

by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council, respectively. At the same time, the following officers were re-elected: *President*, Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of Harvard College Observatory; *Vice-President and Chairman of the Executive Committee*, Dr. Alexander Wetmore, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; *Treasurer*, O. W. Riegel, director of Lee School of Journalism, Washington and Lee University; *Secretary*, Watson Davis, director of Science Service. Additional members elected to the Executive Committee were Frank R. Ford, editor, Evansville Press, Evansville, Ind., and Dr. Karl Lark-Horovitz, Purdue University. Science Service is an endowed, non-profit-making institution for the popularization of science. The board of trustees consists of three representatives each from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Research Council, the journalistic profession, and the Scripps Estate. The address of Science Service is 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

### An Unusual Solar Halo

MR. J. E. DOWMAN, Armament Research Establishment, Fort Halstead, Kent, writes: "On May 10 at Shoeburyness I observed a solar halo of an unusual size. For about the last hour before sunset a well-defined parhelia of the 22° halo was visible to the north of the sun; but there was no trace of the 22° halo itself. Just after the sun had set, however, the upper part of the 22° halo appeared, accompanied by a much smaller halo, the radius of which I estimated to be about 8-9°, and a sun pillar extending to some 15° above the sun. A patch of relatively greater brightness appeared where the sun pillar intersected the 8° halo. The whole spectacle, which lasted until a quarter of an hour after sunset, was extremely faint and could be distinguished only with difficulty. The display of halo phenomena continued after dark, for at 10 p.m. the moon was accompanied by the two paraselenae of the 22° halo. Again, however, there was no trace of the 22° halo itself."

### Co-operation between Universities and Technical Colleges

IN his address to a recent meeting of the Yorkshire Council for Further Education, Sir Ronald Weeks, chairman of the National Advisory Council for Education in Industry and Commerce, discussed the need for much closer co-operation between universities and technical colleges (*Tech. J.*, 41, No. 4; April 1949). Considering the place of the graduate in industry, Sir Ronald said that more attention should be given to the possibility of strengthening the science graduate on the technological side, and the Higher National Certificate student on the science side. Arrangements should also be made whereby graduate students could attend special courses of technology at the technical college either by block release or part-time study. Sir Ronald Weeks suggested certain principles for the provision of arrangements of this kind which must be observed. Among these are the following: both universities and technical colleges must be considered available for meeting the needs, having regard to their present facilities or possible future facilities; the convenience and needs of the students must come first, particularly in the case of part-time students; technical colleges must

not be regarded as the poor relations of the universities, as this is fatal to co-operation and good understanding; there must be an easy means of transfer of students from universities to technical colleges, and vice versa.

### Earthquakes during March

At least eleven strong earthquakes occurred in the world during March. The greatest, and also the deepest, happened on March 4 from a focus having an epicentre near lat. 36.5° N., long. 70.5° E., in the Hindu Kush, Afghanistan. The depth of focus was probably rather greater than 200 km. and the strength 7½ on the instrumental scale. Owing to its strength and depth, the shock was felt over a wide area in Afghanistan and the North-West Frontier Province, Pakistan, and although the full extent of the damage is not yet assessed, the earthquake is known to have damaged the Roman Catholic cathedral in Lahore. The next most intense (scale c. 7) was probably that occurring on March 27 from a focus having an epicentre in the Celebes Sea off the southern coast of Cape Mindanao. Strong shocks on March 16 and 17 had their epicentres in the region of the Bismarck Archipelago. On March 9 an earthquake with strength 5½ and epicentre near lat. 37.1° S., long. 121.3° W., in central California set off burglar alarms and rolled stones off Telegraph Hill, San Francisco, but did no serious damage. At Hollister some windows and plaster were cracked, and small objects were shaken off shelves. Of the small shocks during the month, three may be mentioned. On March 7 an earthquake was felt with strength 3-4 on the Modified Mercalli scale in the south-west Alps near Messtetten. It had a depth of focus, according to Dr. W. Hiller, of Stuttgart, of less than 5 km. On March 11 a strong tremor shook the area around Dalton, New South Wales, Australia, and cracked buildings there, causing damage estimated at £2,000. The shock was felt in Sydney and Canberra. On March 22 an earthquake was felt in the Département des Basses-Alpes, France, doing some damage at Lauzet. Instrumental readings for the month have been received from the central stations of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey in co-operation with Science Service and the Jesuit Seismological Association; the Central Seismological Bureau at Strasbourg; and individual observatories at De Bilt (Netherlands), Durham, Stuttgart and Toledo.

### Tellus: A New Journal of Geophysics

THE Second World War has brought losses and also gains in the periodical literature of geophysics. Among the gains is *Tellus*, a quarterly journal of geophysics issued by the Swedish Geophysical Society. Vol. 1, No. 1, February 1949, consists of 64 pages, and is obtainable from the Department of Meteorology, University of Stockholm, price 2 U.S. dollars. The Society was founded in 1920 to promote research and international collaboration in geophysics; but the institution of a regular journal is a new departure made possible by a Government grant and by the co-operation of the Lithographic Institution of the General Staff. Contributions, to be printed in English, French or German, are invited on all branches of geophysics, from all countries. The first issue, however, is practically an all-Swedish one, the authors concerned being Pettersson, Rydbeck and Stranz, Palmén, Bergeron, Nyberg, Rosaby, Ahlmann, and Ångström. Five of the contributions are meteorological; one is ionospheric, being on the