

studies, which have been published principally as memoirs and 'Wartime Pamphlets' of the Geological Survey, Dr. Dunham was awarded the Murchison Fund of the Geological Society in 1942 and the Goldfields Medal of the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy in 1945.

As head of the Petrographical Department of the Geological Survey since 1945, Dr. Dunham has been in charge of the systematic study of British rocks, and has also undertaken a wide range of investigations into the industrial applications of rocks and minerals. Despite these responsibilities, he found time to edit the comprehensive symposium on the geology, paragenesis and reserves of the lead and zinc ores of the world, published by the International Geological Congress in 1948. He takes to the University of Durham the breadth of interest and economic outlook that necessarily characterize the work of the senior officers on the Geological Survey, no fewer than six of whom have preceded him to university chairs within the past five years.

#### Astronomy at the Australian National University

DR. R. V. D. R. WOOLLEY, director of the Commonwealth Solar Observatory at Mt. Stromlo, Canberra, has been appointed honorary professor of astronomy in the Research School of Physical Sciences of the Australian National University. By arrangement with the Minister for the Interior, Dr. Woolley will retain his position as director of the Observatory. In announcing this appointment, the vice-chancellor of the University, Sir Douglas Copland, said that students at the Australian National University would now be able to undertake research work at the Stromlo Observatory.

#### International Scientific Radio Union

THE Ninth General Assembly of the Union Radio Scientifique Internationale will be held in Zurich during September 11-22. Sir Edward Appleton is president of the Union which, in accordance with resolutions passed at the previous Assembly in Stockholm in 1948 (see *Nature*, 163, 493; 1949), now organises its scientific work under seven commissions, the titles and presidents of which are as follows: (1) Measurements and Standardization, Dr. J. H. Dellinger (United States); (2) Troposphere and Wave Propagation, Dr. C. R. Burrows (United States); (3) Ionosphere and Wave Propagation, Sir Edward Appleton (Great Britain); (4) Terrestrial Atmospherics, Prof. H. Norinder (Sweden); (5) Extra-terrestrial Radio Noise, Dr. D. F. Martyn (Australia); (6) Waves and Oscillations, Prof. Dr. van der Pol (Netherlands and vice-president of the Union); (7) Electronics, Dr. G. Lehmann (France). The British National Committee for Scientific Radio is organised under the auspices of the Royal Society as a constituent member body of the Union Radio Scientifique Internationale. This Committee has nominated the following British delegates to the forthcoming general assembly, the numbers of the commissions to which they are specially responsible being indicated in brackets: Mr. C. W. Oatley (1), Dr. R. L. Smith-Rose (2), Dr. W. J. G. Beynon (3), Dr. J. W. Findlay (4), Dr. A. C. B. Lovell (5), Group-Captain W. P. Wilson (6), and Prof. J. Sayers (7). In addition, a small number of observers has been appointed by the Committee to attend the meeting in Zurich.

In accordance with established procedure, the various national committees will submit to the

General Assembly progress reports reviewing the advances made within their own countries in each of the fields of research designated by the seven commissions. These reports will be supplemented in some cases by short original contributions describing recent research work of direct interest to the international aspects of scientific radio. National delegations may also submit any proposals for international action, which may include theoretical and experimental research, and, where desirable, standardization of equipment and nomenclature. Certain proposals of this nature have already been submitted to the Union by the Comité Consultatif International des Radio-communications, which is a technical committee responsible for advising the International Telecommunications Union on all aspects of practical radio communication. This arrangement forms a very satisfactory liaison whereby the fundamental problems confronting the practical engineer may be brought to the notice of the man of science, who may then be expected to seek a solution.

#### Prehistory of Africa

FOR many years, Mr. E. J. Wayland was the Government geologist in Uganda, and it is safe to say that there is no one who knows more than he does of the complicated geological structure and tectonics of that country. Not unnaturally, he has also concerned himself with the problems of the prehistory of the region, since it abounds with the relics of Stone Age man. He had, indeed, intended to write a definitive work on the matter, and for this purpose had made extensive collections of stone tools; but then came the Second World War and everything had to be put off. In the meantime, too, a book called "The Prehistory of the Uganda Protectorate" had been published by T. P. O'Brien. But many of Mr. O'Brien's conclusions are not accepted by Mr. Wayland, and it is still very much to be hoped that he will publish his considered opinions on the very complicated problems which the country presents. As something to be going on with, however, he has published some notes (*S. African Arch. Bull.*, 5, No. 17, March 1950), all of which are worth while and stimulating. With reference to the Kafuan industries of Uganda, for example, he alludes to his prolonged searches for the original source of the earliest tools, which he says were finally run to earth in laterite ironstone deposits of the End-Tertiary peneplain, and may therefore be of the order of a million years old; and he has some astonishing figures about the prolificacy of implementiferous pits which he sank at Nsongezi in the Kagera valley. To these thought-provoking notes he has added a number of pages of his ideas on man and the Kalahari Desert and stone age research in Bechuanaland, with a list of basic considerations that he feels are important, and the Stone Age sequence in the latter country. Desmond Clark, of Livingstone, has recently concluded an extensive study of the Zambesi gravels and prehistoric man, and investigations of the Kalahari sands in Angola and their relation to Stone Age man are also taking place, so it is much to be hoped that a pooling of ideas in these fields will be possible and some definitive conclusions reached.

#### Unsaturated Polyester Resin for Biological Use

THE March number of the *Museums Journal* includes a paper by P. E. Purves and R. S. J. Martin, of the British Museum (Natural History), describing some techniques that they have recently developed with a series of resins of the unsaturated polyester