

Edinburgh; Dr. S. F. Dorey, chief engineer surveyor, Lloyd's Register of Shipping; Sir Claude Gibb, of C. A. Parsons & Co., Ltd.; Dr. H. J. Gough, engineer in chief, Lever Bros. & Unilever, Ltd.; Sir William Halerow; Mr. M. B. Hoseason, Brush Electrical Co., Ltd.; Dr. C. H. Lander, principal, Military College of Science; Prof. N. F. Mott, Melville Wills professor of theoretical physics, University of Bristol; Prof. D. M. Newitt, professor of chemical engineering, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London; Sir Ewart Smith, of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.; Prof. H. W. Swift, professor of engineering, University of Sheffield; Dr. C. Sykes, director, Brown-Firth Research Laboratories.

#### British Committee for Co-operation with U.N.E.S.C.O. in the Natural Sciences

At the invitation of the Ministry of Education, the Royal Society has set up a committee to co-operate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation in the field of the natural sciences. The Committee's terms of reference are: (i) on behalf of the United Kingdom, to co-operate with U.N.E.S.C.O. in the field of the natural sciences; (ii) to report to the Council of the Royal Society and to the Minister of Education.

The Committee consists of a chairman, Prof. E. D. Adrian (foreign secretary of the Royal Society), and representatives (as indicated in brackets) of the following bodies: Royal Society (Dr. C. H. Desch, Dr. J. Needham, Prof. H. H. Read); chairmen of the seven British National Committees (Astronomy—Sir Harold Spencer Jones; Biology—Prof. H. M. Fox; Chemistry—Sir Ian Heilbron; Geodesy and Geophysics—Prof. J. Proudman; Geography—Prof. H. J. Fleure; Physics—Prof. N. F. Mott; Scientific Radio—Sir Robert Watson-Watt); Ministry of Education (Mr. Ritchie Calder, Prof. H. J. Fleure, Sir Clive Forster-Cooper); Advisory Council on Scientific Policy (Dr. A. E. Trueman); British Association (Dr. E. Hindle, Dr. O. J. R. Howarth); British Council (Dr. N. Howard Jones, Miss Nancy Parkinson); Association of Scientific Workers (Prof. J. D. Bernal); Science Masters' Association (Mr. J. P. Stephenson); Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (Sir Edward Appleton); Medical Research Council (Sir Edward Mellanby); Agricultural Research Council (Sir John Fryer); secretary of the Universities Bureau of the British Empire; and *ex officio*, the president, treasurer and one secretary of the Royal Society. The joint secretaries of the Committee are Mrs. J. J. Hawkes, of the Ministry of Education, and Dr. D. C. Martin, assistant secretary of the Royal Society. In accordance with the proposal by the Ministry of Education, the Council of the Royal Society has agreed that other important scientific organisations in the United Kingdom should be notified of the existence of the Committee and invited to transmit to the secretariat any proposals which they may wish to initiate. The first meeting of the Committee will be held on June 27.

#### Agricultural Science at Newcastle-upon-Tyne

THE scope of instruction and research in agriculture at King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, is to be extended. Two new chairs have been founded, the occupants of which will carry out their work under the direction of Prof. R. W. Wheldon, the present head of the department. The Loveday Report recommended the setting-up of post-graduate schools

in agriculture and farm machinery for graduates in engineering who intend to become agricultural engineers, and in engineering and farm machinery for graduates in agriculture who intend to become farm mechanization experts. King's College, which has a strong engineering school, has been selected as a centre for this specialized work.

Lieut.-Colonel Ewen McEwen has been appointed the first professor of engineering in the Faculty of Agriculture. At University College, London, in 1935 he gained a first-class honours in mechanical engineering. Until 1942 he held a research appointment with David Brown and Sons (Huddersfield), Ltd., and afterwards served with the R.A.O.C. and R.E.M.E. More recently, as assistant chief engineer in the Fighting Vehicles Design Department of the Ministry of Supply, he has become conversant with fundamental problems of traction in relation to soil structure.

King's College has acquired Cockle Park, Northumberland, where far-famed experiments on the control of grassland and on ley farming in general have been in progress for many years. It is intended to develop chemical, botanical and husbandry aspects of these experiments. With the appointment of Mr. Martin Jones to the newly instituted chair of agricultural botany, the further investigations of the botanical problems will be under experienced guidance. Mr. Martin Jones graduated in science at the University College, Aberystwyth (University of Wales). He has since done much work and published papers on plant breeding and grassland improvement. Under the auspices of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., he was concerned with the early experiments on the effects of controlled grazing at Jealott's Hill. For a period he acted as an assistant to Sir George Stapledon. In recent years he has been advisory officer in grassland management at the North of Scotland College of Agriculture, Aberdeen.

#### South African Marine Expedition

THE discovery of a living Coelacanthid fish, *Latimeria chalumnae*, in South African waters, off East London, at the end of 1938, is an event still in the forefront of the minds of biologists (see *Nature*, 143, 455 and 748; 1939). The published account of the mounted animal is as exhaustive as the material permitted, but all zoologists desire information about the soft parts of the creature, which in this case were lost before they could be examined. The outbreak of war in 1939 put a stop to preparations for expeditions to seek further specimens of this remarkable fish. Now that the War is ended, general interest in this project has been shown in various countries, and in South Africa in particular. The South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has appointed a committee to consider how best to organise a marine expedition on a considerable scale. This expedition would aim not only at securing more coelacanths, but would also explore and accumulate data in various fields of science in the relatively poorly known region of the Mozambique Channel. The committee is under the chairmanship of Dr. S. H. Haughton, director of the South African Geological Survey, and a member of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. The honorary secretary of the committee is Prof. J. L. B. Smith, of Rhodes University College, Grahamstown, and the committee requests that all societies, institutions and private persons interested in the project should communicate with him.