

the building site is more than 200 yards from the nearest road; and most of the working parts of the fields in use are nearly half a mile from any public road carrying vehicular traffic. In cases where the research work is of a type that cannot be conducted inside the building, provision is made for the use of a number of huts of a temporary and transportable nature. The present staff of the Radio Research Station, all in temporary accommodation, is just over a hundred, and it is expected that this will be considerably increased when the new building is ready for occupation.

#### Metallic Corrosion: an Instructional Film

A 16-mm. coloured film entitled "Corrosion in Action", originally made in the United States under the auspices of the International Nickel Company, Inc., is now available in Britain and can be borrowed for educational or other purposes from the Mond Nickel Company, Ltd. (Thames House, Millbank, London, S.W.1). The film, which lasts for sixty-four minutes, has to a certain extent been edited for British consumption, the main change being a new sound-track with an English-accent commentary. Each topic begins from first principles but rapidly builds up to intermediate and even degree level. The economic importance of the general corrosion of metals is first explained, and then a short historical survey leads to a diagrammatic explanation of electro-chemical corrosion, oxygen being emphasized as a promoter of cathodic reactions. The arrangements of metals in their electromotive series introduces a discussion of galvanic action in terms of potentials, current density and area effects, and this is shown in a series of laboratory tests utilizing colour-changing reagents which detect the existence of anodic and cathodic corrosion products. Passivity and protective films are demonstrated by a series of bench experiments, indicating how important the film can be in some instances. Local shielding and the damage resulting from it are followed by a section comparing the mechanism of corrosion of various materials. The film ends with illustrations of the measures that can be taken to minimize corrosion and the importance of choosing materials in the light of the full knowledge of the many factors in individual corrosion problems.

#### Agricultural History Review

WITHIN a year of its inauguration, the British Agricultural History Society has issued the first volume of its official publication, the *Agricultural History Review*. The Society was founded to bring together those interested in agriculture as a living, historical process, whether their sphere of activity lay in academic institutions or in the countryside. The new publication should do much to promote this aim, and its appearance is timely in view of the rapid changes that have been taking place in rural life and practice during the mid-twentieth century. Each issue will contain a number of articles embodying original research in agricultural history, together with shorter notes and comments, a bibliography and book reviews. The following titles of the articles in the first number, each of which is contributed by a well-known specialist, give some idea of the scope of the publication and the potential wealth of suitable subject-matter: some traditional farming beliefs in the light of modern science; the poll tax and census of sheep, 1549; the Isle of Axholme before Vermuyden; agricultural returns and the government

during the Napoleonic Wars; a Cornish farmer in Ontario, 1830-71. The *Review* is issued only to members of the Society (c/o Museum of English Rural Life, 7 Shinfield Road, Reading; 1 guinea a year). The first number contains sixty-four pages, and at least two issues annually are anticipated.

#### Bird Study

As in every other science, progress in ornithology is very dependent upon publication. This point is well brought out by Major-General H. P. W. Hutson, chairman of the British Trust for Ornithology, in the foreword to a new journal which has recently been launched by the Trust (*Bird Study*, 1, No. 1; March 1954). The first issue contains an article by J. F. Monk on the breeding of the greenfinch and another by D. Lack describing observations made on robin populations in Oxford and south Devon. The Rev. P. H. T. Hartley has contributed a stimulating and unusual article on back-garden ornithology which should be most encouraging to would-be bird observers. The journal also contains a section illustrating recent activities of the British Trust for Ornithology. The production of this journal is of good standard, although one misses the attractive photographs which have become a marked feature of other bird journals.

#### Institution of Mining and Metallurgy: Awards

THE Institution of Mining and Metallurgy has recently made the following awards: *Gold Medal of the Institution*, to Mr. Essington Lewis, president of the Fifth Empire Mining and Metallurgical Congress, in recognition of his long and distinguished services to the mining and metallurgical industries of Australia; *The Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, Limited, Gold Medal*, to Dr. J. S. Webb, for his work on the development of geochemical prospecting methods; *The Consolidated Gold Fields of South Africa, Limited, Premium of Forty Guineas*, to Mr. R. Daniel, for his paper on diamond mining practice in Kimberley, South Africa (*Trans.*, 62); *Arthur Claudet Student's Prize*, to Mr. T. A. Henderson, for his part authorship of the paper on some exploratory experiments on the formation and control of magnetite during copper smelting operations (*Trans.*, 62); *William Frecheville Student's Prize*, to Mr. C. L. Hall, for his part authorship of the paper on laboratory tests on the concentration of witherite from the northern Pennines by froth flotation (*Trans.*, 62). Honorary membership of the Institution has been conferred on Mr. Thomas Pryor, past-president of the Institution, in recognition of his services to the Institution and to mining education.

#### Nuclear Physics Conference in Glasgow

AN international conference on experimental and theoretical nuclear physics will be held in the Department of Natural Philosophy of the University of Glasgow during July 12-17, under the general chairmanship of Prof. P. I. Dee. This conference is sponsored by the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and is one of similar conferences on various topics which are held each year in a country of the United Nations Organization. It is fitting that Glasgow should be chosen as the meeting place, as this year has seen the opening of the new Nuclear Physics Building, housing, among other apparatus, the largest synchrotron in Europe. There will be about three