

Dr. Moore to become the first director, a post which he still holds. He has served for some twenty-five years on committees of the British Standards Institution dealing with subjects related to instruments and to glasses for a variety of purposes; and since 1933 on the inter-departmental committee on optical glass set up by the three Service Departments. In April 1944 Dr. Moore was elected to the presidency of the Society of Glass Technology, and has been nominated for a second year of office. Dr. Moore, with his wise and genial personality and his wide experience of glass and its manifold applications, is an excellent choice for the variety of important activities centred in the work of the Department of Glass Technology of the University of Sheffield.

#### Fisheries Adviser at the Colonial Office:

Mr. C. F. Hickling

THE Secretary of State for the Colonies has appointed Mr. C. F. Hickling to be his fisheries adviser. This is the first time that the position has been filled on a permanent and full-time basis, Mr. Hickling's predecessor, Dr. E. S. Russell, having acted in a part-time capacity during a period of approximately two years. The possibilities for development and research in Colonial fisheries are very considerable, and the post of fisheries adviser is one of great opportunity. Mr. Hickling, who will take up his duties immediately, will be assisted and supported in his task by the Colonial Fisheries Advisory Committee which was appointed in 1943.

After taking his degree at Cambridge, Mr. Hickling engaged in postgraduate research at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Plymouth, and the Department of Oceanography, University of Liverpool, and in 1927 was appointed to the fishery research staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, in which he rose to the rank of senior naturalist. His work as a fishery investigator was of a high order; he published in several parts an excellent monograph on the hake and the hake fisheries, on which he became an acknowledged authority, together with many other papers on cognate subjects. His Buckland Lectures on the hake were published in 1934. During the War he has been acting as port fishery captain at Milford Haven with conspicuous success, and he has also found time to make a statistical study of the effects of the War upon the hake stocks, as yet unpublished.

#### Colonial Medical Research Committee

THE Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Medical Research Council have jointly created a Colonial Medical Research Committee to advise them on medical research for the benefit of Colonial territories. It is constituted as follows: Sir Edward Mellanby, secretary of the Medical Research Council (chairman); Colonel J. S. K. Boyd; Prof. P. A. Buxton, professor of entomology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; Dr. A. N. Drury, director of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine; Brigadier N. Hamilton Fairley; Dr. W. H. Kauntze, chief medical adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies; Prof. B. G. Maegraith, professor of tropical medicine at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine; Dr. B. S. Platt, director of the Human Nutrition Research Unit, Medical Research Council; and Major-General Sir John Taylor. The secretary of the Committee is Dr. F. Hawking, of the National Institute for Medical Research, London, N.W.3.

#### Restoration of Pulkovo and Kiev Observatories

A FIVE-YEAR plan for rebuilding the famous observatory at Pulkovo on the outskirts of Leningrad is announced by the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. The main building is to be restored as it was originally, and such of the valuable equipment and instruments as were removed to safety before the Germans began the bombardment of the besieged city will be installed again. The Observatory was completely destroyed, and the cost of reinstatement is estimated as 137 million roubles. The world-renowned library could not be removed in time, and many irreplaceable books and manuscripts are lost to posterity. Adequate provision to restock the library includes the earmarking of 200,000 dollars for purchases abroad. Plans for work in the future suggest that the character of the institution is not to be changed: both fundamental astronomical work and astrophysical researches will be undertaken.

At Kiev, where less damage was done, work is so far advanced that this year's centenary of the foundation of the Observatory should see the whole of the staff back at work in a reconstructed establishment. With more warning of what was coming than their Pulkovo colleagues, the Ukrainian astronomers were able to transport most of the instrumental equipment to Sverdlovsk, 3,000 km. to the east, where they were given refuge during the occupation. On their return they found the observatory buildings empty, plundered and partly ruined by the fleeing Nazi army. Rebuilding has proceeded at such a speed, however, that new pavilions already house the 257-mm. refractor and the 120-mm. meridian circle, and regular observations and instruction have started again. Extensions on which work has already begun include a building for a proposed big modern refractor, an astrophysical laboratory and a deep basement for seismic work.

#### Technical Education in Scotland

SCOTLAND, a country that has long been education-conscious, is fully alive to the importance of technical education in modern social life, and the Interim Report on Technical Education recently issued by the Special Committee of the Advisory Council on Education in Scotland (H.M. Stationery Office, Edinburgh, 3*d.*) advocates national planning on an extensive scale in order to bring training facilities within the reach of all. The core of the planning consists in the proposed establishment of a National Advisory Council for Technical Education, and four regional advisory councils (with a fifth for the Highlands, if necessary), all fully representative of industrial, commercial and educational interests, in order to survey both national and local requirements and to co-ordinate development schemes. The needs of part-time as well as full-time students have been considered in connexion with the organization of central institutions and local technical colleges, the former capable of dealing with work of the most advanced type and in some cases performing the functions of peak institutions for specialized subjects; technical instruction is also envisaged in the new colleges for compulsory further education of young persons and in voluntary day and evening classes where technical colleges cannot be established. It is realized that the new proposals will involve heavy financial commitments, and the National Council would therefore be required to make recommendations to the Secretary of State as to expenditure that is desirable. The proposals in the report are on a bold scale and well

calculated to produce a system of technical education to match the great literary and academic achievements of Scotland, which have perhaps in the past tended to obscure the activities of the technician, the artisan and the craftsman.

