

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. MacDonnell (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)".