

quarters. He has made extensive and important mathematical contributions on semi-groups, non-associative algebras and the theory of commutative rings.

Prof. A. T. Price, of the chair of applied mathematics, succeeds Prof. Brown as head of the Department of Mathematics at Exeter.

Chemical Pathology at Cape Town :

Prof. J. E. Kench

DR. JAMES E. KENCH, who has recently been appointed to the chair of chemical pathology in the University of Cape Town, received his early scientific training in the University of Bristol, where he graduated in chemistry in 1933. His first research interests were in plant biochemistry; and he spent some years at the Long Ashton Research Station, University of Bristol, working under the direction of Prof. T. Wallace. He took the degrees of M.Sc. in organic chemistry in 1935 and Ph.D. in 1938. The following year Dr. Kench went to Manchester, where he was appointed chemical pathologist, and later Sir Halley Stewart Fellow in the Department of Haematology of the University and Manchester Royal Infirmary. Some years later he decided to take a medical qualification and graduated M.B., Ch.B. at Manchester in 1950. In 1952 he was appointed lecturer in biochemistry in the Nuffield Department of Occupational Health; and since 1955 has been senior lecturer in chemical pathology in the University of Manchester. In 1951 he became a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry. Dr. Kench has made numerous contributions to the subjects of the metabolism of blood, bile and porphyrin pigments, for which he was awarded the D.Sc. of the University of Bristol in 1953. More recently, he has worked on the biochemical effects of heavy metals in general, and the chemical pathology of lead and cadmium poisoning in particular.

Opening of the Brussels International Exhibition

THE Brussels Universal and International Exhibition, 1958, the first of its kind to be held since the Second World War, was opened by King Baudouin of the Belgians on April 17. The King, who was accompanied by Prince Albert, King Leopold and Queen Elisabeth, and who spoke in French and Flemish, said that the human race has entered a new era in its history, in which more than ever before civilization appears to depend upon science. Technical progress, however, is not enough; it must be accompanied by the parallel development of spiritual ideals and the will to achieve together a constructive effort. The Prime Minister of Belgium, M. van Acker, said that the Exhibition's theme of scientific progress gives all the forty-two nations participating a chance to display to the world what they have done to free man and increase his material well-being. The site for the Exhibition covers an area of more than 500 acres on the Heysel Plateau on the outskirts of Brussels (see *Nature*, **180**, 1322; 1957). The central exhibit is the 'Atomium', a structure some 360 ft. high consisting of nine steel spheres, each 60 ft. in diameter, joined by steel tubes, to represent the atoms in a metal crystal. In the lower sphere there are exhibits relating to the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and a high-speed lift in the central column leads to a restaurant in the topmost sphere. The International Hall of Science, sponsored by fifteen nations, comprises four sections: The Atom; The Molecule;

The Crystal; and the Living Cell. These include displays on nuclear and thermo-nuclear reactions, physics, chemistry and biochemistry, leading up to exhibits on the nature of life.

The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee

THE annual report, 1957, of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee (pp. 21. London: Parliamentary and Scientific Committee, 1958) briefly summarizes the addresses and discussions before the General Committee during the year. These included the scientific and technical aspects of the expanded nuclear power programme; principles of guided weapons; the geological survey of Great Britain; science and technology as applied to the preservation and distribution of fresh food; mental health to-day; the present and future of medical research for the tropics; and problems of aircraft research and development in Great Britain. After the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Mr. H. Brooke, had indicated, at a meeting with Sir Hugh Linstead, Mr. W. T. Wells and Lieut.-Commander Powell, that nothing could be done regarding the rating of scientific societies before the appropriate legislation, additional information was obtained and the Minister was asked to receive another deputation. As a result of a meeting on July 16, when the Minister told the deputation that he would like further evidence to substantiate the point that the operation of the Scientific Societies Act was "somewhat haphazard", and also as to anomalies with regard to the rating of industrial research, a further comprehensive memorandum was submitted to the Minister directing attention to anomalies in the rating of scientific institutions and research associations. During the second reading debate of the Local Government Bill in the House of Commons on December 9 and 10, 1957, Mr. Brooke announced his intention to set up a committee to give special consideration to the rating of charities and similar organizations, and subsequently he informed the chairman that the terms of reference of this committee would be wide enough to enable it to consider the special position of scientific institutions. A new sub-committee on technological and technical education, with Mr. R. Fort as chairman, was set up during the year.

New Zealand Journal of Geology and Geophysics

IN February, the New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research published the first number of *The New Zealand Journal of Geology and Geophysics*, and from the contents it is evident that the diversity of geology and scenery of New Zealand is well matched by the enthusiasm and industry of her geologists. The thirteen articles (218 pages) cover a wide range of subjects, including a discussion of New Zealand granites and mineralization, Pleistocene geology and geomorphology, and γ -radioactivity and heat flow in geothermal areas. A number of these are likely to appeal to the interests of geologists throughout the world; for example, a challenge to the turbidity-current theory as an explanation of certain features of graded and banded sediments in a contribution by J. T. Kingma ("The Tongaporutuan Sedimentation in Central Hawke's Bay", pp. 1-30). In the first number the new journal has set itself a high standard of presentation, particularly as regards the clarity of the diagrams and maps, several of which employ two-colour blocks. It will be published in alternate months at a price of 30s. per annum (5s. for single copies) post paid, and may be obtained