

and wood, and although they were not placed there by the Admiralty, it was suggested that the Admiralty should remove them. Further, when permanent buildings take their place, these should be screened from the castle. He asked for a guarantee from the Civil Lord of the Admiralty that the Royal Fine Art Commission should be consulted in the matter, and made some suggestions regarding the site of these new buildings.

Mr. Hollis was strongly supported by Major Tufton Beamish, who asked for full assurances that the local authorities should be consulted in the scheme, in which they are deeply interested. The Admiralty would receive the full co-operation and all possible help from the local bodies concerned in the transfer of the Royal Observatory to Hurstmonceux. Mr. Walter Edwards, Civil Lord to the Admiralty, gave certain assurances, and stated that the Admiralty would take the Royal Fine Art Commission fully into its confidence before the second or third stage is undertaken, and also that he was prepared to consider the question of taking the local authorities completely into consultation. He thought that the Observatory would be in a proper state, counting the war period, in a little less than fifteen years, which, presumably, implies about five years from the present time. It is the fervent hope of all who are interested in scientific progress in Great Britain that this expectation will be fulfilled.

Oscar Hertwig (1849-1922)

ONE of the founders of the science of heredity and one of Germany's most brilliant embryologists and comparative anatomists, Wilhelm August Oscar Hertwig was born a century ago, on April 21, 1849, in Friedberg, Hessen. A pupil of Schultze, Haeckel and Gegenbaur, he graduated at Bonn in 1872, and in 1881 became professor of anatomy in Jena. Seven years later he was appointed to the chair of general anatomy and embryology at Berlin and to the directorship of the newly created Anatomical-Biological Institute. He served as rector of the University during 1904-5. Retiring in 1921, he died on October 25 of the following year, aged seventy-four. A voluminous and authoritative writer, his works (some in collaboration with his brother Richard) went through many editions and were translated into several languages, for example, his "Lehrbuch der Entwicklungsgeschichte des Menschen und der Wirbelthiere". "Die Zelle und die Gewebe" (1893) in the second edition (1906) changed its title to "Allgemeine Biologie", for the author believed that the problems of the living body could be reduced to problems of the single cell. Hertwig was one of the first to teach that the physical basis of heredity must be sought in the chromosomes. His "Cöломtheorie" (1881) helped to complete Balfour's theory of the germinal layers. Perhaps his most important achievements were his discovery in 1875 of the process of fertilization in the sea-urchin, and his observation in 1890 of the first case of parthenogenesis in the animal kingdom—in a starfish. For a number of years he edited the *Archiv für Mikroskopische Anatomie*. It is a curious fact that the disciple of Haeckel and Gegenbaur in the end apostatized from Darwinism.

Industrial Gas Turbine Development Committee

THE Minister of Supply, anxious that all possible steps are taken to ensure that Great Britain exploits to the full the industrial applications of the gas

turbine, has set up a Committee to keep this matter under continuous review and to make recommendations to him as to any further research or development work which the Committee thinks should be put in hand. Sir William Stanier is chairman of the Committee, which will also include in addition to experts from interested Government departments, a number of independent members well known in combustion engineering circles. The composition of the Committee is as follows: Sir William Stanier (chief mechanical engineer London Midland Region, British Railways); Sir Frank Whittle (adviser on operation and development of gas turbine aircraft to B.O.A.C.); Prof O. A. Saunders (professor of mechanical engineering Imperial College of Science and Technology); Sir Henry L. Guy (secretary, Institution of Mechanical Engineers); Rear-Admiral (E) D. J. Hoare (director of research, British Internal Combustion Engine Research Association); Dr. T. W. F. Brown (director of research, Parsons and Marine Engineering Turbine Research and Development Association); F. Shakeshaft (British Electricity Authority); Dr. D. T. A. Townend (National Coal Board); A. A. M. Durrant (British Transport Commission); Dr. F. M. Birks (British Gas Council); Sir Archibald J. Gill (General Post Office); Dr. H. Roxbee Cox (Ministry of Fuel and Power); Dr. G. A. Hankins (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research); Dr. A. Parker (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research); A. E. N. Taylor (Ministry of Transport); Sir Denys C. Ford and Dr. J. A. Carroll (Admiralty); J. Anderson and A. E. MacColl (Scottish Home Department); Capt. (E) M. Luby, H. Constant, Lieut.-Colonel P. E. Holmes and A. P. Wickens (Ministry of Supply).

Skipton Earthquake of 1944

DR. H. C. VERSEY has collected macroseismic data concerning the Skipton earthquake of December 30, 1944 (*Trans. Leeds Geol. Assoc.*, 6, No. 2; 1948), which shows that the earthquake had an intensity 7 on the Davison scale at the centre of greatest disturbance near the Gargrave Fault. In the central area subsurface drains were broken, and damage was caused to a bridge. York was just within isoseismal 5, and Lincoln, Manchester and Carlisle were within isoseismal 4. Dr. Versey relates the centre of disturbance to the Craven Faults near the margin of the rigid block of north-west Yorkshire with its early Palaeozoic and possibly pre-Cambrian basement rocks. Previous shocks at Kendal (March 17, 1871), Wetherby and York may also have been connected with the faulted boundaries of this rigid block. Sound phenomena associated with the Skipton earthquake were heard by various observers, particularly those situated inside isoseismal 6, who compared the sounds with the rumbling of vehicles or the rushing of a strong wind.

University of Edinburgh

THE trustees of the Godfrey Thomson Research Fund have given £5,000 to the University of Edinburgh, and promised an annual payment of £1,000 (in the first instance up to 1952) to permit the establishment of a readership in educational research, the holder of which will be largely concerned with research into problems of testing and selection. The Godfrey Thomson Research Fund draws its income from royalties on the Moray House Tests, of which the fiftieth was recently completed, and on fees from county and city education authorities for the use of