The Commission emphasizes the need for a good library, though it will probably inevitably be a small one. The need for carefully considered medical arrangements, including a sick-bay for students, is fully discussed. A warden in charge is recommended; but a vice-warden is not considered essential unless the hall accommodates more than 150 students. Members of the university or college staff should not be admitted as residents unless they are prepared to assist in the creation of an academic and friendly atmosphere. Domestic administration should be in the hands of a bursar; it should not be left to the warden. General opinion favoured 100–150 as the most satisfactory number of students; though there are arguments for smaller units, mainly on grounds of congeniality.

The Report will prove of considerable value to academic and other authorities who are considering constructing halls of residence, and those who are interested in halls already in existence will read it with profit. Literary quotations in a factual report of this sort seem out of place; in fact, that introducing the index is fatuous.

Amalgamation of Instrument Makers: Hilger and Watts, Ltd.

THE well-known instrument makers Messrs E. R. Watts and Son, Ltd., and Adam Hilger, Ltd., are being formed into one company registered as Hilger and Watts, Ltd. Watts was founded in 1856 and has specialized in the manufacture of surveying and engineers' measuring instruments, while Hilger, started in 1874, has built up a world reputation for instruments for research and industry. The products of the two firms are complementary to some extent, and the instruments developed by Hilger for chemical, biological and medical research are closely related with the products of James Swift and Son, Ltd., microscope makers, who are a subsidiary of Watts. The resources for research which have been at the service of Hilger and Watts respectively, and to which their success has been largely due, will be combined. The board of directors of the new Company is an amalgamation of the boards of Hilger and Watts, namely, G. A. Whipple, who has been managing director of Watts and Hilger since 1939 and 1946 respectively (chairman and managing director); F. Twyman (technical adviser); Dr. A. C. Menzies (controller of research); D. R. Stanley (controller of sales); V. W. H. Towns (technical controller); R. H. Watts (assistant controller of sales). Hilger and Watts, Ltd., will employ 1,300 people in the six existing factories. A new factory in the Greater London area has been planned and approved.

Export Organisation for British Scientific Instruments

SCIENTIFIC EXPORTS (GREAT BRITAIN), LTD., Buckingham House, Buckingham Street, London, W.C.2, is a co-operative marketing organisation set up by a group of British firms specializing in the production of high-quality scientific and surgical equipment. Through its world-wide agency, customers will be able to obtain from one source a very wide range of the finest equipment available. For circulation abroad, the organisation is issuing an illustrated bulletin, the first number of the technical series of which has recently been received. The bulletin is intended to supply regular and up-to-date information of progress in the above fields, and will include detailed descriptions of products, techniques, and developments in the spheres covered by the manufacturing members of the group of manufacturers involved. The members introduced in the first number are Allen and Hanburys, Ltd., founded in 1715 and famous for their pharmaceutical products; Baird and Tatlock (London), Ltd., laboratory suppliers for more than fifty years; W. Edwards and Co. (London), Ltd., high-vacuum specialists; Adam Hilger, Ltd., founded in 1874 and specialists in spectroscopes and astronomical instruments; Hopkins and Williams, Ltd., who have been engaged in the manufacture of fine chemicals for nearly a century; W. Watson and Sons, Ltd., founded in 1837 and chiefly noted for microscopes; and E. R. Watts and Son, Ltd., established in 1857, and makers of theodolites, levels and other surveying equipment.

Animal Health in British Guiana

A REPORT on British Guiana, by Prof. W. C. Miller, forming part of a survey of animal husbandry, feeding, management and veterinary services in the West Indies, has been issued as Bulletin 19A of the series "Development and Welfare in the West Indies" (Bridgetown: Advocate Pub. Co., Ltd. 10 cents). Reviewing the general position of livestock, Prof. Miller points out that the running of estate dairies in the coastal belt has great potentialities from the point of view of improved human nutrition and of the general improvement of the livestock reservoir of the Colony, and suggestions are included both for a Government ranch and for a breeding policy for two types of herds. Stress is laid on the great potential asset of the cattle ranches; and in addition to proposals for changing the character of the breeding stock in the hinterlands, the report discusses transport of meat by air and the establishment of an abattoir. Dealing with peasant-owned livestock, Prof. Miller regards prospects for dairying as reasonably good; but now that extension of livestock production has been started, more adequate provision for control of disease and for improving animal health by the formation of a properly constituted veterinary service is imperative. In Prof. Miller's opinion, the minimum effective service would consist of one deputy director of agriculture, stationed in Georgetown, with two senior veterinary officers, one on the coastlands and the other in the Rupununi; two veterinary officers, one on the coast and the other available for emergency work; one senior and two other animal husbandry officers, one of whom would be stationed in the Rupununi or other part of the hinterland. Technical staff would also be required in the veterinary laboratory now being equipped. There is already more than sufficient work to keep such a staff fully employed, and basic agricultural education is also required at all levels. In particular, Prof. Miller directs attention to the question of scholarships for higher training in veterinary science and animal husbandry for locally born persons, and to the desirability of arrangements for periods of study-leave for officers already in the service to be spent at institutes investigating associated or cognate problems.