### A National Health Service

IN "Health Abounding", issued by the Social Credit Party, 2 Fitzroy Street, London, W.1, Dr. A. T. Westlake describes the aims of the health service which is planned by the Social Credit Party. Dr. Westlake begins with some telling remarks about our existing health services and about the Government's proposals for a national health service. Our existing health services are complex and confused, and we fail to apply the knowledge that we possess. Health is largely dependent on our ability to pay for it, in spite of numerous charities and the altruism of the medical profession. Our existing health organization has, Dr. Westlake thinks, produced a magnificent service; but it contains fatal flaws, the most glaring of which is the making of a living out of ill-health. The Government's proposals for a national health scheme and the Beveridge proposals have brought matters to a head. All seem to be agreed that the future medical service will be a complete and comprehensive one covering everybody, but the problem is how best to create it. The Medical Practitioners' Union, the Socialist Medical Association and several other bodies advocate a State Medical Service; the British Medical Association seeks a compromise between the old system and the new proposals. A State medical service under present conditions can only mean, Dr. Westlake argues, rigid control of both medical man and patient, with strict certification. The Government's White Paper is not a health scheme, but a medical and sickness service; it is not a free service, for it is to be paid for by taxation, rates and social insurance. The only basis upon which can we have a free State medical service which leaves the medical man a free agent is, Dr. Westlake thinks, the Social Credit System.

The two main objects of this health service would be the health of the community organized into the cure, annihilation and prevention of disease and the promotion and maintenance of health; and the well-being and skill of all those who work in the health service. Curative work will for some time engage most of its attention, because of the gigantic proportions of the disease problem. No one is likely to object to Dr. Westlake's excellent suggestions under this heading. He would treat the mind as well as the body, deal drastically with the patent medicine racket and create real health centres which would cater primarily for the healthy and only secondarily for the diseased, for whom curative centres would be provided. Dr. Westlake here draws much on the experience of the Peckham Health Centre, which has provided valuable information. Prevention of disease depends on the abolition of poverty and on proper feeding, proper housing and elimination of industrial over-fatigue. These are the problems of social medicine, which is vitally important. Problems of immunization and health education are also discussed. In his discussion of health, Dr. Westlake again refers to the work of the Peckham Health Centre. Not everyone will agree with the development of this section of the pamphlet, or with Dr. Westlake's conception of a medical guild for the promotion of health and well-being. The General Medical Council exists for the protection, not of the

medical profession, but of the public. Dr. Westlake would add to its functions the welfare and interests of the medical men also. Further sections of his pamphlet deal with administration, finance, hospitals and other details.

### The Case for 'Planning'

THESE pamphlets issued by the Cheam Architectural Press (price 6d. each) in "The Planning Bogies" series are too good to be popular. Those who dislike Prof. H. J. Laski are unlikely to be pleased with the way in which in "Will Planning Restrict Freedom?" he disposes of the bogie of bureaucracy, and the more ardent planners may be restive under his trenchant delineation of the conditions which planning machinery must serve in a democracy—his insistence on the participation of the ordinary citizen is, moreover, reflected in the other pamphlets. Mr. E. S. Watkins in "How Will Planning Affect Land Ownership?" deals with nationalization; but the pamphlet also gives an admirably lucid explanation of the existing land ownership system in Britain and of proposals for reform as contained in the Uthwatt Report and elsewhere. The broad objectives of land control—to ensure both the best economic and the best social use of our land and resources—are well stated, and also the basic requirements of control; they lead to concrete suggestions as to the composition and areas of planning authorities and amendments to the Town and Country Planning Act, which would transfer the responsibility for planning from the existing local government authorities to *ad hoc* area planning committees.

Mr. E. F. Schumacher, in examining the question "What Will Planning Mean in Terms of Money?", discusses first the case for physical planning; he believes that, when the social costs of unplanned development are taken into account, the question becomes rather whether we can afford to do without planning. Emphasizing the growing divergence between private and social costs, he examines the case for housing in further detail, and argues that physical planning is the pre-condition for the successful pursuit of a housing programme such as the Government is preparing to inaugurate. Without it a steady effective demand cannot be maintained, the programme will be wasteful and head for an early collapse.

### New Electron Microscope for Canada

THE National Research Council of Canada announces the installation of the latest type of electron microscope in its Ottawa laboratories. This instrument and one developed in the Physics Department of the University of Toronto are the first electron microscopes to be used in Canada. A third microscope will be installed shortly at McGill University in Montreal. Plans to purchase this modern research instrument were made a year ago when the Council sent two physicists to the United States to study the available types. After the new R.C.A. Universal model was selected, priority application was made to the United States War Production Board, which scheduled delivery for January 1945. The Division of Physics and Electrical Engineering has provided laboratory space for the microscope and assigned a physicist in the Radiology Section to take charge of it. It is hoped to make this new electron microscope as widely available in Canada as possible to all Government laboratories and to those industries having suitable problems.