

may find time for further studies in medical history, which is one of his interests.

#### Dr. G. E. Godber, C.B.

DR. GEORGE EDWARD GODBER has been recently appointed to succeed Sir John Charles, with effect from December 1. Dr. Godber was educated at Bedford School and New College, Oxford, where he read physiology, and at the London Hospital. After qualifying, he served for twelve months as house physician in the professorial unit under Sir Arthur Ellis. Subsequent to gaining some experience of general practice and of local government service in Surrey, he joined the staff of the Ministry of Health in 1939 at the age of thirty. His first assignments there were concerned with the reception of evacuees in the reception areas and with the other early war-time responsibilities which fell to be discharged by the Ministry. Later he was responsible with the late Sir Leonard Parsons and Mr. Clayton Fryers for carrying out the combined Ministry of Health and Nuffield Foundation survey of hospitals in the Sheffield Region. Returning to Whitehall, he was concerned in association with other members of the Ministry's lay and medical staff in the various preparations which culminated in the launching of the National Health Service on July 5, 1948. Since he was appointed as deputy chief medical officer, his chief responsibilities have continued to lie with the several branches of the health service, and he has been active in collaborating both with the College of General Practitioners and the Society of Medical Officers of Health. He has been and continues a vigorous advocate of home care of the sick wherever practicable, and of active co-operation between general practitioners, local health authorities and the hospital and specialist services.

#### The Royal Society of Edinburgh: Officers for 1960-61

AT a statutory meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh held on October 24, the following officers and members of Council were elected: *President*, Prof. E. L. Hirst; *Vice-Presidents*, Prof. T. Neville George, Prof. J. R. Matthews, Dr. T. R. Bolam, Dr. Douglas Guthrie, Dr. A. W. Greenwood, Prof. R. A. Rankin; *General Secretary*, Prof. Norman Feather; *Secretaries to Ordinary Meetings*, Dr. Mowbray Ritchie, Prof. A. E. Ritchie; *Treasurer*, Dr. J. R. Peddie; *Curator of Library and Museum*, Dr. R. Schlapp; *Members of Council*, Prof. E. G. Cullwick, Prof. G. Pontecorvo, Prof. M. M. Swann, Prof. V. C. Wynne-Edwards, Prof. H. A. Brück, Dr. H. R. Fletcher, Prof. G. L. Montgomery, Prof. W. L. Weipers, Prof. J. H. Burnett, Prof. C. F. Davidson, Prof. D. C. Pack, Dr. A. B. Stewart.

#### Applications of Electricity in Aircraft

THE Councils of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and of the Royal Aeronautical Society have recognized the growing need to provide a forum wherein engineers engaged respectively in the fields of electrical engineering and of aircraft construction can meet to discuss problems and new ideas affecting their common interest in aircraft electrical engineering. A Joint Committee, of which Prof. G. A. Whitfield, of the College of Aeronautics, Cranfield, is the chairman, was recently formed by the two organizations to consider ways and means of stimulating discussion of these matters, and it has now been

agreed that this can best be done by arranging for joint meetings of the two organizations in London and for the formation of joint groups in the provinces. It is intended that meetings of the joint groups should be informal and in the nature of colloquia, designed to interest technicians as well as aeronautical and electrical engineers. In order to launch the scheme there will be an inaugural meeting at the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London, W.C.2, on November 11, at 5.30 p.m., when Viscount Caldecote will deliver a lecture on "The Future of 'Electrics' and 'Electronics' in Aircraft and Guided Missiles".

#### Department of Scientific and Industrial Research: Report on Shipbuilding

IN answer to questions in the House of Commons on October 27, regarding the publication of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research's report on shipbuilding, Sir David Eccles, as representing the Minister for Science, said that the report was the subject of confidential discussions between the Council and representatives of the Ministry of Transport and the industry. The question of publication, which was one for the Council, would not arise so long as these discussions were in progress, but the Council intended to publish a statement as soon as these discussions were concluded. In reply to a further question, Sir David said that the current grant to the Parsons and Marine Engineering Turbine Research and Development Association amounted to £70,000 in consideration of the £210,000 raised by the industry, and the grant for next year would be on the same terms.

#### Russian Chemical Reviews

THE Russian *Uspekhi Khimii* is being published in translation as *Russian Chemical Reviews* by the Chemical Society with the support of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. The first issue has appeared and contains four review articles, on the chemical action of ultrasonic waves on macromolecules, developments in the chlorination of saturated hydrocarbons, the hydrides of the rare-earth metals, and the chemistry of quinuclidine derivatives. These are excellent surveys of the subjects, with extensive references to papers in Russian and other languages, and the translation appears to have been very well done. The translation is described as cover-to-cover, but reviews in the original which are translations from foreign periodicals are, with few exceptions (for example, Chinese sources), not included. The subscription rates are £12 (United States 36 dollars), with a reduced rate for libraries of universities and technical colleges of £9 (27 dollars) per annum, including postage. Orders should be sent to Cleaver-Hume Press, Ltd., 31 Wright's Lane, London, W.8.

#### Checking Accidents in Factories

UNDER the title "Guide to Statistics collected by H.M. Factory Inspectorate" the Ministry of Labour has issued a booklet giving details of the methods of collection and compilation of the statistics, and of the systems of coding and classification which permit analysis of further information as and when required (Pp. i+41. (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1960.) 4s. net). These statistics are based on the reports of accidents made by occupiers of factories and by certain other employers in accordance with