

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

tests and for statistical advice. The five trustees of the Fund, which is devoted to educational research of all kinds, but especially the improvement of intelligence and aptitude tests, are appointed by the University of Edinburgh.

#### University of London

THE title of reader in the University of London has been conferred on the following in respect of the posts mentioned: Dr. Moses Blackman (theoretical physics, Imperial College of Science and Technology); Dr. J. McG. Bruckshaw (geophysics, Imperial College of Science and Technology); Dr. S. H. Harper (organic chemistry, King's College).

Mr. Eugene Grebenik has been appointed to the University readership in demography tenable at the London School of Economics and Political Science as from October 1, 1949.

The degree of D.Sc. has been conferred on Mr. Allan Walkley (Rothamsted Experimental Station) and Mr. F. R. Selbie (reader in bacteriology, Middlesex Hospital Medical School).

#### University of Glasgow

THE following appointments have been made: Dr. A. M. MacDonal (from Edinburgh) to be Gardiner lecturer in pathology of diseases of infancy and childhood; Dr. R. A. Raphael (Imperial College, I.C.I. Fellow), D. S. Payne (Imperial College) and Mr. G. L. Buchanan (University of Aberdeen) to be lecturers in chemistry; R. C. Curran (Stobhill Hospital) to be lecturer in pathology at the Royal Infirmary; C. A. Hopkins (Trinity College, Dublin) to be lecturer in zoology for veterinary students; Miss A. E. Nicolson, J. S. MacPherson and R. B. Walker to be assistants in mathematics; and Dr. C. M. McLean to be an assistant in ophthalmology. Dr. G. M. Badger is resigning his I.C.I. Fellowship to become senior lecturer in organic chemistry in the University of Adelaide.

#### Fourth International Gas Conference

THE fourth International Gas Conference of the International Gas Union will be held, under the presidency of Colonel C. M. Croft, at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London, S.W.1, during June 15-17. During the mornings, papers will be read, followed by discussion, dealing with many aspects of the gas industry in Great Britain, the Continent of Europe and the United States. The afternoons will be devoted to excursions to gas works and associated industries and also to places of cultural interest. Full particulars may be obtained from the Secretary of the Institution of Gas Engineers, 1 Grosvenor Place, London, S.W.1. The annual general meeting of the Institution of Gas Engineers will precede the Conference, taking place during June 13-14.

#### Royal Photographic Society: Officers for 1949

At the annual general meeting of the Royal Photographic Society held on March 22 the following officers were elected: *President*, Percy W. Harris; *Vice-presidents*, L. V. Chilton and I. D. Wratten; *Treasurer*, H. Abbott; *Ordinary Members of Council*, Gilbert Adams, S. W. Bowler, G. Scott Bushe, J. Allan Cash, K. H. Gaseltine, P. Hansell, Miss M. Harker, R. G. Hopkinson, T. Midgley Illingworth, J. Dudley Johnston, H. S. Newcombe, Anthony Peacock, B. Sinkinson, A. L. McR. Sowerby and H. White.

#### "Production of Mesons by Electrons"

Dr. I. N. Sneddon and B. F. Touschek write, with reference to their communication under this title published in *Nature* of April 2, p. 524: "The second row of the table of numerical values gives  $10^4 I(E)$  and not  $10 I(E)$  as stated there. The second sentence of section (3) should be amended to read: 'By analogy with *Bremsstrahlung* we might expect the cross-section for an atom with charge  $Z$  to be larger by a factor  $Z^2$ . It turns out that this factor is incorrect, since for any nucleus a competing intermediate state occurs: . . .' Further, the factors occurring in the second last paragraph should read: ' $Z$  for positive mesons, and  $A-Z$  for negative mesons'. This changes the final cross-section to  $10^{-31}$  cm.<sup>2</sup>. It has been pointed out to us by Prof. J. C. Gunn, that the 'mixed term' in the Hamiltonian of the interaction between a meson and the electromagnetic field may give rise to an appreciable correction to the values of  $I(E)$ . This suggestion is now being considered and will be discussed in a future publication."

#### Announcements

A COURSE on the application of air photography to planning will be held at University College, London, during July 18-29 under the direction of the professor of surveying and photogrammetry (Prof. C. A. Hart). The fee for the course will be ten guineas, and full details may be obtained from the Secretary, University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

THE second full-day conference on combined heat and power supplies, organised by the Institute of Fuel, will be held at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Storey's Gate, London, S.W.1, on April 27. This conference will deal with the interlinking of the heat and power systems of adjoining industrial plants, and also with the co-ordination of heat and power supplies and demands throughout a district. The conference will be open to the public, and full particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Institute of Fuel, 18 Devonshire Street, Portland Place, London, W.1. For further consideration of general and regional aspects of the problem, the North-Western Section of the Institute is holding a conference on the same subject at the Engineers' Club, Albert Square, Manchester, on May 11.

THE Department of Scientific and Industrial Research will consider applications for maintenance allowances from graduates (or equivalent) in science who wish to be trained in applied science, industrial research or technology. Such allowances may only be held in a university, institution or approved research association. Applications for the academic year 1949-50 must be made on Form 1S and must be completed before May 1. Full details may be obtained from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Dorland House, 14-16 Regent Street, London, S.W.1.

REFERRING to the article entitled "Fracture of Solids" published in *Nature* of March 5, p. 376, Mr. M. W. Thring writes: "The report of Dr. Haward's observations is not quite correct in that the log  $T$ ,  $1/S$  relation is ascribed wholly to Dr. F. W. Preston. This relation is based on Preston's work, but was published by Haward (*J. Soc. Glass Tech.*, 28, 427; 1944) prior to its independent publication by Preston (*Nature*, 156, 55; 1945)".