

Department Store and Kern General Hospital. It is concluded that one- and two-story buildings, designed to resist earthquake forces, generally suffered no damage. No internal failures were found in wood diaphragms (straight or diagonally sheathed) or in steel diaphragms, although fastening details were deficient. Excessive deflexions of these diaphragms may have contributed to wall cracking, and contributed to failures along the diaphragm boundaries. The hazard to life of parapets on street fronts has been recognized. The use of competent technical help is necessary where earthquake resistance is desired; and if earthquake insurance is a factor, structures (in California) should be designed to meet the Pacific Fire Rating Bureau recommendations.

Scholarships for Personnel Management

AN allocation to the Institute of Personnel Management from Counterpart Conditional Aid Funds has made it possible for the Institute to award a small number of scholarships designed to assist men and women, not less than twenty-four years of age, who are already in industry or commerce, to attend full-time courses of training in personnel management at one of the following: London School of Economics; College of Technology, Manchester; Glasgow and West of Scotland Commercial College and Royal Technical College (jointly); University College, Cardiff; and the University of Liverpool (post-graduate course in industrial sociology). The scholarships, which are tenable for one year, will amount to £300, with a dependants' allowance of £100 for a married candidate with one or more children and, in special circumstances, an additional grant not exceeding £50. Application forms, to be returned by January 31, can be obtained from the Secretary, Institute of Personnel Management, Management House, 8 Hill Street, London, W.1.

Geneva Laboratory of the Battelle Memorial Institute

ON the occasion of the official opening on November 20 of a research laboratory in Geneva of the Battelle Memorial Institute, a symposium will be held on "The Influence of Scientific Research in the Modern World". The speakers at the symposium will be Prof. G. Colonnetti, president of the National Research Council of Italy; Prof. L. Jacqué, of the École Polytechnique, Paris; and M. Denis de Rougemont, director of the European Centre for Culture. A number of representatives of industry and finance in Belgium, France, Italy and Switzerland have been invited to participate at the symposium. On the same day the laboratory will be open for inspection. Further information can be obtained from the director of the laboratory at 7 Route de Drize, Genève-Carouge.

Precision Electrical Measurements: Symposium at Teddington

A SYMPOSIUM on precision electrical measurements will be held in the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, during November 17-20, the last day being reserved for a visit to the Electricity Division of the Laboratory. The other days will be devoted to five sessions on the following topics (with the chairman shown in brackets): capacitance and dielectrics (Dr. L. Hartshorn); inductance and magnetism (Mr. B. G. Churcher); electrotechnics (Mr. R. S. J. Spilsbury); high-voltage measurements (Dr. L. G. Brazier); and high-voltage impulse-testing

techniques (Mr. R. Davis). Further information can be obtained from the Director, National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex.

Mineralogical Society: Officers and Council for 1954-55

THE following have been elected officers and members of council for 1954-55 of the Mineralogical Society: *President*, Prof. L. Hawkes; *Vice-Presidents*, Dr. F. A. Bannister and Dr. F. Dixey; *Treasurer*, Prof. J. H. Taylor; *General Secretary*, Dr. G. F. Claringbull; *Foreign Secretary*, Dr. L. J. Spencer; *Editor of the Journal*, Dr. L. J. Spencer; *Ordinary Members of Council*, Mr. B. W. Anderson, Mr. S. H. U. Bowie, Mr. T. Deans, Prof. W. A. Deer, Prof. K. C. Dunham, Mr. P. M. Game, Dr. A. G. MacGregor, Dr. S. R. Nockolds, Dr. F. C. Phillips, Mr. L. A. A. Thomas, Dr. E. A. Vincent and Dr. M. K. Wells.

Italian Genetics Society

AN Italian Genetics Society (Associazione Genetica Italiana) has been formed with the aim of uniting all Italian workers in genetics to further knowledge in this field. Officers for the current year are as follows: *President*, G. Montalenti; *Councillors*, C. Barigozzi, A. Buzzati-Traverso and A. Chiarugi; *Secretary-Treasurer*, G. Magni (Istituto di Genetica, Università di Pavia).

Announcements

THE Duke of Edinburgh is to open officially the new laboratories of the Research Association of British Rubber Manufacturers at Shawbury, near Shrewsbury, on November 23.

THE Franklin Medal of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, has been awarded to Dr. C. E. Kenneth Mees for his "contributions to knowledge of the photographic process and for his development of the first organized scientific laboratory in the United States which resulted in new products advancing the photographic process". The Medal is awarded annually "to those workers in physical science or technology, without regard to country, whose efforts . . . have done most to advance a knowledge of physical science or its applications".

THE Royal Agricultural Society of England has decided to offer annually a medal together with an award of a hundred guineas for research work of outstanding merit carried out in the United Kingdom which has proved, or is likely to prove, of benefit to agriculture. The award will be known as the R.A.S.E. Research Medal. Heads of university departments, research stations and institutes, and other research establishments should submit to the secretary, Royal Agricultural Society of England, 16 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1, in January of each year, the name of any member of their staff they may wish to recommend for the award. No direct applications by candidates will be considered.

REFERENCE was made in *Nature* of September 25 to the position in the United States of Dr. J. R. Oppenheimer. We are informed that copies of the relevant documents are available from H.M. Stationery Office (York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and provincial depots); they are the "Transcript" of the evidence (price 23s. 6d.; by post, 24s. 9d.) and "Documents and Letters" (price 2s. 3d.; by post, 2s. 6d.).