

international body and elected a Council of eleven nations, of which the United Kingdom is one.

The first meeting of the Council of the International Organisation for Standardisation was held in Zurich in June, 1947, under the chairmanship of its president, Mr. Howard Coonley, of the United States.

At that meeting accommodation in Geneva for the central office was approved, and Mr. Henri St. Leger, an American citizen, born in France, was appointed general secretary. A programme of work was also agreed upon for consideration by all the member bodies.

The following are among the subjects the United Kingdom has agreed to investigate from the point of view of securing international agreement:

(1) Terms, definitions and methods of test for iron and steel, rubber, coal and coke, laboratory glass-ware, refractories and fuel-using equipment.

(2) To consider the possibility of the unification of standards for compressed gas cylinders, with particular reference to colouring and marking systems; dimensions of valve outlets (interchangeability of connexions); filling ratios, from the safety aspect and conformity with national statutory regulations.

The United Kingdom has also agreed to act as secretariat in connexion with (a) the international adoption of the phon, the reference-level proposed being  $2 \times 10^{-4}$  dyne per cm.<sup>2</sup> or  $10^{-16}$  watts per cm.<sup>2</sup>, the listening being done with both ears; (b) co-ordination of the various national specifications for objective noise meters; (c) measurement of values by subjective comparison; (d) measurement of sound-absorption coefficient; (e) confirmation of the proposed international concert pitch of 440 cycles.

While the constitution of the International Organisation for Standardisation provides for the issue of international standards, it was felt that progress would be quicker if the maximum possible unification of national standards is aimed at.

Immediately prior to the meeting of the International Organisation for Standardisation in Zurich, the Council of the International Electrotechnical Commission met to discuss affiliation of the latter with the former; as a result of which it was agreed that the International Electrotechnical Commission should become the Electrical Division of the International Organisation for Standardisation, at the same time retaining its name and technical procedure.

The Council of the International Electrotechnical Commission reviewed the work of the various advisory committees, and authorized meetings to be held as soon as practicable on the following subjects: lamp caps and holders; radio communication; measurement of radio interference; electrical accessories; extra-high voltages.

On return to Britain three years later he became electrical adviser to the Board of Trade, which position he held until reaching the age of retirement in 1917.

Throughout his professional career Trotter had wide interests, but he will be remembered especially for his pioneering work in the fields of illumination and photometry. His paper entitled "The Distribution of and Measurement of Illumination", read before the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1892, was remarkable, not only for the grasp of principles of street lighting which it displayed, but also for its description of the illumination photometer designed for these experiments—certainly the first instrument of this type applied to outdoor measurements in Britain. His researches on the application of dioptric glass to the distribution of artificial light, recorded some ten years earlier and illustrated by an exhibit at the Crystal Palace in 1882, were likewise much in advance of the times, and he was responsible for other work on the electric arc.

Mr. Trotter was a member of a number of leading societies and institutions, including the Institution of Electrical Engineers, before which he delivered the Faraday Lecture (again taking illumination as his subject) in 1926. But his memory will be preserved with special affection by members of the Illuminating Engineering Society, of which he was an original member and of which he served as president during 1917–20. He took a keen and active interest in the development of illuminating engineering and was associated particularly with the study of street lighting and the ultimate preparation, by a joint committee, of the first standard specification on this subject. During the First World War he presided over the Illuminating Engineering Society's committees concerned with tests of parachute flares and related problems, and he advised personally on principles of war-time street lighting, making observation trips by balloon for this purpose. He was largely responsible for the formation of a committee on illumination research, which operated afterwards for a number of years under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Mr. Trotter combined great scientific knowledge with literary facility. His two books on "Illumination, its Distribution and Measurement" and "The Elements of Illuminating Engineering" were models of lucid exposition. In presiding over meetings or contributing to discussions, his charm of manner, natural courtesy and genial humour never failed to capture the affection of his audience.

J. S. Dow

#### Dr. John Parkinson

JOHN PARKINSON was born in London in 1872 and studied for a time at University College. During 1897 to 1898, he worked at the Marine Biological Station at Naples on Mollusca and published a paper on the development of certain genera in the Report of the British Association in 1899. His attention turned, however, from zoology to geology, and during 1902–3 he was lecturing on that subject at Harrow School. Meanwhile, he was an undergraduate at St. John's, Cambridge, and, as an advanced student, he graduated B.A. by dissertation in 1903.

From then onwards the lines of his career became orientated, but not in the world of teaching; for the next forty years he was constantly travelling, always finding pleasure in it, and with a never-failing

## OBITUARIES

### Mr. A. P. Trotter

By the death on July 23 of Alexander Pelham Trotter, at the advanced age of ninety-one, science and engineering lose another great figure linked with researches which have become classic. In his early years Mr. Trotter was concerned with dynamo manufacture, afterwards becoming editor of *The Electrician* until 1896, when he accepted a position as Government electrical engineer at the Cape of Good Hope.