

unusual breeding habits in certain species which no longer deposit their eggs in water. His latest field survey (1954) has been a special study of the Saliientia in the region of the Western Ghats. Apart from his amphibian researches, he has published papers dealing with mollusca, fishes, reptiles and birds. With his forceful personality, boundless energy, and enthusiasm for teaching and research, the appointment of Dr. Bhaduri promises well for the future of zoology in the University of Calcutta.

#### Zoological Society of London: Mr. R. N. Fiennes

MR. R. N. FIENNES, senior lecturer in animal health and veterinary science in the University College of the Gold Coast, Achimota, has been appointed animal pathologist to the Zoological Society of London, and is expected to take up his new duties in September. Mr. Fiennes will be responsible for the post-mortem examination of animals which die in the Zoological Gardens, and he will also carry out research in animal pathology. Mr. Fiennes was educated at Winchester and Magdalene College, Cambridge, and at the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College at Edinburgh, and served for some twenty years in the Colonial Veterinary Service, in Uganda and Kenya. He has published a number of papers on trypanosomiasis, and has also worked on other protozoans, on helminths, bacteria and viruses. His appointment is yet another indication of the importance which the Zoological Society places upon the scientific study of animal health.

#### New Fellowship at University College, Oxford

IN 1954 Mr. James George Weir, C.M.G., C.B.E., gave to University College, Oxford, £25,000 to found a fellowship in memory of his son, Colin Weir, to be devoted to the study of politics with special reference to international affairs. He has now presented to the College a further sum of £25,000 to found an additional fellowship which will be devoted to the study of one of the natural sciences. The fellowship may be given for purposes of teaching or research, or both, and will be known as a Weir Fellowship. The College intends to make an election, if possible, in time for the next academic year.

#### Swimming-Pool Reactor at Harwell for the Study of Shielding Problems

A RESEARCH reactor of the 'swimming-pool' pattern, named LIDO, is at present under construction at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, and a model of it is included in the display by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at the British Industries Fair in Olympia, London. The reactor is specifically designed to enable shielding problems to be investigated; hitherto relatively little effort has been made to minimize shielding size and weight, although this is a problem of great importance in the design of mobile reactors and also in keeping down the capital cost of power-station reactors. LIDO is of the thermal type, employing enriched uranium as fuel and light water as both moderator and coolant. The core is suspended in a tank of water from a trolley which enables it to be moved to any part of the tank. Sufficient depth of water is maintained over the core to provide vertical shielding, and horizontal shielding is effected by the concrete walls of the tank. In two areas, one of which is a corner of the tank, the concrete is cut away and replaced by aluminium 'windows'. These form the

working faces to which experiments can be built up adjacent to them on the outside, and when measurements are to be made, the core can be moved closer to them on the inside. Experiments can also be assembled inside the tank, and for this the core can be moved into a small bay at one end of the tank and isolated from it by a watertight door. The reactor is due to be completed towards the end of this year.

#### International Geophysical Year

DURING the forthcoming International Geophysical Year (July 1957–December 1958) certain days have been designated as Regular World Days, and during these periods special observations will be made at frequent intervals. In addition, there will be Special World Intervals, chosen at shorter notice, to coincide with expected unusual magnetic, ionospheric and auroral activity, etc. In order to estimate how many organizations wish to be sent the 'alert' signal so that they are ready to make special observations of any unusual phenomena, it is requested that the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the persons directly responsible for the measurements, in Great Britain and Colonies, should be sent to the Assistant Secretary, Royal Society, Burlington House, London, W.1, as soon as possible, so that the matter can be considered by the British National Committee for the International Geophysical Year.

#### Marlow Medal of the Faraday Society

THE Faraday Society has instituted a new award, to be known as the Marlow Medal, which, together with a grant of not more than fifty pounds, will be made annually for work over the preceding three years on any subject normally (but not necessarily) published in the *Transactions* of the Society. The Medal is restricted to members of the Faraday Society not more than thirty-two years of age. Applications for the first award should be made before January 1 next to the Faraday Society, 6 Gray's Inn Square, London, W.C.1.

#### Atoms for Peace Awards

LAST year, at the suggestion of Mr. Henry Ford II and his two brothers, the Ford Motor Company Fund made an appropriation of a million dollars to be used for granting each year for ten years an Atoms for Peace Award of 75,000 dollars and a suitable medal to an individual or group of individuals, of any nationality, in recognition of the most outstanding contribution to the peaceful uses of atomic energy (see *Nature*, October 29, p. 814). The organization set up for making this Award has recently published a brochure giving the background of the whole idea and the general principles to be followed in making the Award. Nominations for the first such Award are invited. The brochure and further information can be obtained from the Executive Secretary, Atoms for Peace Awards, Inc., 77 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge 39, Mass.

#### Auca Indians

THE recent slaying of five missionaries by Auca Indians of eastern Ecuador has aroused concern about the name and nature of these remote South American aborigines. Dr. M. W. Stirling, director of the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of American Ethnology, states that comparatively little is known about these Indians (*Smithsonian News Release*,