

Atomic Energy Board and represented the Union at a seminar on atomic energy and its educational problems which was held in Saclay, France, under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency in July. Prof. Sellschop was also an official delegate to the second International Conference on the Peaceful Applications of Atomic Energy in Geneva last year. Born in Luderitz, South West Africa, Prof. Sellschop received his early education at Christian Brothers' College, Pretoria. He then became a student at the University of Pretoria and received the B.Sc. degree there *cum laude* in 1950. After working at the National Building Research Institute in Pretoria for two years he was awarded an H. B. Webb scholarship and enrolled in the Merensky Institute of Physics at the University of Stellenbosch and in 1952 received the degree of M.Sc. *cum laude*. He then joined the Bernard Price Institute of Geophysical Research, later successfully reading for the Ph.D. degree in the nuclear physics group of the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, as holder of a postgraduate scholarship awarded by the Shell Company of South Africa Ltd. in 1954.

#### Microbiology at Sheffield : Prof. S. R. Elsden

DR. SIDNEY REUBEN ELSDEN has been appointed to the newly created chair of microbiology in the University of Sheffield, as from October 1. Dr. Elsden was educated at the Cambridge and County High School for Boys and the University of Cambridge. He graduated B.A. in 1936 and obtained first-class honours in both parts of the Natural Sciences Tripos. During 1937-38 he worked under Dr. Marjory Stephenson in the Department of Biochemistry at Cambridge and was then appointed assistant lecturer, and later lecturer, in physiology in the University of Edinburgh. In 1943 Dr. Elsden joined the scientific staff of the Agricultural Research Council's Unit of Animal Physiology at Cambridge. He went to Sheffield in 1948 as senior lecturer in microbiology in the Department of Bacteriology and in 1952, when the University created a separate Department of Microbiology, Dr. Elsden was appointed head of the new Department. He has also been honorary director since 1952 of the Agricultural Research Council's Unit of Microbiology, which is housed in his Department. Dr. Elsden's Department has received generous support from the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Agricultural Research Council Unit has also received a grant from the Kellogg Foundation.

#### New Commonwealth Institute Building

PLANS for a new building for the Commonwealth Institute were made public on June 17. The new premises, which will replace the present accommodation in the Colclutt building in South Kensington, will be erected on a 3½-acre site at the southern end of Holland Park, fronting Kensington High Street, at an estimated cost of £725,000. Work will start next spring and is scheduled for completion in 1962, when the removal of the Institute from its present building will be necessitated by Government plans for the expansion of the Imperial College of Science and Technology. The new Institute will consist of a main exhibition block with a wing on the western side. In the wing will be housed offices, a restaurant, a reception centre and dining space for visiting school parties. A large reception room for the Commonwealth Students' Club and for confer-

ences and social occasions, a reference library and reading-room, a cinema to seat between 450 and 500, and a gallery specially designed for temporary art and other exhibitions are also included in the plans. The architects are Messrs. Robert Matthew and Johnson-Marshall. The Commonwealth Institute is the major centre in the United Kingdom for information about the Commonwealth nations and their Dependencies. Founded as the Imperial Institute in 1887, it has occupied its present accommodation in the Colclutt building since 1893. The name was changed from 'Imperial' to 'Commonwealth' Institute by the Act of 1958.

#### The British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association

THE opening of the latest addition to the laboratories of the British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association by Sir Alexander Fleck on May 13 is a further step in the progress of an Association which has grown in activity and reputation ever since it was first established some thirty years ago. This reputation in the field of non-ferrous metallurgy is acknowledged not only in Britain but also abroad. The restoration of the laboratories after serious war damage suffered serious delays, and with the increase in the Association's work and the resulting congestion, the decision was taken in 1957 to complete the building plans which had been formulated some twenty years earlier. The block now opened adds some 12,500 sq. ft. of floor space, bringing the total to about 53,000 sq. ft. It contains new corrosion laboratories, a large new metal finishing shop, extensions to the physics laboratories and to the foundry. Together with these a new council chamber and badly needed offices for the senior staff add considerably to the administrative amenities.

#### The Metropolitan-Vickers Nuclear-Metals Laboratory

IT was with the view of ascertaining the effects of irradiating metals that Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co. Ltd. decided to extend the existing facilities of the Research Department by building a Nuclear-Metals Laboratory. The Laboratory is equipped for the examination and testing of irradiated components and materials ranging up to a complete fuel element having an activity of the order of 10 ke. It is provided with two large concrete caves, and a train of five interconnected lead-walled cells is used to receive large irradiated objects. Essentially the caves are constructed of barytes concrete blocks. The air in the caves is arranged to be maintained at a slightly lower pressure than that in the open laboratory, thus ensuring that no air-borne radioactive dust can escape. Remote control manipulators enable the operations to be carried out inside the caves from outside the walls. The new laboratory will primarily be engaged on work for the Associated Electrical Industries—John Thompson Nuclear Energy Co., Ltd., and on work under contract for the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority. The scope of work will be concerned not only with investigations into the irradiation effects on constructional materials such as graphite and steel of various types, but also with establishing the behaviour of metals such as magnesium, zirconium, beryllium, etc., and of thermal and electrical insulation materials. A highly organized health physics service is maintained to safeguard the operating staff against all the hazards involved.