

period in dry soil, nor any loss of virulence when plants of radish, stock and wallflower were inoculated.

#### Royal Astronomical Society: Officers for 1954-55

At the annual general meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society, held on February 12, the following officers were elected for 1954-55: *President*, Dr. J. Jackson; *Vice-Presidents*, Miss Flora M. McBain, Prof. W. H. McCrea, Prof. H. H. Plaskett and D. H. Sadler; *Treasurer*, Prof. L. M. Milne-Thomson; *Secretaries*, Prof. C. W. Allen (University Observatory, Mill Hill Park, London, N.W.7) and Dr. A. Hunter (Royal Observatory, Greenwich); *Foreign Secretary*, Prof. F. J. M. Stratton.

#### Mineralogical Society of Japan: Officers

THE following have been elected officers of the Mineralogical Society of Japan. *President*: Zyunpei Harada (Hokkaido University, Sapporo); *Secretaries*: Keiichi Omori (Tohoku University); and Toshio Sudo (Tokyo University of Education); *Treasurer*: Bumpei Yoshiki (Research Laboratories of the Asahi Glass Co.); *Editors*: Nobuo Katayama (*chief editor*), Teiichi Ito, Seitaro Tsuboi and Takeo Watanabe (University of Tokyo); Zyunpei Harada (Hokkaido University); Keiichi Omori (Tohoku University); Jitsutaro Takubo (University of Kyoto); and Toyofumi Yoshimura (Kyushu University). The Society was formed at an inaugural meeting held in the University of Tokyo on June 30, 1952. Its objects are to promote the study of mineralogy and related sciences and to bring together Japanese workers engaged in mineralogical research. Two series of publications are issued as official organs of the Society: *Kobutsugaku Zasshi* (*J. Min. Soc. Japan*), of which Nos. 1, 2 and 3 were published in September 1952, January 1953 and May 1953, respectively; and *Mineralogical Journal*, first published in September 1953).

#### University of Birmingham

THE following have been appointed lecturers in the University of Birmingham: Dr. J. Hardwicke (experimental pathology) and Dr. J. B. Finean and Dr. W. F. R. Pover (pharmacology). The title of University Research Fellow has been conferred upon the following during the tenure of their posts as research workers in chemistry: Nadim A. Ghanem, Dr. Herbert A. Laitinen, Dr. W. G. P. Robertson, Dr. W. Brock Neeley and G. Vaughan. The following have resigned from the University: Dr. B. A. Pethica, lecturer in pharmacology, on his appointment as lecturer in the Department of Colloid Science, University of Cambridge; and G. D. Mitchell, lecturer in sociology, on his appointment as lecturer in charge of the sub-department of sociology, University College of the South-West of England, Exeter. The Gas Council has established three research scholarships, tenable for a period of three years, in the University Department of Chemical Engineering; one scholarship will be awarded each year. An expedition to the Sahara desert is being organized by Dr. E. B. Edney, reader in entomology, Department of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy, and Dr. J. Kolbuszewski, lecturer in the Department of Civil Engineering. Dr. Edney will study the ecology of desert arthropods, and Dr. Kolbuszewski will continue his studies on the wind deposition of sands. Another expedition is being made this year, the purpose of which is to study stratigraphy and palaeont-

ology in west Spitsbergen, and is being organized by Mr. P. A. Garrett, lecturer in the Geology Department, in conjunction with the University College of the South-West of England, Exeter. The University of Birmingham has made grants of up to £500 to each of these two expeditions in order to defray expenses. The Huxley Lecture of the University will be given in the Chemistry Theatre, Edgbaston, at 5 p.m. on March 5, by Dr. D. M. S. Watson, formerly Jodrell professor of zoology and comparative anatomy in University College, London.

#### Nuffield Foundation Awards in Dentistry, Biology and the Social Sciences

THE Nuffield Foundation is offering a number of fellowships, scholarships and bursaries in the fields of dentistry, biology and social sciences as follows. The fellowships for dentistry are for persons, aged 25-35 years, with dental qualifications, to receive additional training in pure and applied science so as to undertake an academic career in dentistry, and also to enable graduates in medicine or science to receive training (not necessarily for a registrable dental qualification) that will fit them for teaching and research in dental health and disease; the fellowships are worth £500-800 a year for one to three years, and applications must be received by March 1. Dental scholarships, normally for one year only, are available for students at university dental schools in the United Kingdom and cover tuition fees and a subsistence allowance of not more than £200; applications must be received by June 30. The Foundation's scholarships and bursaries in biology and the social sciences are for graduates of British universities, preferably within the age-group 22-35 years. The awards in biology are for persons who have graduated in physics, chemistry, mathematics or engineering, but who have had no training in a biological subject, and who wish to receive such training in biology as will enable them to undertake research and teaching in the United Kingdom in biological sciences. The scholarships are for persons with some previous experience in postgraduate research in their own subject and are worth £500-600 a year (plus tuition fees); the bursaries are for those who have recently graduated and are worth £350 a year (plus fees). In both cases a marriage allowance of £50 a year and £50 for each of the first two children will be paid. Applications must be received by April 1. The awards for the social sciences are similar to those for biology, except that applications must be received by May 1 and the holder may have a degree in any subject other than the social sciences, psychology or economics; subjects suitable for study are political science, social psychology, anthropology, social statistics and sociology generally (but not economics). Application forms for all these awards and further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Nuffield Foundation, Nuffield Lodge, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

#### Semiconductors: Conference in Amsterdam

THE Netherlands Physical Society, with the support of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is organizing an international conference on semiconductors, to be held in Amsterdam during June 29-July 3. The subjects to be discussed will include bulk recombination, surface conductivity, surface trapping, surface recombination, intermetallic compounds, the