

duction in *Cladocera*; but after appointment to Windermere his interest moved to the physical and chemical aspects of organic production in freshwaters. He has carried out notable research on the exchange of dissolved substances between mud and water and more recently on water movements. This has carried him as far afield as Lake Michigan in the United States and Loch Ness in Scotland. There is much in his approach to the problems of water movements and fertility which is common to freshwaters and the sea. His change, therefore, from the one type of aquatic research to the other is natural and should prove highly productive.

#### Royal Geographical Society: Medals and Awards, 1956

H.M. THE QUEEN has approved the award of the Royal Medals of the Royal Geographical Society as follows: *Patron's Medal*: John Gjaever, Norwegian Polar Institute, leader of the Norwegian-British-Swedish Antarctic Expedition, for contributions to polar exploration; *Founder's Medal*: Charles Evans, leader of the Kangchenjunga Expedition 1955, for contributions to Himalayan exploration.

The Council of the Society has made the following awards: *Murchison Grant*: Dr. Alice Garnett, for contributions to physical geography and geographical education; *Mrs. Patrick Ness Award*: Robert Dovers, Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition, for contributions to Antarctic exploration and mapping; *Gill Memorial*: R. A. Skelton, superintendent of the Map Room, British Museum, for studies in the history of cartography and exploration; *Back Grant*: Richard Hamilton, senior scientist, British North Greenland Expedition; *Cuthbert Peek Grant*: David Oates, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, for archaeological surveys in Iraq.

#### Imperial Chemical Industries Transfer Scholarships

WITH the aim of increasing the number of university science graduates, Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., is to provide annually over the next few years about fifty scholarships of a new type, designed to enable students who have not specialized in science at school to commence serious study of science at the university itself. To be known as I.C.I. Transfer Scholarships, they will make it possible for students to take a preliminary science course of one year's duration at certain universities, and then go on to take normal honours science courses. The scholarships will be available for the first time during 1956-57 at the University of Cambridge; Imperial College of Science and Technology, London; King's College, Newcastle; the University of Liverpool; and the University of Oxford. The value of the scholarships will be based on State Scholarship rates, and there will be continuing small awards to scholars who successfully pass on to take honours science courses. The scheme has the full support of the Ministry of Education and of the universities and colleges concerned. Imperial Chemical Industries believes that these scholarships will help to solve one of the major problems of present-day industrial Britain—namely, the training of a greatly increased number of scientists and technologists. There are many young men who have taken arts courses at school and done well in them, but who, on going forward to the university, may wish to specialize in science subjects rather than taking

advanced work in arts. At present they are not able to do this, for unless they have studied science at school they are unable to enter honours schools of science and technology in English universities. The scholarships are expected to produce 40-50 additional scientists or technologists per year, but that will be only a part, and probably a small part, of their influence if they serve to encourage a wider provision of elementary science courses in the universities.

#### Royal Society Antarctic Station at Halley Bay

ALL the authorities concerned have agreed to a recommendation of the Council of the Royal Society that the bay in Coats Land, Antarctica, in which the advance party of the Royal Society Antarctic Expedition for the International Geophysical Year, led by Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander D. Dalgliesh, landed from the *M.V. Tottan* on January 6, be called Halley Bay; and that the site of the hut, which is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles inland from the coast, be known as Royal Society Base (see p. 598 of this issue). Edmond Halley was a former secretary of the Royal Society, and this year is the tercentenary of his birth. His scientific work made pioneer contributions to many of the subjects which will receive further concentrated observation during the International Geophysical Year. Thus he studied the theory of the Earth's magnetic field, and in 1698 and 1700 made two voyages to the North and South Atlantic Ocean, which resulted, in 1701, in the publication of the first magnetic chart. His further studies enabled him to realize that the aurora borealis is associated with the Earth's magnetism. He discussed with much care the problem of trade winds, which were very important to the sailing ships of his day, and carried out some fundamental work on ocean currents, and noticed the variation of gravity as he approached the equator.

#### Department of Scientific and Industrial Research Bill

THE Department of Scientific and Industrial Research Bill (London: H.M.S.O. 6d. net), issued simultaneously with the Department's annual report for the year 1954-55, and which received its first reading in the House of Lords on March 20, proposes to replace the present Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research by an executive Council, referred to in the Bill as the "Research Council". The body, like the present Advisory Council, will comprise persons eminent in industry and in science, but will in future be in executive charge of the Department, subject to the over-riding responsibility of the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and of the Lord President of the Council as its chairman. The Bill also provides in a specific Act of Parliament for the expenditure of the Department to be met out of moneys provided by Parliament, and the Imperial Trust for the Encouragement of Scientific and Industrial Research is accordingly dissolved. There appears to be nothing in the Bill which provides specifically, however, for financing the work of the Department other than on a year-to-year basis. The present annual report, while noting an increase of £260,000 in the net estimate of the Department for 1955-56 compared with 1954-55, records a failure to maintain the annual rate of increase in staff of two hundred required by the five-year plan. Some concern is expressed about the work of the research associations, more particularly in the smaller industries, and the