

Meteorological Office and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The functions of the Committee have been laid down as the co-ordination of oceanographic work in New Zealand and the sponsoring of research projects, including publication of results. The Committee will act as the national organization through which overseas institutions and international bodies can make contacts with New Zealand workers. The chairman is Mr. A. W. B. Powell, of the Auckland Institute and Museum. The formation of this new body goes back to late in 1949, when the surveying ship H.M.N.Z.S. *Lachlan* commenced operations in New Zealand waters, and the necessity for co-ordinating collecting work made from the ship resulted in the formation of an inter-departmental committee to handle samples collected and ensure their distribution to workers in various fields. After some six months of operation it was decided to press for the setting-up of a national organization, and the New Zealand Oceanographic Committee came into existence on October 12, 1950. Sub-committees have since been set up to deal with collecting by the *Lachlan* staff and with physical oceanography. A survey of all oceanographic work in hand at the moment is being carried out. The address of the secretary of the Committee is the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Wellington, New Zealand.

#### Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council: Meeting in Madras

THE third annual meeting of the Indo-Pacific Fisheries Council was held in Madras during February 1-16 and was attended by representatives of the Governments of Australia, Cambodia, Ceylon, France, India, Indonesia, Netherlands, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, United Kingdom, the United States and Vietnam, with observers from the following: United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Pacific Science Association, South Pacific Command, Supreme Command of Allied Powers, and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The Council laid down a detailed plan of work for the preparation of fishery bibliographies and a series of fishery handbooks. Recommendations were made for disseminating as widely as possible within the region information concerning fishery matters and also for the use of documentary films on fishery subjects. Particular attention was paid to the problem of providing trained personnel for the fishing industries of the region, and a plan was adopted for the development of projects for technical instruction. The technical committees of the Council considered the technical aspects of fishery resources, fishing industries, and official and semi-official programmes in relation with these, and made recommendations to member Governments for the development of programmes in hydrology, planktonology, fisheries biology, fishery gear technology, fishery food technology and socio-economics.

#### United States Metallurgical Advisory Board

A METALLURGICAL Advisory Board, composed of leading industrial and academic metallurgists in the United States, has recently been formed to advise the Research and Development Board of the Department of Defense on research aspects of metals of critical importance. The Metallurgical Advisory Board is organized by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council, under a contract with the Research and Development Board, and held its first meeting on February 7 at the National Academy,

Washington, D.C. The terms of reference of the Board are very wide and general; but preliminary work is already in progress on research and development phases of three of the most urgent problems: critical and strategic metals and their substitutes; the application of metals to be used at high temperatures; and the development of the titanium industry, which is at present small. Among the metals in critically short supply are columbium, tantalum, cobalt, titanium, molybdenum, tungsten and beryllium, but others are expected to be added to this list. A permanent secretariat and special project committees are to assist the Metallurgical Advisory Board, and Dr. Robert F. Mehl, head of the Department of Metallurgy, Carnegie Institute of Technology, is chairman of the Board, with Dr. Finn Jonassen, of the National Research Council, as executive secretary. Mr. V. H. Schnee, vice-president of the University of Oklahoma and director of the Research Institute of the University, has been appointed executive director of the Board, and will be responsible for the general administration of projects and for supervision of liaison with Government, industry, professional societies and universities.

#### Society of Public Analysts and Other Analytical Chemists

THE seventy-seventh annual general meeting of the Society of Public Analysts and Other Analytical Chemists was held on March 16. It was announced that the membership of the Society is now 1,562, an increase of fifteen over last year. The Society held seven ordinary meetings during the year, and in addition, twenty were held by its Sections and Groups. In his presidential address, Mr. George Taylor, after dealing briefly with the progress of the Society, directed attention to the Government's proposal to establish a Science Centre. He said that a claim can now be made that analytical chemistry, as a branch of the science of chemistry, has attained a position of such importance in national service as to justify a separate classification, and that the Society, which exists for the advancement of the science of analytical chemistry, should be included, as a separate body, among the bodies which will constitute the Science Centre. Mr. Taylor supported this claim by a résumé of the service of analytical chemistry in the fields of food and agriculture. The following were elected officers of the Society for the forthcoming year: *President*, J. R. Nicholls; *Past Presidents serving on the Council*, Lewis Eynon, E. B. Hughes, G. W. Monier-Williams and George Taylor; *Vice-Presidents*, R. C. Chirnside, D. C. Garratt and J. G. A. Griffiths; *Honorary Treasurer*, J. H. Hamence; *Honorary Secretary*, K. A. Williams.

#### South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies: Annual Conference

THE South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies is holding its fifty-sixth annual conference at the Central Hall, The Avenue, Camberley, Surrey, during April 26-29. The president-elect is Mr. David Seth-Smith, who will give an address on "Man's Control of Wild Animals". The presidents of the four Sections of the Union and the titles of their addresses are as follows: *Zoology*, Sir Philip Manson-Bahr on "The Contribution of Zoology to Medicine"; *Geology*, Mr. A. J. Low on "Soils and Geology"; *Botany*, Prof. F. W. Jane on "Trees and Scenery"; *Archæology*, Mr. H. H. Coghlan on "Aspects of Prehistoric Metallurgy in Southern England". Further details