Munitions Office. On returning to Australia in 1920 he joined the Department of Defence, and afterwards became assistant superintendent of the Munitions Supply Laboratories (now the Defence Standards Laboratories) at Maribyrnong, Victoria. In 1938 he joined the Organization as officer-in-charge of the Metrology Section, one of the three units of the National Standards Laboratory. It was largely due to his experienced guidance that the Section was able to establish itself quickly and to make an outstanding contribution to Australia's war-time production. In 1958 he was appointed first director of the National Standards Laboratory. Mr. Esserman has been personally honoured by his election to the International Committee for Weights and Measures—a fitting climax to a career devoted to physical measurements and a tribute to the man who has had the unique distinction of playing the leading part in establishing the two main laboratories in Australia concerned with metrology.

C.S.I.R.O. Division of Mineral Chemistry: Mr. I. E. Newnham

MR. IVAN E. NEWNHAM has been appointed chief of the Division of Mineral Chemistry, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (Australia). He is forty-one years old and graduated M.Sc. from the University of Melbourne in 1940. In 1942 he joined the Department of Aircraft Production and afterwards became supervisor of the Department's Testing Laboratories, where he was associated with the production of the first aircraft bearings made in Australia. During the later war years, while employed by the Newcastle firm of P. J. Taylor Pty., Ltd., he pioneered new techniques for the manufacture of automotive bearings. Since joining the Organization in 1947, Mr. Newnham's main interests have centred around the chemistry of the metals zirconium, hafnium and beryllium, all of which occur in Australian minerals. During 1950–55 he was engaged on research into methods for separating zirconium and hafnium, which occur together in the mineral zircon, in Australian beach sands. Pure zirconium is used as a container for uranium in the manufacture of atomic reactors, especially for use in nuclear submarines. Hafnium, which absorbs neutrons, is used for making control rods in reactors.

Physics at Sheffield: Prof. N. H. March

DR. N. H. MARCH has been appointed to the newly created second chair of physics in the University of Sheffield. He graduated at King's College, London, in 1948, and there began his research career under the direction of Prof. C. A. Coulson, then professor of theoretical physics at King's College. In 1950, March was appointed to an assistant lectureship in physics at the University of Sheffield, promoted successively to the grade of lecturer in 1953, and reader in theoretical physics only four years later. He has been an enthusiastic research worker from the beginning, and soon came to be regarded as one of the recognized authorities on the Thomas–Fermi statistical theory. In addition, he has maintained a lively interest in the electronic structure of molecules, in particular the electrical charge distribution. More recently, probably not uninfluenced by the activities of his experimental co-workers in Sheffield, he has turned to problems connected with the solid state. Here he has made important contributions to the distribution of charge around impurity centres. He now leads an active group of postgraduate research workers, and his school can confidently be expected to make substantial growth with the increased accommodation shortly to be available for the physics department in Sheffield.

Promotion of Science in Australian Schools

THE fund which was established in England in November 1955, by a group of industrial organizations, to assist in increasing the number of scientists and technologists at the service of industry and of the country generally, has led to the establishment of a similar fund for a similar purpose in Australia. It was inaugurated at a meeting of industrial and commercial leaders, held in Sydney on March 20, 1958, under the chairmanship of Sir Edward Knox, and publicly announced on February 2, 1960. The Fund seeks to pursue its objects by stimulating and encouraging the teaching of science in suitable schools. Prior consideration is being given to independent boys' schools of standing, and the schools which are represented in the Headmasters' Conference of Australia are recognized as coming within this definition. It is intended to extend the range of consideration if sufficient funds become available. The Fund is now proceeding to assist chosen schools in the building of up-to-date laboratories and other rooms for the teaching of science. Attention is being given to the basic sciences, namely, physics and chemistry, and geology in suitable cases. Assistance to other sciences is not at present contemplated. In their discussion with schools, the Fund's representatives have endeavoured to encourage schools to plan with a long view so that it will be easy to add further accommodation later. The hope has been expressed that schools will endeavour to encourage a greater volume of science at the upper levels of secondary education and that they will seek to stimulate work of a more advanced standard. Contributions made or promised to the Fund to December 31, 1960, total £576,315. Although the amount is considerable, it is still far from sufficient to realize the Fund's full objectives, and more help is needed from others in the fields of industry and commerce. Further information about the Fund is described in a report which may be obtained from the Secretary, M.L.C. Building, Petrie Street, Canberra.

Shipbuilding Research in Britain

IN the debate on shipping and shipbuilding in the House of Commons on July 13, the Minister of Transport, Mr. E. Marples, agreed that Parliament should attach the very greatest weight to research and development for both the shipping and shipbuilding industries. Better co-ordination is required in the future, he said, and shipbuilding research and shipping research should not be isolated departments but more and more together; this is now being discussed with the General Council of British Shipping. Referring to the loss of orders by the industry, to the charges of lack of modernization, inefficient management, demarcation and restrictive practices by the unions as well as to insufficient research and development, he said that a new and dynamic approach to production is required. The future of the industry is at stake, and for some time discussions have been proceeding between the two sides of industry about ways and means of improving its efficiency and removing obstacles to progress. If ths discussions do not achieve substantial progress in the near future, the Government intends to review the position with both sides of industry. Mr. Marples