

deter the late Dr. Chapman from specially requesting Mr. Lowe to investigate the wing muscles of Gould's manakin, having regard to the complicated nuptial display of this bird.

Mr. Lowe has always taken a deep interest in bird preservation. His being the rare combination of man of science, all-round naturalist and keen sportsman, made him an undoubted leader in this field. To his balanced judgment and wide vision the British Section, International Committee for Bird Preservation, of which he is chairman, owes its success; and the regard with which he is held by other countries was evidenced by his election as chairman of the European Continental Section in 1938. The preservation of wildfowl has been Mr. Lowe's especial care, and it was owing to his activities that the International Conference on Wildfowl was held in London in 1927. He was mainly instrumental in forming the Wildfowl Inquiry Committee in 1936 which saw early fruit to its labours in the successful passage of the Wild Birds (Ducks and Geese) Protection Act 1939. His achievements for the preservation of wildfowl were recognized by the award of the Verner von Heidenstam Gold Medal by the Swedish Academy of Sciences in 1939.

#### Institute of Physics: Prof. J. A. Crowther

To mark their gratitude to Prof. J. A. Crowther for his fourteen years service as its honorary secretary, the past and present members of the Board of the Institute of Physics gave a lunch at Brown's Hotel, London, prior to the annual general meeting of the Institute on May 29. A testimonial was presented to him on behalf of the members of the Institute, recording their thanks for his unstinting service to the profession of physicist, and stating that his many actions and services "illuminate the pages of the Institute's records". During Prof. Crowther's tenure of office the Institute has not only grown in status and prestige, but also its membership roll has increased fourfold. The five branches in Great Britain and the four subject groups dealing with special branches of applied physics have all been established during this time. Among other new activities for which Prof. Crowther was largely responsible should be mentioned: the establishment of certificates in laboratory arts, and of national certificates in applied physics, the series of conferences and exhibitions and summer schools on various aspects of industrial physics, and the preparation of reports on "The Education and Training of Physicists" and on "The Teaching of Mathematics to Physicists". During the War, Prof. Crowther did much to ensure that the services of physicists were utilized to the best advantage, and he has continued this important work during the resettlement period. He has represented the Institute on many outside bodies, including the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, of which he was vice-chairman. Prof. Crowther has now been elected a vice-president of the Institute of Physics, so that it will still be able to draw on his great experience and knowledge of physicists and physics. It will be recalled that Prof. Crowther is also retiring from the chair of physics at the University of Reading which he has occupied since 1924 (see *Nature*, March 30, p. 401).

#### Institute of Physics

At the annual general meeting of the Institute of Physics held on May 29, the following were elected to take office on October 1: *President*, Prof. A. M.

Tyndall; *Vice-Presidents*, Prof. J. A. Crowther, Dr. H. Lowery and Mr. A. J. Philpot; *Honorary Treasurer*, Mr. E. R. Davies, *Honorary Secretary*, Dr. B. P. Dudding; *New Ordinary Members of the Board*, Dr. A. McCance, Mr. W. S. Vernon, Dr. F. A. Vick. Dr. G. F. C. Searle was elected an honorary fellow of the Institute.

The report for 1945 of the Institute shows that membership increased by 307, the highest since its foundation in 1918. Early in the year, at the invitation of the Ministry of Education, the Institute accepted the functions assigned to it by the Ministry in connexion with the arrangements for the award of national certificates in applied physics. The Ministry has now issued rules for the scheme and "Notes for the Guidance of Colleges and Schools". Mr. N. Clarke has been appointed to the new post of assistant secretary of the Institute. The report records that the attendance at the conference on "Instruments for the Automatic Controlling and Recording of Chemical and Other Processes", held jointly with the Institution of Chemical Engineers and the Society of Chemical Industry in October, totalled five hundred. The Institute also took an active part in the celebrations of the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of X-rays. The Australian branch is still active, and the five local branches and three subject groups in Britain held forty-three meetings (some jointly) during the year. Other matters considered by the Board during the past year included "The Code of Practice in Respect of Consulting and Similar Work accepted by Members of Whole-time Academic Staff", prepared by the Joint Council of Professional Scientists, the release from war-time posts and re-allocation of scientific men and the index to X-ray diffraction photographs.

#### Chemical Engineering at Cambridge: Prof. T. R. C. Fox

EARLY in 1945 the University of Cambridge received from the Shell Group of Oil Companies an offer to endow in the University a chair of chemical engineering. This offer was accepted by the University on March 2, 1945. It has now been announced that Mr. Terence Robert Corelli Fox, of King's College, Cambridge, has been elected into the professorship. Mr. Fox, who was born in 1912, was educated at Regent Street Polytechnic Secondary School and entered Jesus College, Cambridge, in 1930 with a scholarship in natural science. He read engineering and obtained a first class in the Mechanical Sciences Tripos in 1933. During 1933-37 he was employed in Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., as technical assistant to the chief engineer at Billingham. In 1937 Mr. Fox returned to Cambridge as a demonstrator in the Engineering Laboratory. He was elected a fellow of King's College in 1941 and was made a temporary University lecturer in 1944.

#### Ministry of Food: Scientific Advisers

SIR JACK DRUMMOND, scientific adviser to the Ministry of Food, and Dr. T. Moran, director of research and deputy scientific adviser, have resigned their appointments with effect from May 31. Sir Jack Drummond is taking up the appointment, previously announced, as director of research to Messrs. Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., Nottingham (see *Nature*, 155, 603; 1945). Dr. Moran is returning to his post as director of the Cereals Research Station, St. Albans, in charge of the laboratories of the