NEWS and VIEWS

Central Advisory Water Committee

THE Minister of Health, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Section 2 of the Water Act, 1945, has appointed the following to constitute the Central Advisory Water Committee: Mr. Henry Berry, M.P., chairman, Metropolitan Water Board; Col. F. Hibbert, M.P., chief engineer, Liverpool Corporation Waterworks; Mr. Philip Porteous, managing director, Cambridge University and Town Waterworks Company; Alderman N. F. S. Winter, Halifax Town Council; Sir Wynne Cemlyn-Jones, Anglesey County Council; Mr. J. Chaston, town clerk, Kettering; Sir Robert Doncaster, representing the Rural District Councils Association; Mr. J. E. James, Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.; Mr. H. Johnson, secretary, Bleachers Association, Ltd.; Mr. S. R. Hobday, director and general manager, Lee Conservancy Board; Mr. M. Kissane, secretary, Manchester Ship Canal Company; Capt. Jocelyn Bray, chairman, Thames Conservancy Board; Mr. G. A. Worth, Soham Internal Drainage Board; Sir Cecil Newman, acting chairman, National Association of Fishery Boards; Mr. J. N. McLean, vice-president, National Farmers' Union; Sir Arthur Heneage; Mrs. E. M. Braddock, M.P.; Mr. D. McAdam Eccles, M.P.; Lord Rae; and Lord Walkden.

The Committee's terms of reference are to advise the Minister of Health, or any other Minister concerned, upon matters connected with the conservation and use of water resources; on the amendment of enactments which relate to, or in any way affect, the conservation or use of water resources or the provision of water supplies; and on any question that may be referred to the Committee by the Minister in connexion with the operation, or proposed amendment, of relevant enactments. It will also consider the operation of any such enactments, and, where it thinks fit, make recommendations for their extension or modification. Any communication concerning the work of the Committee should be addressed to the secretary, Mr. M. R. P. Gregson, at the Ministry of Health.

Jet-Propelled Tailless Aircraft

FOLLOWING the tailless glider produced by Messrs. Armstrong Whitworth for experimental work leading to high-speed stratosphere flight, Messrs. De Havilland have now completed a similar aircraft, powered with a "Goblin" gas turbine developing about 12,000 h.p. at the speeds of flight attained. The "Goblin" turbo-jet unit is also Messrs. De Havilland's own design. It is the only jet-propelled aircraft with pronounced swept-back wings that has flown up to the present. It is anticipated that speeds up to 675 miles per hour may be reached. The machine is a logical development of the De Havilland jet-propelled "Vampire", which is now in production and supplied to the fighting services.

Mr. Wilmot, Minister of Supply, at a recent Press conference, announced that there are seven types of civil aircraft now being produced in Great Britain for gas turbine propulsion. These correspond to the types suggested to Parliament by the Brabazon Committee. The designing and constructing firms are Messrs. Bristol, Airspeed, Vickers, Handley Page, A. V. Roe, De Havilland and Miles. There are also many R.A.F. and F.A.A. equipment types in the hands of these and other firms. Mr. E. F. Relf, giving the Wilbur Wright Lecture before the Royal Aeronautical Society, said that steps are being taken to try out a new type of wing suitable for this class of aircraft. The wing shape is based upon the idea of deliberately creating a sudden discontinuity of velocity and pressure at suitable sites on the wing surface, and introducing an artificially created suction at these points. This may help in the solution of the problem of overcoming the 'shock stall' at very high speeds.

Science in Post-Primary Education

A REPORT with this title is the second part of the report published as an interim report in June 1944, by the Association of Women Science Teachers. Whereas the interim report was concerned with post-primary science from eleven to sixteen years, the second report completes the work by consideration of sixth-form science, part-time education in science, the training of teachers, administrative problems and sixteen special topics of a utilitarian nature and of special value and interest to those planning laboratories or running a science department. These two reports, published by John Murray at 1*s.* 3*d.* and 2*s.* net each, should be in the hands of all those whose minds are awake to the vast possibilities of science-teaching within the new Education Act. While stressing the need for less specialization in sixth-form work, the second report considers separately the general scientific education of all sixth-form pupils, the science specialists and those who may best be described as the general group of pupils in the sixth form. It is urged that all sixth-form pupils should meet together once a week to study current affairs, which includes topics of scientific interest as well as those of an economic and political aspect. Arts students will need a special science course of two periods a week, the counterpart of the special English course for the scientists. A suggested time-table for these various groups is given. The work provided in the county colleges, on a basis of one day a week attendance, should cater for pupils with varied aptitudes and attainments. A tentative scheme which recognizes the need for such a variety of science courses is given: flexibility is the key-note. The chapter on the training of teachers urges that good general science courses should be provided for suitable students in the training colleges and that sufficient time should be allowed in teaching practice to acquire a reasonable amount of technical skill. Graduates trained in the university training departments need opportunities for first-hand study of the children they are going to teach.

There are brief but useful references to sizes of classes in a laboratory, to laboratory assistance and to the necessary free time of science teachers. The appendixes should guide many when faced with the problems of planning of a general science syllabus, of equipping a general science laboratory down to the smallest detail, of keeping an eye on the administrators and builders. They should assist the young teacher with concrete help, while keeping the ideals of social general science before him; they should provide a concise reference of many topics to a busy head of department. The chapters on laboratories and adjuncts, on essential equipment, on visual aids, fire precautions and first aid are extremely valuable. The Association of Women Science Teachers has done a good piece of work in publishing so much useful material in convenient form. It is helpful to