and marine architects to determine well in advance the exact space requirements needed for a complete modern radio room installation for both medium and high frequency. Waste of valuable capacity in the ships' structures can thus be avoided, and, in fact, the new units are already influencing the design of ships' radio rooms. An article by E. J. Girard (*Elec. Comm.*, 21, No. 2; 1943) describes the new high-frequency unit, its circuit features, power supplies and installation. The new equipment employs the unit construction principle for shipboard radio installations. High-frequency radio transmitting and receiving equipment supplements standard frequency installations to provide, through choice of proper frequencies, means of direct communication with points far beyond the range of standard-frequency working. Since long-distance communication on high frequencies is accomplished with relatively low power, economy of operation is maintained even though the range is vastly extended. With elimination of ship-to-ship relaying of messages, accuracy and reliability are improved and communication with home ports is accelerated.

Eclipse of the Sun, Sept. 21, 1941, in the U.S.S.R.

A SPECIAL publication of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., which has somewhat belatedly reached Great Britain, deals with the eclipse of September 21, 1941, and contains four papers written before the eclipse. The first, by A. Michailov, gives a detailed calculation of the circumstances of the eclipse in southern Siberia, and includes two charts from which the times of beginning and ending of the partial eclipse and its magnitude can be obtained for any point in the U.S.S.R. The second paper, by the same author, gives computations of the corpuscular eclipse, using four different velocities of particles, namely, 5000, 3000, 1600 and 800 km./sec., and assuming various sizes for the emitting surface of the sun, from a point to the full disk. A chart shows also the lines of totality for the optical ionospheric eclipse, at heights of 100, 150, 220, 300 and 500 km. A paper by B. Fessenkoff contains the plan of campaign as worked out by the Eclipse Commission of the Academy of Sciences, gives a general summing-up of recent experience in eclipse expeditions, and describes fairly fully the technique to be used in the astrophysical observations, which are concerned largely with the corona. Finally, P. Tverskoy discusses the geophysical problems to be investigated: mainly the radio exploration of high atmospheric levels in order to determine the relative importance of corpuscular and ultra-violet radiation there; secondly, the investigation of the effect on the solar radiation of the various parts of the atmosphere, including its lower layers; and lastly, an attack on the inverse problem, namely, how the eclipse affects physical conditions in the lower atmosphere. No detailed results have yet reached Great Britain, but a preliminary note (*J. Phys. U.S.S.R.*, **6**, 1; 1942) gives ground for hope that much of the work planned was in fact carried out successfully.

Typhus in Palestine

ACCORDING to the *Lancet* of October 16, there have been 23 deaths from an outbreak of typhus during the past eight months in Palestine. The southern districts were chiefly affected, and the Department of Health has prepared special delousing units and portable showers for use in future cases. The disease is thought to have been introduced from neighbouring countries, especially Egypt. Murine typhus conveyed by rats is endemic in Palestine, but the present epidemic, which is more serious, is lice-borne and has not been seen in Palestine since the end of the War of 1914–18. A vaccine has been used with good effect, and a special laboratory for research and control of typhus has been opened under the charge of Prof. Kligler, head of the Department of Bacteriology and Hygiene (see also NATURE of November 27, p. 627).

South African Bored Stones

PART 4 of "The Bored Stones of Southern Africa" by A. J. H. Goodwin (Univ. of Cape Town: Comm. from the School of African Studies, Pt. 4. 2*s*.) has recently reached Great Britain. It deals with (*a*) the bored stones from the Cape of Good Hope and (*b*) certain elongated types. Together with the previous papers dealing with these special types of stone objects, this further statistical work will be very useful to the student of the Stone Age in South Africa.

University of Edinburgh

THE University of Edinburgh has received intimation of a bequest by Dr. William Llewellyn Pryce Bevan, of Alton, Hants, of approximately £22,000 for the promotion of the teaching or the advancement of medical science.

The Polish School of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh has added to its teaching staff Prof. Maria Gutowska (medicine) and Dr. A. Jablonski (natural philosophy).

Announcements

THE Committee of Privy Council for Medical Research has allowed amendments to the charter of the Medical Research Council, simplifying the rules governing the retirement of members of the latter body and increasing the number of members by one. By further Orders of the Committee of Privy Council, made after consultation with the president of the Royal Society and with the Medical Research Council, Prof. L. J. Witts, Nuffield professor of clinical medicine in the University of Oxford, and Prof. J. R. Learmonth, surgeon to H.M. Medical Household in Scotland, professor of surgery in the University of Edinburgh, and surgeon-in-ordinary, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, have been appointed to be members of the Medical Research Council.

THE Finney-Howell Research Foundation, Inc., announces that all applications for fellowships for next year must be filed in the office of the Foundation, 1211 Cathedral Street, Baltimore, Maryland, by January 1, 1944. This Foundation was provided for in the will of the late Dr. George Walker of Baltimore for the support of "research work into the cause or causes and the treatment of cancer". Fellowships carrying an annual stipend of 2,000 dollars are awarded for the period of one year, with the possibility of renewal up to three years.

DR. F. W. EDRIDGE-GREEN has pointed out that it is incorrect to attribute to Theodor Engelmann the discovery of the cones and pigment cells of the retina (NATURE, Nov. 13, p. 560). Engelmann's most important work was the discovery of the movements of Deiter's cells and the pigment cells of the retina under the influence of light. Kölliker described the rods and cones of the retina in 1854.