

Animal Husbandry at Bristol : Prof. T. K. Ewer

PROF. TOM KEIGHTLEY EWER, at present professor of animal husbandry in the University of Queensland, has been appointed to the newly established chair of animal husbandry in the Veterinary School of the University of Bristol. Prof. Ewer, who will take up his appointment early in 1961, was born and educated in England and emigrated to Australia. He graduated in the Veterinary School of the University of Sydney in 1937, having previously obtained the H.D.A. with honours at the Hawkesbury Agricultural College. During the war years Prof. Ewer held appointments with the New Zealand Department of Agriculture and at the Canterbury Agricultural College, and was engaged on work on nutritional and parasitological problems of sheep. In 1947 he was awarded a Wellcome research fellowship by the Animal Health Trust which enabled him to conduct work on ovine ricketts in the Institute of Animal Pathology at Cambridge, where he was awarded the degree of Ph.D. Prof. Ewer accepted the appointment he now holds in 1950 and was Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science in the University of Queensland for five years. In recent years he has carried out two assignments with the Animal Production Branch of the Food and Agriculture Organization—one in Venezuela, the other in Burma. Prof. Ewer's list of publications is in the field of nutrition in the sheep, his current interest being in the use of sorghum silage and various protein and non-protein nitrogen supplements.

National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council : Appointments

THE following appointments as chairmen of divisions of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council have been announced: Prof. Robert C. Elderfield, professor of chemistry in the University of Michigan, as chairman of the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology; Dr. Edward P. Espenshade, jun., chairman of the Department of Geography at Northwestern University, as chairman of the Division of Earth Sciences; Dr. Emil W. Haury, professor and head of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Arizona, as chairman of the Division of Anthropology and Psychology; Prof. J. Barkley Rosser, professor of mathematics at Cornell University, as chairman of the Mathematics Division.

The Henry Bryant Bigelow Medal

THE first Henry Bryant Bigelow Medal for oceanography has been awarded to the man it honours. Dr. Bigelow, one of America's foremost marine scientists, was among the founders of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. He was its first director, served later as president of the Corporation and is now chairman of the Board of Trustees. He is also professor emeritus of zoology at Harvard University, having taught there for nearly half a century, and is a research oceanographer and former curator of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard. The Bigelow Medal was established earlier this year by the Trustees of the Oceanographic Institution without the knowledge of their chairman. It is designed with a likeness of Dr. Bigelow on the face and the Institution's first and most famous research vessel, *Atlantis*, on the back. With it go a citation and a cash prize of 2,500 dollars. It is to be awarded from time to

time to those "who make significant inquiries into the phenomena of the sea".

Cloud Pictures from Satellite Tiros I

THE March issue of the *Monthly Weather Review*, published by the U.S. Weather Bureau (on June 15), contains a number of fascinating photographs of cloud systems taken from the satellite *Tiros* during April 1960. The height of the satellite varied between 436 and 460 miles. The photographs are of the cloud systems of temperate-zone depressions over the Atlantic, Pacific and Mediterranean and a tropical cyclone north of New Zealand. The synoptic charts are printed alongside, and the correspondence between the cloud belts and the familiar curved fronts of the weather maps is most striking. The photographs show three major systems, the cloud belts within the systems, and cloud areas within the belts. Both single photographs and mosaics covering large areas are reproduced. There can be no doubt that cloud photographs transmitted from artificial Earth satellites will be a major tool of the weather forecaster of the future.

Intergovernmental Conference on Oceanographic Research

SCIENTISTS and government officials from thirty-four countries meeting in Copenhagen during July 11–16 at the invitation of Unesco have agreed to place the whole subject of oceanography on an international footing. Recognizing the importance of oceanographic research for the world as a whole, they recommended that Unesco set up a permanent intergovernmental oceanographic commission to organize concerted action by States and by international bodies. Hitherto, the main obstacle to the development of oceanographic research has been the lack of qualified oceanographers. Oceanography has been somewhat of a poor relation among the various branches of science and the number of laboratories and university courses devoted to it is relatively very small. Oceanography now requires large-scale international co-operation. The Conference therefore recommended a number of measures, the chief of which is that an intergovernmental oceanographic commission be set up and work with a special Office of Oceanography within the Department of Natural Sciences of Unesco to co-ordinate research on a permanent basis, the Commission meeting, in principle, once a year. This is subject to approval by the 82-nation General Conference of Unesco which meets in Paris next November.

The shortage of oceanographers, considered as one of the main obstacles to oceanographic research, led to the recommendation that the number of fellowships financed by Unesco be appreciably increased so as to offer greater training facilities for such specialists, particularly for those countries in which oceanography is little developed and which wish to participate in oceanic research. Such training should include participation in expeditions organized by the various countries or by Unesco and in short lecture courses or training courses in research institutes and institutions of higher education. Unesco is also asked to organize a conference to discuss the means of developing teaching in the marine sciences in universities. Because the training of oceanographers is so urgent, the Conference recommended that the money proposed in Unesco's budget for 1961–62 for the operation of an international oceanographic vessel be used for other training activities. Other steps towards