

### Deep-Sea Floor and the History of the Earth

A SYMPOSIUM on the "Deep-Sea Floor and the History of the Earth" has been arranged by the International Joint Commission on Oceanography of the International Council of Scientific Unions and will be held at the University of Liverpool during September 1-2 immediately preceding the meeting of the British Association. The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics and the International Union of Biological Sciences are represented on this Commission, the constitution of which is as follows: *President*, J. D. H. Wiseman (Great Britain); *Secretary*, C. D. Ovey (Great Britain); *Members*, A. F. Bruun (Denmark), C. W. Correns (Germany), L. Fage (France), Ph. H. Kuenen (Holland), H. Pettersson (Sweden), R. Revelle (United States), Mary Sears (United States); *Advisory Councillors*, F. Bernard (Algeria), F. Koczy (Sweden), J. D. Nares (representing the International Hydrographic Bureau), J. Rouch (Monaco), H. U. Sverdrup (Norway), H. C. Urey (United States) and C. E. ZoBell (United States). The main object of the Commission is to stimulate international collaboration in fundamental research on deep-sea problems, through recent developments in electronics, physics, chemistry and biology, combined with technical advances in detailed surveying and sampling of the deep-sea floor, which have made possible a new level of scientific understanding of the deep sea.

### Merck Fellowships of the Canadian National Research Council

THREE post-doctorate research fellowships, endowed by Merck and Co., Ltd., have been awarded by the National Research Council, Ottawa. The awards, which total 11,000 dollars and travel allowances, with an extra 500 dollars to each institution concerned, to help pay for specialized equipment, have been made to the following for research as indicated: Dr. W. G. B. Casselman (Universities of British Columbia and Toronto), cellular physiology, at the University of Oxford, under Dr. J. R. Baker; Dr. G. D. Fasman (University of Alberta and the California Institute of Technology), alkaloids and nucleosides, at the Technische Hochschule, Zurich, under Prof. V. Prelog; Dr. B. A. Gingras (University of Montreal), reactions of free radicals in solution, at the University of Oxford, under Dr. W. A. Waters.

### Association of Applied Biologists

THE officers and council for 1953-54 of the Association of Applied Biologists is as follows: *President*, Prof. W. Brown; *Vice-Presidents*, Mr. R. W. Marsh and Prof. J. B. Cragg; *Honorary Treasurer*, Dr. H. F. Barnes; *Honorary General Secretary*, Dr. R. K. S. Wood (Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, S.W.7); *Honorary Programme Secretary*, Dr. L. Broadbent; *Honorary Editor of the Annals of Applied Biology*, Mr. R. W. Marsh; *Honorary Assistant Editor*, Dr. I. Thomas; *Council*, Dr. P. W. Brian, Dr. C. H. Cadman, Prof. J. B. Cragg, Dr. D. W. Fenwick, Dr. R. M. Greenslade, Dr. I. Isaac, Dr. W. F. Jepson, Dr. M. A. Keay, Dr. A. H. McIntosh, Mr. B. D. Moreton, Dr. I. W. Prentice and Dr. A. F. Posnette. The Association celebrates in 1954 the fiftieth anniversary of its founding, and to mark the occasion a series of special meetings will be held during September 13-17, 1954, to which a number of distinguished scientific workers from over-

seas will be invited. A jubilee fund for the expenses of this meeting was started in December 1952; further contributions to this fund should be addressed to the treasurer of the Association.

### University of London: Appointments

THE following appointments in the University of London have recently been announced: Dr. G. O. Jones, reader in experimental physics at Queen Mary College, to the University chair of physics tenable at that College; and Dr. W. B. Pennington, research Fellow at Jesus College, Cambridge, to the University readership in mathematics tenable at Westfield College. The title of reader in mathematics in the University has been conferred on Dr. C. A. Rogers in respect of the post held by him at University College, London.

### Announcements

SIR JOHN RUSSELL, formerly director of Rothamsted Experimental Station, has been elected a foreign member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters.

M. PHILIBERT GUINIER, director of the *École des Eaux et Forêts*, Nancy, and *correspondant* for the Section of Rural Economy of the Paris Academy of Sciences, has been elected a member of the Section in succession to the late Prof. L. Lapique.

THE Institute of Fuel has awarded its Students' Medal and Prize for 1952 to B. H. Holland, of the Department of Coal Gas and Fuel Industries with Metallurgy, University of Leeds, for his paper on "The Structure and Stability of Flat Burner Flames".

DR. DAVID R. GODDARD, professor of botany in the University of Pennsylvania, has been elected editor-in-chief of *Plant Physiology*, the journal of the American Society of Plant Physiologists.

THE Committee of Privy Council for Agricultural Research and Nature Conservation has re-appointed Lord Rothschild as chairman of the Agricultural Research Council for a further term of five years. It has also approved the appointment of Prof. Stephen J. Watson as deputy chairman of the Council.

MR. R. C. WORSTER, who has been a member of the research staff of the British Hydromechanics Research Association since its formation, has been appointed deputy director of research in the Association.

THE following have been appointed lecturers in the University of Leeds: F. P. G. Whitaker (industrial administration in the Department of Economics), Dr. F. S. Trippet (organic chemistry), and T. J. Bowen (biochemistry).

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 1953-June 1954. 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 June.

ERRATUM. In the communication "Difference between the Density Distribution of Neutrons and Protons in Atomic Nuclei" (*Nature*, May 30, p. 979), paragraph 2, line 3, for " $1+b(r/r_0)^2$ " read " $[1+b(r/r_0)^2]^{51}$ ".