerable proportion of its funds to industrial ophthalmology. In view of the absence of any co-ordinated work in this field, it is felt that a national survey of workers, and of work already accomplished, is a necessary preliminary to the undertaking of research on any specific aspect of this very extensive subject. The Institute therefore invites those who have routine experience in any branch of industrial ophthalmology, or who have undertaken original work bearing upon it, to communicate with the Institute stating briefly their experience and defining the aspect of the work with which they are most familiar—medical supervision, safety, lighting, industrial psychology, etc. It is the Institute's policy to promote the investigation of industrial ophthalmic problems in the districts in which they arise. It is hoped that those replying to this request will be willing to co-operate in their own areas and in their special fields of interest and experience as the national scheme develops. This invitation is extended not only to individual workers, but also to research and other organizations concerned. The funds will be distributed on the recommendation of the Scientific Executive Committee in the form of grants for approved work. The Committee proposes, initially, to support, co-ordinate and publish work undertaken throughout Great Britain.

Industrial Data in Britain

ACCORDING to an article in the *Board of Trade Journal* of May 26, 1945, the Board of Trade is to undertake, through the regional research sub-committees formed as adjuncts to the Distribution of Industry Committees, the collection and assembly, on a continuing basis, of a wide range of factual data required for distribution of industry purposes covering every locality in Britain. In making such surveys the Board of Trade will make the fullest use of information on industry already accumulated by the supply Ministries and by the Ministries of Labour and Town and Country Planning. It is also intended to take the fullest advantage of local knowledge by consultation with non-official bodies, whether universities, local authorities or industrial groups. By these means the Board of Trade should be made conversant with the industrial problems of all parts of the country and equipped to provide the industrial world with an information service to help individual firms in making decisions on the location of new factories.

Astronomical Observatory of Madrid

THE *Anuario* for 1945 of the Madrid Observatory has been prepared on a plan similar to that of the preceding issues, with some slight modifications intro-