

the University of Western Australia. In addition, the Scott Polar Research Institute at Cambridge remains as a continuing memorial not merely to his own efforts as founder-director, but also to a tradition of exploratory determination, painstaking survey and scientific inquiry which he has himself upheld. Like that earlier explorer Cadmus, he too can espy as a geographer *tot natas natosque et pignora cara nepotes*. Prof. Debenham will be assured of the affectionate regard and esteem of a great number of colleagues, friends and past students, who will wish him many happy journeys with Mrs. Debenham, who has shared so much of his Cambridge adventure.

**Military College of Science, Shrivenham :
Sir Reginald Stradling, C.B., F.R.S.**

SIR REGINALD STRADLING, whose appointment as dean of the Military College of Science, Shrivenham, has been announced, is notable for his work in applying science to the problems of the building industry. He was trained as an engineer and, after the interruption of the First World War, during which he served in the Royal Engineers and gained the M.C., he became a lecturer in civil engineering at the University of Birmingham, and then head of the Building Department at Bradford Technical College. In 1924 he became director of the then young Building Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and remained there up to the start of the Second World War. Under his control the Station developed rapidly and won recognition from the traditional industry which it was created to serve. In 1939 he undertook the duties of chief adviser on research and experiment to the Air Raid Precautions Department of the Home Office, which afterwards became the Ministry of Home Security. As this organisation developed under the stress of war, he built up a considerable scientific staff to investigate the problems of civil defence. Here again much pioneer work had to be done, and some of the methods of investigation which were developed were ultimately used with excellent effect in building up the Allied offensive. In 1944 he became chief scientific adviser to the Ministry of Works, where he was responsible for bringing the results of research to bear on problems of post-war building, and particularly on non-traditional house construction. In addition, he organised research into sociological and economic problems of building which were not being investigated elsewhere. Unfortunately, a breakdown in health early this year made it necessary for Sir Reginald to transfer his activities to a less arduous post, which his half-time appointment at Shrivenham should prove to be. His many friends will be delighted to know that he is now able to return to work in a position in which his knowledge and experience will still be available to the public service, while he himself will be able to continue working in his chosen fields of research.

Photographic Plates for Nuclear Research : Dr. R. W. Berriman

DR. R. W. BERRIMAN, of the Kodak Research Laboratories, Wealdstone, Harrow, Middlesex, has recently received the following telegram. "In the name of those participating in the International Congress on Cosmic Radiation at Como we wish to send you our great appreciation of the important contribution you have made to the development of the photographic method of detecting charged particles. Amsterdam, J. Clay ; Berkeley, R. B. Brode ; Bristol,

C. F. Powell ; Brussels, Occhialini ; Chicago, Marcel Schein ; London, G. P. Thomson ; Manchester, P. M. S. Blackett ; New York, J. J. Rabi ; Paris, Leprince-Ringuet, P. Cuer ; Rome, G. Bernardini ; Zurich, P. Scherrer." Dr. Berriman has been closely concerned with the development of the Kodak NT4 plate, a photographic plate which is widely used for research in cosmic radiation and which is capable of detecting any known charged particle (see *Nature*, 161, 432 (1948) ; 162, 992 (1948)).

Premio Europeo Cortina Prize : Prof. John Read, F.R.S.

PROF. JOHN READ, professor of chemistry and director of the Chemistry Research Laboratory in the University of St. Andrews, has been awarded the Premio Europeo Cortina Prize of 1,000,000 lire (£500) for his book "A Direct Entry to Organic Chemistry" (see p. 596 of this issue). It was judged to be the best popular scientific work published in any language during the past four years. This year the award was made for books on physics and chemistry only. Thirty-five entries, including British, Italian, French, Portuguese, Dutch and Spanish, were made for the Prize, which is offered by the city of Cortina in conjunction with the Italian journal *Ulisse*. The British entries were considered outstanding, and the final choice lay between Prof. Read and Prof. O. R. Frisch of Trinity College, Cambridge. The award was made to Prof. Read, and Prof. Frisch's book, "Meet the Atoms", was highly commended.

A Professional Association for Statisticians

THE rapid spread of the use of statistical methods in science, industry, commerce and administration in the last decade has created a new professional class of statisticians. The Royal Statistical Society itself has been alive to this development and has done much to promote a recognition of the status of the statistician in the Civil Service and in business ; but by tradition and constitution it is primarily a learned Society, and there has been growing evidence of a desire among practising statisticians for a professional body similar to the existing Associations of Actuaries, Accountants and Secretaries. A newly formed Association of Incorporated Statisticians, limited by guarantee, is intended to meet this need. The objects of the Association are to provide professional qualifications for statisticians, to encourage the provision of training facilities and to further and protect the interests of its members. Membership is divided into two classes, fellowship and associateship, and there is also to be a class of registered statistical assistants with privileges of membership other than voting rights. Normally, admission to fellowship or associateship is to be by examination, coupled with evidence of substantial experience of statistical work ; certain exemptions are to be permitted where persons already possess qualifications and experience, but the object is to limit such exceptions so as to make membership of the Association evidence of a proper standard of competence. The syllabus of the examinations of the Association, which are to be in two stages, intermediate and final, are very similar to those laid down by the Royal Statistical Society for the award of its certificate and diploma, but there is rather more emphasis on statistical administration ; for example, one paper in the final examination is on "the organisation and equipment of a statistical department". The president of the Council of the Association is Lord Beveridge and the vice-president is Dr. Bernard