

development work on culture and pest control. In addition to this Dr. Cole found it possible to foster a substantial amount of new research work. This included, besides the nanoplankton food of the larval oyster, investigations into the natural history and exploitability of cockles, clams, whelks, scallops, shrimps, crabs and lobsters. When the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea founded its Shellfish Committee Dr. Cole was appointed the English representative. For the past three years he has served as the chairman of this body, effecting a useful integration of the several national programmes and working successfully towards standardization of methods. In 1954 he was offered the Buckland Professorship, choosing for his series of lectures the title "Inshore Fisheries", and in February 1958 he was appointed deputy director of fisheries research.

Mr. R. J. H. Beverton

MR. R. J. H. BEVERTON, who succeeds Dr. H. A. Cole as deputy director of fisheries research in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, joined the Fisheries Laboratory, Lowestoft, as a scientific officer in 1945. Having taken a first in zoology in Part 2 of the Natural Sciences Tripos at Cambridge and the Frank Smart Prize as best student of the year, he devoted a good knowledge of mathematics and his sympathy for this subject to considering a mathematical formulation of fish stocks under the influence of fishing. Working in the Population Section under Mr. Michael Graham he quickly developed the subject, and in conjunction with Mr. S. J. Holt, now of the Food and Agriculture Organization, has produced a manual on the subject of population dynamics of fish species which is a classic and which has made him a world authority in this field. During the past ten years he has produced numerous papers and memoranda and his advice, offered directly or indirectly to international bodies such as the Permanent Commission of the 1946 Fisheries Convention, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, and the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, has made his position as an adviser on fisheries conservation quite outstanding. In addition to this he has twice been called on to visit and report on the fisheries of the Colonial dependencies; in the first instance Lake Victoria Nyanza and in the second the sea fisheries of the Kenya and Tanganyika coasts. He has also been twice invited abroad to give a course of lectures on his subject, once in the United States and once in Canada. Mr. Beverton succeeded Mr. Michael Graham as head of the Population Section at Lowestoft when the latter retired in February last year. In addition to the very considerable volume of direct research work on which he is engaged, Mr. Beverton has been responsible for developing the collection of research statistics and fish measurements at the ports on a scale that has not been equalled elsewhere.

Kalinga Prize: Prof. Karl von Frisch

PROF. KARL VON FRISCH, of Munich, the eminent zoologist, well known for his research on the sensorial physiology of insects and fish, has been awarded the Kalinga Prize for popularization of science. The prize of £1,000 is offered annually by the Kalinga Foundation, which has been set up to contribute to the economic, social and cultural progress of the Indian State of Orissa. The purpose of the award, as stated by Mr. B. Patnaik, its donor, is to offer recognition to leading interpreters of science and also

to strengthen links between India and scientists of all nations.

Space Research in Britain

FOLLOWING the Prime Minister's statement on the British space research programme, in the House of Commons on May 12, the Lord President of the Council has appointed a Steering Group on Space Research, under the chairmanship of Sir Edward Bullard, with the following terms of reference: "Subject to the responsibility of the Lord President of the Council, in consultation with the other Ministers concerned, for the supervision of the Government's Space Research Programme, to advise on the formulation of that programme, and to co-ordinate the arrangements for its execution".

The membership of the Group is as follows: Sir Edward Bullard (*chairman*); Prof. W. V. D. Hodge, secretary of the Royal Society; Prof. H. S. W. Massey, University College, London; Sir Harry Melville, secretary, the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Sir Graham Sutton, director-general of the Meteorological Office; Dr. R. van der R. Woolley, Astronomer Royal; and senior officials representing other interested government departments. The Steering Group had its first meeting on May 27.

Space Monkeys

ON May 28 two monkeys were recovered unhurt from the nose cone of an American Jupiter missile after a space-flight of 1,500 miles. The flight lasted about 15 min.; the missile reached an altitude of about 300 miles and attained speeds of up to 10,000 m.p.h. During the flight reports of the monkeys' heartbeats, muscular reactions, pulse, temperature and respiration were, among other things, relayed back to Earth. The animals seem to have been little affected by the violent acceleration and the 9-min. period of weightlessness which they experienced. They will probably appear on television. The nose cone also carried samples of yeast, corn, mustard seed and fruit-fly larvae, and, in order to study the effect of weightlessness on the processes of fertilization, phials of the eggs and sperm of sea-urchins which were mixed when the missile attained its maximum velocity.

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research Committee on Metal Fatigue

A COMMITTEE to review current research needs on the fatigue of engineering structures and to survey existing research facilities has been set up by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research following an approach from the Institution of Civil Engineers. The committee will not include aircraft structures, reinforced concrete structures, or metal physics in the scope of its review, though information gained in these fields will be used. Sir Alfred Pugsley (University of Bristol) has been appointed chairman. The other members of the committee are: Sir Donald G. Bailey, Mr. T. Baldwin, Mr. H. L. Cox, Mr. O. A. Kerensky, Mr. H. M. Pemberton, Mr. C. E. Phillips, Prof. S. C. Redshaw, Dr. P. B. Walker and Dr. R. Weck. The committee's terms of reference are: "to review current research needs on fatigue of engineering structures (metal), to survey existing research facilities and to make recommendations to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research". The committee is interested in examining records of failures or accidents which might have been due to