

Dr. Hide obtained honours in physics at Manchester in 1950 and did research in thermal convection in rotating systems under Dr. S. K. Runcorn in the Department of Geodesy and Geophysics, Cambridge, the Ph.D. of that University being awarded to him in 1953. He then spent a year at the Yerkes Observatory in the University of Chicago, where he studied hydrodynamic stability problems under Prof. S. Chandrasekhar. From 1954 to 1957 he was a Research Fellow at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, where he worked on plasma physics. In 1957 he became lecturer in physics at King's College, Newcastle, and quickly built up research groups on shock tubes and on experimental approaches to convection problems. The latter are of great importance to the progress of geophysics, for thermal convection, especially where the Coriolis force is dominant, is of key importance in understanding both the motions in the atmosphere and core. Hide's experiments showed for the first time a phenomenon in the laboratory similar to the jet stream in the atmosphere, and these stimulated a great deal of theoretical work. Dr. Hide is an inspiring teacher and his departure for the United States is a severe blow to geophysics in Britain and to experimental meteorology in particular. Dr. Hide has many friends among British physicists who will wish him all success at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Royal Dutch/Shell Prize : Prof. E. C. Slater

THE Netherlands Society of Science has awarded the Royal Dutch/Shell Prize for 1961 to Prof. E. C. Slater, University of Amsterdam, for his work on the synthesis of fat from radioactive acetic acid by mitochondria from various tissues. The prize, worth £1,000, will be used to equip the University's Physiological Chemistry Laboratory with an apparatus for gas chromatography, which will enable Prof. Slater and his team to carry out the extremely accurate analyses needed for further work on the subject. The Royal Dutch/Shell Prize was created by companies of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group in Holland in 1959, to encourage new research in various branches of science. It is awarded annually by the Netherlands Society of Science; in 1959 the field was biology, in 1960 it was geology, and in 1961 it was medicine. In 1962 the prize will benefit research in physics.

Journal für Ornithologie

THE retirement of Dr. Erwin Stresemann from the editorship of the *Journal für Ornithologie* at the end of 1961 concludes what must surely be a unique record for a scientific journal. From its foundation in 1852, this *Journal* has had only three editors. The first, Dr. J. Cabanis, produced the volumes from 1853 to 1893 inclusive, the next, Dr. A. Reichenow, those from 1894 to 1921 inclusive, and finally, Dr. E. Stresemann those from 1922 to 1961 inclusive. During much of this time the *Journal für Ornithologie* has been the leading scientific journal of ornithology in the world, and the standards, both of editing and of papers received, have been consistently high. While the three editors between them spanned 108 years, there have been only 102 volumes owing to an interruption in publication at the end of the Second World War. Each of the three editors was, in turn, head of the Bird Room in the Zoological Museum of the University of Berlin; but this link is now to be broken as the new editor is Dr. G. Niethammer of Bonn.

National Research Council (Canada) : Industrial Research Committee

AN industrial advisory committee composed of representatives of top management in Canada has been appointed by the National Research Council. Objectives of the new Committee are to bring management into closer contact with the work of the Council; to keep it informed of the problems of industry; and to consider ways of encouraging research in industry. Emphasis will be given to the part the Council may take in furthering these aims. Ten leading industrialists have been elected to the Committee. Dr. A. D. Misener, director of the Ontario Research Foundation, Toronto, is also a member. Representatives of the Council are: Dr. E. W. R. Steacie, president (*chairman*); Dr. B. G. Ballard, vice-president; Dr. C. J. Mackenzie; and Mr. R. E. McBurney (*secretary*), head of the Council's technical information service.

Foreign Language Proficiency of U.S. Scientists

FOUR out of every five scientists in the United States report a knowledge of at least one foreign language, according to a study by the National Science Foundation. In addition, more than half report knowledge of a second language. These figures are contained in a preliminary report, *Foreign Language Proficiency of Scientists Reporting to the National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel, 1960* (*Scientific Man-power Bulletin*, No. 16. National Science Foundation, Washington 25, D.C.). They are based on returns received from 116,553 scientists, 89 per cent of whom indicated to the National Register that they had some degree of knowledge of a foreign language. German was the predominant foreign language of most of the scientists concerned, with 45 per cent of the total reporting it as their 'first' language. French and Spanish were second and third, respectively, but in some individual fields of science they were more frequently used than German. Although German was the predominant language for the total number of scientists reporting, French was the most frequently reported by psychologists, geographers, mathematicians and astronomers. In earth sciences, the largest number of registrants indicated a knowledge of Spanish. About 2 per cent of U.S. scientists indicated that Russian is their most proficient language, while less than 1 per cent indicated either Japanese or Chinese. These findings indicate that most scientists in the United States must depend on translations of scientific developments reported in these languages. The *Bulletin* presents statistical tables and discussions of the foreign languages most frequently reported as first and second choice, the extent of the proficiency of scientists in reading foreign scientific and technical material, a comparison of knowledge in eight languages among the different fields of science, and the number of scientists reporting proficiency in each of the fifteen major language families.

Higher Education in Belgium

THE National Council of Political Science has issued a report to the Belgian Government on the growth of the student population and its repercussions on the expansion and location of institutions of higher learning (*Rapport sur la Croissance des Populations Etudiantines et ses Répercussions sur l'Extension et la Localisation des Établissements d'Enseignement Supérieur*. Pp. 105. Bruxelles: Conseil National de