

### Agricultural Scholarships

THE Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries invites applications for ten senior scholarships, tenable at agricultural colleges or university departments of agriculture, for diploma or degree courses in an agricultural subject or at veterinary colleges for courses in veterinary science; and for six extended junior scholarships (for those who have already held junior awards), and thirty junior scholarships, tenable at farm institutes or similar institutions, for courses not exceeding a year in duration, in agriculture, horticulture, dairying or poultry husbandry. The scholarships are open to the sons and daughters of agricultural workmen or of working bailiffs, smallholders and other rural workers whose means and method of livelihood are comparable with those of agricultural workmen, and to persons who are themselves *bona fide* workers in agriculture. The value of the awards is such that neither the recipients nor their parents are normally required to make any contribution towards the cost of training provided. The usual method of selection is by interview, no written examination being held. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the Ministry, Block 4, Bickenhall Mansions, Baker Street, London, W.1, or from the offices of County Councils. The latest date for submitting applications is April 30.

### Recent Earthquakes

DURING December 1943, twenty-eight earthquakes were registered by the seismographs at the geophysical observatory at Toledo in Spain. The greatest of these occurred on December 1, and registered at 10h. 47m. 14s. from an epicentre some 87.2° distant from Toledo. The depth of focus has been estimated to have been 150 km. and the earthquakes gave rise to amplitudes of 130  $\mu$  at Toledo. The nearest earthquake to Toledo during the month occurred on December 31, registering at 19h. 29m. 24s. from an epicentre 240 km. distant. The next nearest occurred on December 26 from an epicentre approximately 470 km. distant. This last epicentre may have been in the Pirineos Centrales.

During December 1943, thirteen strong earthquakes were registered on the seismographs in New Zealand. The following had their epicentres tentatively determined at the Dominion Observatory, Wellington: (1) December 1, New Guinea region; (2) December 2, south of Kermadec; (3) December 23, New Guinea-Solomons region; (4) December 24, New Guinea-Solomons region (two shocks); (6) December 27, near latitude 36° S., longitude 175° W.; (7) December 30, Kermadec region. Additionally, twelve earthquakes were reported as felt during the month in New Zealand. The greatest of these was scale V (modified Mercalli) and happened in the neighbourhood of Whangamomona on December 3. This shock was also felt near Taumaranui.

### Training for the Chemical Industries

IN an address to the London Section of the British Association of Chemists on March 4, Dr. T. J. Drakeley, principal of the Northern Polytechnic, made a strong plea for a recognized system of technical education in Britain on an equal footing with more academic subjects. He attributed the industrial decline of Great Britain—instanced by the dyestuffs and coke industries—to the lack of such a system of

technical training, in contrast to the highly developed system of technical high schools on the Continent, such as those at Delft, Zurich, Stockholm and Charlottenburg. He criticized the report of the Chemistry Education Advisory Board for stipulating that the study of a branch of applied chemistry should always be preceded by a three-year degree course in pure science. He maintained it is impossible to justify the view that the metal chemist and the rubber chemist should have the same basic training. It is only on the basis of a trained personnel that the chemical industries can regain world markets, revive British prestige and pass into a prosperous period of progress.

### Royal Society of Edinburgh Awards

THE following awards have been made by the Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh: Keith Prize for the period 1941-43, to Prof. James Ritchie, professor of natural history, University of Edinburgh, for his papers in the *Proceedings* of the Society within the period of the award and in recognition of his distinguished contributions to natural history; Neill Prize for the period 1941-43, to Dr. Douglas A. Allan, director of Liverpool Public Museums for his papers on "The Geology of the Highland Border Region", published in the *Transactions* of the Society.

### Announcements

THE Council of the Iron and Steel Institute has awarded the Bessemer Gold Medal for 1944 to Mr. Essington Lewis, director-general of munitions and director-general of aircraft production for Australia, formerly of the Broken Hill Proprietary Co., Ltd., in recognition of his outstanding services to the iron and steel industry of Australia.

MR. JOHN G. WINANT, American Ambassador in Great Britain, on March 31 presented the Charles P. Daly Medal and the Cullum Medal of the American Geographical Society to Sir Halford Mackinder, formerly professor of geography in the University of London, and Mr. Arthur R. Hinks, secretary of the Royal Geographical Society, respectively.

PROF. J. M. MACKINTOSH, since 1941 professor of preventive medicine in the University of Glasgow, has been appointed as from October 1 to the University chair of public health tenable at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He was formerly chief medical officer to the Department of Health for Scotland.

SIR AUREL STEIN, who died on October 26, bequeathed his collection of Oriental manuscripts, notebooks of travels, and written papers of a scientific character to the library of the Indian Institute at the University of Oxford, and residue, subject to life interests, to form the Stein-Arnold Fund for exploration of the ancient civilizations of India, China and Iran.

THE following degrees have been conferred by the University of Aberdeen: *D.Sc.*: G. H. Rawcliffe, for a thesis on "Some Current, Voltage and Power Relations for Complex Mercury Arc Rectifiers"; *M.D.*: S. A. B. Black, for a thesis on "The Environmental Health of British Merchant Seamen".

ERRATUM. In NATURE of March 18, p. 351, the price of the report on Polyzoa issued by the Discovery Committee should read 35s. net, not 9d. net as printed.