

of the institutions and societies participating in the Conference of Commonwealth Engineering Institutions and the Conference of the Engineering Societies of Western Europe and the United States of America. Besides formal sessions, there will be a fairly wide choice of excursions and other social functions. The proceedings of the Conference will be published in eleven separate parts, as follows: (1) formal proceedings at the opening and closing sessions, and general summary of the Conference; (2) railways; (3) sea transport; (4) power; (5) aviation; (6) engineering education and practical training; (7) road transport; (8) telecommunications; (9) public health in municipal engineering, water supply and sewerage; (10) gas industry plant, mining and steelworks plant; (11) electrical measurements, television, cables, lighting and mining. Further details can be obtained from the Secretariat of the Conference at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London, S.W.1.

#### Ray Society: Annual General Meeting

THE one hundred and sixth annual general meeting of the Ray Society was held on March 29. Two books, "Tunicata", by Prof. N. J. Berrill, and "British Water Beetles", by Prof. Frank Balfour-Browne, were published and distributed during the past year; it was announced that the first volume of "British Spiders", by G. H. Locket and A. F. Millidge, is about due for distribution, and that "British Mysidacea", by the late Prof. W. M. Tattersall, will follow soon after this. Progress was reported on the volumes "Watsonian Vice-counties", by J. E. Dandy and E. W. B. H. Milne-Redhead, and "British Sponges", by Dr. Maurice Burton. Officers of the Society were elected as follows: *President*, Lieut.-Colonel R. B. Seymour Sewell; *Vice-Presidents*, Dr. John Hutchinson and Dr. Errol White; *Honorary Treasurer*, Lieut.-Colonel W. P. C. Tenison; *Foreign Secretary*, Arthur Exell; *Honorary Secretary*, Dr. Maurice Burton; *New Members of Council*, Dr. W. S. Bristowe, Captain Cyril Diver, Dr. L. Harrison Matthews and N. D. Riley.

#### Announcements

DR. J. D. MOUNFIELD, at present head of the research department of the British Arkady Co., Ltd., Manchester, has recently been appointed principal of the National College of Food Technology. Dr. Mounfield, who is a graduate of the University of Manchester, has worked in the past for the British Flour Millers Research Association, and during the Second World War he carried out research for the Ministry of Food into the drying and storage of grain.

DR. A. L. RAE has been appointed to the newly created chair of sheep husbandry at Massey Agricultural College, Palmerston North, New Zealand. Dr. Rae has recently completed graduate study under Dr. Jay L. Lush at the Iowa State College, United States, followed by a tour of the animal breeding institutions in the United Kingdom. He has concerned himself with sheep breeding problems and especially the statistical treatment of non-numerical data.

THE Royal Dutch-Shell Group of oil companies is offering a research studentship in geophysics, of value £400 a year, which is open to men of any nationality less than twenty-seven years of age on October 1. The studentship is tenable at the University of Cambridge, initially for two years, but it may be renewed for a third year. Further details

and application forms (to be returned by July 1) can be obtained from B. C. Browne, Department of Geodesy and Geophysics, Downing Place, Cambridge.

THE Challenger Society is prepared to consider applications for small grants in aid of research in marine biology or oceanography at a recognized laboratory during the year June 1951-June 1952. Applications, accompanied by details of the proposed research, should reach the honorary secretary, Mr. N. B. Marshall, British Museum (Natural History), London, S.W.7, before the end of May.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Recent Developments and Techniques in the Maintenance of Standards" will be held at the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, during May 21-22. The standards to be discussed are those of primary loads, length, radioactive isotopes, temperature, luminance and frequency; two formal papers will be given on each of these topics. Invitations to the symposium have been sent to various standards organizations, and the attendance will be fully representative of European and North American countries, as well as several members of the British Commonwealth. The proceedings are to be published in due course.

By the courtesy of His Grace the Duke of Bedford the grounds of Woburn Park, Beds, are to be open to the public during the week May 28-June 2 (11 a.m.-5 p.m.), under the guidance of the Fauna Preservation Society. The Woburn Estate comprises about 4,300 acres of woodland and 17,000 acres of agricultural land. The collection of foreign mammals and birds in Woburn Park was started by the eleventh Duke about the year 1895. Of the species of deer which can be seen, the most interesting is Père David's Deer, which form the only herd in existence, since the animal is now extinct in its native China. Admission charges to the Park will be: adults, 2s. 6d.; children, 1s. Further details can be obtained from the Secretary of the Fauna Preservation Society, c/o Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London, N.W.8.

IN *Nature* of February 18, 1950 (p. 264), it was stated that the *Chemische Zentralblatt* had been issued in a combined form; the editor, Dr. M. Pflücke, informs us that the journal is published jointly by Akademie-Verlag, Berlin, and Verlag Chemie, Weinheim.

*L'Astronomie* for January 1951 contains a number of interesting items, the first of which gives a short description of the photography of nebulae in monochromatic light (H $\alpha$ ), and the cover bears a photograph taken on November 6, 1950, at the Observatory of Haute-Provence. On p. 1 there is a photograph of the instrumental equipment in use at the Observatory. The eighth and last of the series of articles on the construction of an amateur's telescope appears, in which a note of warning is given at the end: while a 20-cm. reflector with accessories may be relatively simple to construct, considerable difficulties may be encountered in attempting to make a 30-cm. telescope. A short description of the appearance of the blue sun and moon, seen in various countries during September 26-28, 1950, is given; but, strange to say, the author professes to be ignorant of the cause of the phenomenon. The explanation is, of course, well known to meteorologists, and the phenomenon is fairly common in countries where a large amount of fine dust is liable to be carried into the upper regions of the atmosphere.