

Cambridge in 1948 to study the elastic stresses in flanged beams. In 1950 he was appointed University demonstrator and afterwards lecturer. He was elected into a fellowship at Gonville and Caius College in 1954, and in 1957 was appointed tutor. Dr. Parkes's main fields of research are the inelastic dynamic behaviour of structures and the behaviour of structures subjected to temperature variation. He is particularly interested in repeated thermal loading phenomena such as incremental collapse under thermal cycling. In the industrial field, Dr. Parkes has acted as consultant on the design of crane jibs, tall towers, bridges, boilers and vacuum vessels. He has lectured on his work on thermal stresses on a number of occasions in Denmark and Sweden and is at present spending six months as visiting professor at Stanford University, California, working in the same field.

#### Highway and Traffic Engineering at Birmingham : Prof. J. Kolbuszewski

DR. J. KOLBUSZEWSKI, who has been appointed to the chair of highway and traffic engineering which has recently been established within the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Birmingham, joined the University as a lecturer in 1951, the title of reader in soil mechanics being conferred on him in 1957. During the past three years he has been in charge of the Graduate School of Highway Engineering and the Graduate School of Foundation Engineering. Originally, Dr. Kolbuszewski graduated from the University of Lwow, where he was afterwards a lecturer in civil engineering. He served throughout the Second World War with the Polish, French and British armies. After the War he studied at the Imperial College, London, where he obtained his Ph.D. degree. He was a member of the staff of the Polish University College, London, from 1946 to 1950, joining as a lecturer and being promoted to professor and director of studies in 1947.

Dr. Kolbuszewski's research interests have been principally concerned with problems in soil mechanics and foundation engineering, and, in particular, with problems arising in connexion with pressures under pavements and the trafficability of beaches. A few years ago he carried out some original experiments in the Sahara Desert, when he obtained some interesting information regarding the bearing capacity of wind-deposited sands.

#### Radiation Protection

THE occupational hazards associated with radioactive materials have for a generation been under periodic review by the International Commission on Radiological Protection, which is a commission set up by the International Congress of Radiology and by national bodies. In the United States this is the National Committee on Radiation Protection, which issued its latest report on June 5 (U.S. Department of Commerce: National Bureau of Standards. Handbook 69: Maximum Permissible Body Burdens and Maximum Permissible Concentrations of Radionuclides in Air and in Water for Occupational Exposure. Pp. viii + 95. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1959. 35 cents). The chairman of the sub-committee responsible for this report is also chairman of the corresponding international committee. It can therefore be taken that this document is in many respects a pre-view and abbreviated version of the corresponding recom-

mendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection which are now in press.

Previous figures for permissible body burdens of radioactive nuclides were given in 1953. The basis for recommendations concerning permissible exposure was revised recently (Recommendations of the International Commission on Radiological Protection, September 9, 1958. Pergamon Press, London, 1959). This has led to corresponding revision to smaller permissible body burdens only for nuclides which result in irradiation to the whole body. However, new biological data and improved methods of calculating physical doses have led to a complete re-assessment of values. This has allowed permissible figures for some nuclides to be increased: notably twice as much strontium-90 as before is now allowed. At the time this produced a furore in the American daily press. On strictly logical grounds the committee could have raised the value five-fold. That it did not do so indicates that judgment and opinion as well as numbers have been used rather than strict logic. After all, the figures are not magical; they are still capable of revision in the light of further information and experience after a further quinquennium.

#### International Council of Scientific Unions

THE financial statement of the International Council of Scientific Unions for the period November 1, 1957, to December 31, 1958 (pp. 12. The Hague: International Council of Scientific Unions, 1959), records an excess of expenditure over income for the period of 16,638 dollars, in spite of a further increase in the income from member unions to 2,852 dollars. The 67,428 dollars received from national members during the year includes 20,898 dollars, representing annual dues previously in arrear. The increase in expenditure from 42,970 dollars in 1956-57 to 88,139 dollars is attributed to the increasing scientific activity of the Council, the higher costs of running the Secretariat, mainly due to increased staff, the heavy costs of holding the 1958 General Assembly and Meeting of the Executive Board in the United States and the establishment of a Secretariat in The Hague, apart from the fact that running expenses are for fourteen months instead of the normal twelve. For the triennium 1959-61 the eighth General Assembly adopted a budget of 58,000 dollars per annum, and the Assembly also strongly endorsed the decision of the Executive Board to establish a capital fund.

#### University Foundation of Belgium

DURING the academic year 1957-58 the University Foundation of Belgium distributed subsidies totalling 4,858,992 francs and 2,441,500 francs in awards for ordinary studies. Of the latter, 1,046,500 francs were at the University of Louvain, 718,000 francs at the University of Ghent, 359,000 francs at the University of Brussels and 198,500 at the University of Liège. Of the 167 awards, 32 were in science, 4 in pharmacy, 33 in medicine, 1 in veterinary medicine, 3 in dental science, 32 in engineering, 4 in agronomy, 5 in political, social or administrative science, 5 in commercial or economic science or finance, and 4 in applied psychology and vocational guidance. Five awards were made for courses of study abroad: four in France and one in Switzerland. Subsidies for the publication of scientific works amounted to 458,500 francs and to periodicals to 2,158,000 francs, while