officer of the Steel Structures Research Committee of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Mr. J. S. L. Gilmour

Mr. J. S. L. Gilmour, who has just been appointed director of the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at Wisley, has been assistant director at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, since 1931, although during the War he was seconded to the Ministry of Fuel and Power. While at Kew he showed himself to be an able administrator, and his genuine and assiduous interest in the welfare of the student-gardeners will engender a feeling of personal loss beyond the circle of his immediate colleagues. It is a happy augury for the future of horticulture that the directorships of the Royal Gardens, Kew, and the gardens at Wisley should be thus held by men linked by ties of friendship and common interests. Changing economic conditions must inevitably bring about considerable re-orientation of the pursuits and interests of the fellows of the Royal Horticultural Society and thus influence the purpose and policy of their Gardens, so that our good wishes go out to Mr. Gilmour in his difficult but interesting task.

National Union of Teachers: New General Secretary

Mr. Ronald Gould has been appointed general secretary of the National Union of Teachers in succession to Sir Frederick Mander, who is to retire in 1947. Mr. Gould was president of the Union during 1943–44. He is at present headmaster of Welton Council School, Bath, and is a well-known figure in the teaching world. He was educated at Shepton Mallet Grammar School and received his professional training at Westminster College. After leaving college, he was appointed assistant master at Radstock Council School, and while in this area became president of the Radstock Association of the National Union of Teachers, a representative on the County Teachers' Association and Somerset's representative on the Lower Paid Areas' Association Council. He was elected as an executive member of the National Union of Teachers in 1937. He has been a member of the Burnham Committee on Teachers' Salaries since 1938.

Society for the Protection of Science and Learning

In 1933, when the rise of the Nazi party rendered the position of men of science and other scholars extremely dangerous, the Academic Assistance Council was founded to help the refugees; later its title was changed to the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning. The recently published fifth annual report (issued from Westminster College, Cambridge) surveys the Society's activities for the years 1939–45. These years, being war years, have necessitated the limitation of the survey chiefly to an account of the academic refugees in Great Britain. Of the 2,541 individuals who were registered, only 601 are now in this country. The majority of those who have found employment abroad are in the United States. Some of these are in the special foundations of French and Polish exiled scholars, or on the staff of the School for Social Research in New York. Spanish exiles have found their way to Mexico, and the Central and South American countries have absorbed a large number of the refugees. Others have gone to the British Dominions, some to Turkey, Palestine, Sweden and Switzerland. Of those in Great Britain, about 40 per cent are in universities and parallel institutions. Another group, about 36 per cent, are employed in some of the professions, industry and the Government service. Scholars of Allied nationality have returned or will return to their own countries if they are Dutch, Belgian, French or Scandinavian, but the Poles and some of the Czechs are in a difficult position. So far as numbers are concerned, the Germans and Austrians present special problems. Some with a good war record have been naturalized; these will presumably remain in Britain, but some definitely wish to return, and discussions are now taking place for the return of some of them to the British zone. The report emphasizes that the Society is not a welfare agency in the usual sense, but exists to make the work of refugee scientific workers and other scholars available, by maintaining them while other support is not forthcoming. It is expected that in a few years time the activities of the Society will be considerably curtailed, but in the meantime much work still remains to be done.

Fifty Years of Danish Marine Biology

The interruption to research caused by the War has been utilized by Dr. Blegvad to produce a lavishly illustrated account, full of interesting personal details, of the first fifty years work of the Danish Biological Station (*Report Danish Biol. Stat.*, **45**; 1940, published 1944). In 1899 a moored transport vessel was adapted for use as a laboratory under the direction of C. J. Johannes Petersen. A long series of papers published during thirty years shows how much marine biology owes to his energy, ability and originality. Early famous for his invention, still in use, of a method of marking living fish, his bottom-sampling grab led to a greatly extended knowledge of animal life of the sea-bottom and of the food available for marketable fish such as plaice. The laboratory has always been closely connected with the University of Copenhagen, while under the late A. C. Johansen and the present director there has developed a friendly and valuable collaboration with the fishermen, who have benefited financially from the experiments on transplantation of young plaice from the North Sea to richer feeding-grounds. Housed now in the beautiful Charlottenlund Castle, with a fine modern aquarium close by and a well-equipped research vessel and motor-boat available, the Station is well qualified to play again an active part in solving regional and international problems of aquatic biology.

Nuclear Energy and its Utilization

An address delivered at Cordoba Observatory, Argentina, by E. Gaviole, president of the Argentine Physical Association, points out that men of science are generally agreed that within five years every major industrial country that wishes will possess atomic bombs, that there is no defence against surprise atomic aggression and in any such warfare both combatants will suffer unparalleled destruction in a few days. Accordingly, the object should be to avoid war; and nations should surrender a part of their sovereignty to achieve security. Commenting that the scientific workers of the southern hemisphere are in a privileged position and unlikely to be a target, Dr. Gaviole suggests that the fact that governments themselves will be exposed to attack