

Finnish Geodetic Institute : Prof. I. Bonsdorff

To commemorate the seventieth birthday of Prof. Ilmari Bonsdorff, for more than thirty years director of the Finnish Geodetic Institute, Helsinki, No. 36 of the *Veröffentlichungen* (1949) of the Institute is dedicated to him. It contains twenty-six articles by Finnish and foreign geophysicists written in tribute to Prof. Bonsdorff. He began his long scientific career as an astronomer at the observatory of Pulkovo, near Leningrad, where he worked on astrometry and geodesy. In 1918 he returned to his home country to take up the directorship of the Geodetic Institute at Helsinki, where he conducted and inspired a long series of valuable researches. He took also a prominent part in international geodetic co-operation, both through the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics, and through the Baltic Geodetic Commission, which was established on his initiative and was served by him as secretary-general throughout the whole period of its existence. Among the non-Finnish contributors to this collection of articles may be noted E. C. Bullard, B. Gutenberg, K. D. P. Rosen, P. Tardi and F. A. Vening Meinesz.

Prof. W. A. Heiskanen

PROF. BONSDORFF has now resigned from the directorship of the Finnish Geodetic Institute, and has been succeeded by Prof. W. A. Heiskanen. Prof. Heiskanen was born in 1895 in Kangaslampi, Finland. He was senior geodesist in the Finnish Geodetic Institute during 1921-28, lecturer in geodesy in the University of Helsinki from 1926, professor of geodesy in the Finland Institute of Technology during 1928-49, chief of the Geodetic Section of the Finland Institute of Technology during 1935-49, and director of the International Isostatic Institute from 1936. He was also a member of the Finnish Parliament during 1933-36. He was chairman of the Finnish Geographical Society during 1941-42, chairman of the Astronomical Society *Ursa* for about fifteen years, member of the Finnish Academy of Sciences from 1928, member of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences from 1947, and honorary member of the Geographical Society of Netherlands from 1938. The most important of Prof. Heiskanen's scientific works concern isostasy, the figure of the earth, and the distribution of gravity on the earth's surface. Most of these works are published in the series of the Finnish Geodetic Institute, the Baltic Geodetic Commission, the International Association of Geodesy, and the Isostatic Institute.

Research Council of Israel

THE former Board of Scientific and Industrial Research of the Government of Palestine has now been succeeded by the Research Council of Israel. The Council is composed of twelve men of science and representatives of the research institutions in Israel, and the work includes the co-ordination of research carried out in Israel, co-operation with similar bodies of other countries, and the financing of research projects of specific local interest. The work of the Council is conducted by five committees, dealing with research in fundamental science, industry, building, food and agriculture. Instrument and information divisions have already been established. Prof. S. Sambursky, of the Physics Department, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, has been appointed director and executive secretary of the Council. The Council expects to issue publications

on the various subjects being studied, and has already published a report, entitled "Problems of Vole Populations in the Middle East", by Prof. F. Bodenheimer.

Israel Institute of Public Opinion Research

DR. LOUIS GUTTMAN, associate professor of sociology at Cornell University, has completed a two-year research programme in Israel as a field Fellow of the Social Science Research Council and has been largely instrumental in the founding of the recently formed Israel Institute of Public Opinion Research. He has been invited to remain in Israel for another year to serve as chief consultant and direct the activities of the Institute, and associated with him will be Dr. Uriel G. Foa, formerly of the Hebrew University, as executive director. Experimental attitude-studies conducted before, during and after the siege of Jerusalem have shown that American techniques and methods of research are equally appropriate for the diverse populations of Israel. In particular, experiments have been successful with scale and quasi-scale theory, and the intensity component for obtaining unbiased results. A new discovery is that of the third component of scalable attitudes (beyond the intensity component) that oscillates twice with respect to the attitude. Other new discoveries relating to experimental methods are in the process of being consolidated. The Institute is at present under Government auspices, and is engaged in a study of the adjustment of new immigrants to Israel. But, in addition to its continuing surveys of public opinion, the Institute will conduct research for civic and private organisations and will undertake special projects in the fields of market research, consumers' problems, social and civic problems, industrial psychology, and in other areas of a social psychological nature. Future plans include publication of a periodical bulletin in English on the activities and results of the Institute. Communications should be addressed to the Israel Institute of Public Opinion Research, P.O.B. 49, Jaffa, Israel.

Electrical Supply Research Council

SIR HAROLD HARTLEY, chairman of the British National Committee and International Executive Council of the World Power Conference, has accepted the chairmanship of the Electricity Supply Research Council set up by the British Electricity Authority. Other members who have accepted invitations to serve are: Sir Edward Appleton, Prof. F. E. Simon, Sir David Brunt, Prof. H. W. Melville, Sir Geoffrey Taylor, Mr. V. A. Pask and Mr. C. W. Marshall. Additional nominations will be made to represent the Electricity Boards. The terms of reference of the Council are: (a) to advise the central authority and area boards on specific problems relating to electricity supply; (b) to keep under review matters affecting the supply of electricity and to advise the central authority and area boards on programmes and planning of research carried out over the whole field; and (c) to make recommendations to the central authority on research which the Council considers it desirable to initiate.

Cosmic Ray Expedition

THIS month (August 1949) a party of American men of science, sponsored by the National Geographic Society and by the Bartol Research Foundation, will