

vized by a conference of directors of various national services. Swoboda had, apart from his meteorological knowledge, one great asset for such international work. He was a very accomplished linguist, who spoke Czech and German as mother tongues, English and French with complete ease and had considerable knowledge of Dutch and several other European languages. It was therefore no surprise that in 1938 he was selected to succeed Dr. Cannegieter as chief of the secretariat of the Organization, and it was he who supervised the transfer of its headquarters from De Bilt to Lausanne.

Swoboda managed to hold the Organization together during the years of the Second World War and gained his reward in 1951 when the World Meteorological Organization, a Specialized Agency of the United Nations and the successor to the International Organization, appointed him as its first secretary-general. This post he held until September 1953 when he reached the normal age of retirement; but he continued to serve in an acting capacity until August 1955. At the time of his death he was professor of meteorology at Istanbul.

Swoboda's work as a scientist was recognized in 1953 when the Royal Netherlands Academy of Sciences awarded him the Buys Ballot Medal; but his unique contribution to meteorology undoubtedly was in the field of international co-operation. He was, in many ways, the ideal international Civil servant, and his success in this role arose as much from his kindness and tact as from his linguistic gifts and administrative ability. He had not only a wide knowledge of his subject but also a great charm of manner and a genuine concern for the happiness and welfare of all around him. He leaves a widow and one son.

O. G. SUTTON

#### Dr. C. B. Rees

COLIN BEVAN REES died on September 2, a victim of cancer, at the early age of forty-one; and by his death marine biology has lost an enthusiastic and original plankton worker who was developing important new lines of research. Born at Pontardawe in Glamorgan on October 25, 1914, he was educated

at Pontardawe Grammar School and University College, Cardiff. After graduating with first-class honours and making an ecological study of the fauna of the Severn Estuary, he was appointed in 1937 to the research staff of the Department of Zoology and Oceanography at University College, Hull, which was then expanding its plankton recorder survey. Jointly with Mr. K. M. Rae, he produced a report on the distribution of the Copepoda which was noteworthy for its account of the month-by-month advance of Atlantic indicator species into the North Sea from the north.

After war service as a captain in R.E.M.E., he returned to the plankton recorder team and moved with them to the new Oceanographic Laboratory of the Scottish Marine Biological Association at Edinburgh. He now conclusively demonstrated the reality of the previously disputed two forms of *Calanus*: *finmarchicus* and *helgolandicus*, and studied their distribution and development in different areas of the North Sea. Next he turned his attention to the planktonic larvæ of bottom-living invertebrates. He first set out to devise a method of identification for the multitude of lamellibranch larvæ; by using shape, form of hinge, and texture he distinguished seventy-seven types and produced an account, illustrated with diagrams and photographic plates, which has proved invaluable for other workers. A series of reports followed on the distribution of the larvæ of lamellibranchs, decapod crustaceans, echinoderms and other benthic animals. His University awarded him the D.Sc. in 1951. During his illness he made the final corrections to a further study of the two forms of *Calanus*, this time comparing their population production in the Atlantic and the North Sea over different seasons. He leaves a mass of data on the other copepod species which it is hoped may be prepared for publication later.

Colin Rees will be remembered by his colleagues and many friends for his devotion to research and for his cheerful good company. He was artistic and, as a hobby, painted in water-colour with distinction, exhibiting in leading Scottish galleries. Our sympathy goes to his widow and two children.

A. C. HARDY

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science

THE annual meeting of the Brazilian Society for the Progress of Science was held this year during July 2-7 in the old gold-mining centre of Ouro Preto. The president of the Society, whose term of office runs for two years, is Dr. Anísio Teixeira, the distinguished Brazilian educationist, and the inaugural lecture was given by Prof. Carlos Chagas, the president for the meeting, on "Prospects and Problems of Scientific Research in Brazil". The subjects discussed at the meeting, which was attended by about two hundred Brazilian scientists, were divided into nineteen sections. The largest number of papers were presented in the four sections devoted to physiology (including biophysics, biochemistry and pharmacology); physics (and astronomy); microbiology (including epidemiology and preventive medicine); and chemistry. Papers on biological and medical subjects accounted for 65 per cent of the total of 211 papers presented. Foreign guests included Prof.

A. M. Monnier, neuro-physiologist, Prof. J. L'Héritier, geneticist, both of the Collège de France, Prof. J. A. D. Cooper, biophysicist, of the University of Chicago, and Mr. F. M. Beatty, science officer of the British Council in Brazil, who lectured on the training of scientists and technologists in British universities. The next annual meeting of the Society will be held in Rio de Janeiro during July 1957; the 1958 meeting, celebrating the first decade of the Society's existence, will be more international and will probably be held in São Paulo.

### Electronic Equipment working at Red Heat

A DEMONSTRATION has recently been given at the Research Laboratory of the General Electric Company, Schenectady, N.Y., of electronic components and devices working at temperatures of red heat and, in some cases, under the action of intense nuclear radiation in an atomic reactor. Conventional electronic equipment usually breaks down at 200° F. or