Lundy Field Society

THE first annual report of the Lundy Field Society, Lundy Island, shows that the year's working was more one of growth, exploration and experiment than of

achievement. The total membership is now 127, of whom thirty-four have visited and worked on Lundy during the season. Most of the work already attempted has been concerned with the building up of ornithological records, although the difficulty of maintaining a Heligoland-type trap on Lundy has meant that work on birds so far has been mainly carried out by observation. The report contains a full list of the species recorded and also an account of various ecological surveys begun in different terrestrial and freshwater habitats on the island.

National Museums of Ceylon

THE Administration Report of the Director of National Museums for 1946 (Ceylon Government Press, Colombo, 1947) gives news of the commencement of museum reconstruction in Ceylon. The Colombo Museum was derequisitioned by the military authorities in January 1946; but although the Public Works Department had the building under repair, it was not until the following July that any part of it was fit for the return of some of the Museum's collections. In spite of this and other difficulties, however, it is recorded that when part of the building was reopened there were 22,128 visitors to it between December 20 and 30 of the same year. Reference is made in this section of the report to the requisitioning of show cases by the military authorities in 1942; of the 262 taken over, only 85 were returned fit for use. To replace those lost, orders have been placed with the Crown Agents to the sum of Rs. 91,950, while a further sum of Rs. 41,850 was assigned to the Government Factory Engineer "for building show cases locally, with what was left of the glass that was removed from the original show cases at the time of requisitioning". One is left wondering to what use military authority could have put museum exhibition cases that they suffered so much damage. A new south wing to the Kandy Museum is under construction, and what is left of the King's Palace will be converted into a part of the same Museum. A special strong room will house the Sinhala Regalia. The Ratnapura Museum was reopened to the public in April 1946, while the Jaffna Museum was expected to reopen in July 1947. Under the different museum headings, the report includes long lists of acquisitions made during the year under review.

Standardization of Micro-film Technique

BRITISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION 1371 : 1947 for microfilm, readers and reels has been produced in co-operation with the American Standards Association's Committee, and American standards about to be published will provide equivalents to B.S. 1371, so that microfilms made in Great Britain should be capable of satisfactory projection on a reader made in the Commonwealth or in the United States and vice versa. The specification covers 16 mm. and 35 mm. microfilm readers and reels for processed microfilm, each in a separate section. The first section specifies the stock to be used, dimensions, method of winding, the leader trailer and title frame, as well as the arrangement of images and correct sequence of pages for convenient reproduction. Essential dimensions for microfilm readers are specified in the next section, as well as other features for satisfactory reproduction, including the type of lens and magnification and the limiting temperature for the film in the gate, a method of measuring which is described in an appendix. Dimensions and features of reels for processed microfilm are specified in the third section. Standardization along the lines indicated in this specification and the three forthcoming American standards should materially assist the satisfactory use of microfilm and its extension to further fields.

Growth and Nature of Egyptology

AT long last the University of Cambridge has a chair of Egyptology, and Prof. S. R. K. Glanville's inaugural address has been published (London: Camb. Univ. Press. Pp. 37. 1*s.* 6*d.* net). The subject has for some time been taught officially in London, Oxford, Liverpool and Manchester; but although so late in the creation of a chair, Prof. Glanville directs attention to three eminent Cambridge men—C. W. Goodwin, E. A. Wallis Budge and Sir Herbert Thompson—who played a big part in the building up of the subject. Actually, it is owing to the generosity of the last of this trio that the creation of the present chair has been made possible. Prof. Glanville continues with a brief survey of the subject under the three headings: monuments, antiquities and writings. He concludes with a strong plea that Egyptology, although not of immediate use like engineering and medicine, yet has its place in the teaching of a great university; he ends with a quotation from Housman: "The pursuit of knowledge, like the pursuit of righteousness, is part of man's duty to himself".

Society of Engineers: Awards

AT the inaugural meeting for 1948 of the Society of Engineers (Inc.), the first award was made of the Simms Gold Medal, established under a bequest by the late F. R. Simms, for "a paper or lecture describing a new technical discovery, an outstanding invention, or the results of useful research work". The medal was presented to Mr. J. G. Milton for his paper on "Research and New Developments in Water Treatment". Other awards were as follows: Bessemer Premium to Mr. C. D. Mitchell, for his paper on "Prefabricated Pre-cast Concrete Structures"; Nursey Premium to Mr. R. Cecil Smart, for his paper on "Industrial Organisation as a Factor in Productive Efficiency"; Bernays Premium to Mr. Bernard Payne, for his paper on "Water Supply Engineering". Two other papers, namely, "The Engineer and the Law", by C. L. Boucher, and "Liquid Springs", by R. H. Bound, were of particular merit; but their authors, as members of Council of the Society, were ineligible for awards, and they were presented with certificates under seal. The new president of the Society is Mr. E. E. Turner, formerly chief engineer to H.M. Airship *R.*34, and an authority on high-speed engine lubrication.

Research on the Biochemistry of Brain Tissue

THE Rockefeller Foundation has given £9,000 for research at the Neuropsychiatric Research Centre at Whitchurch Hospital, Cardiff, for research on the normal and pathological biochemistry of brain tissue under the direction of Dr. Derek Richter. Whitchurch Hospital is one of the leading hospitals in Britain for the investigation and treatment of mental disorders, and a Neuropsychiatric Research Centre has recently been established for which the present grant has been made. The magnitude of the problem of nervous and mental disease in Britain alone is not generally recognized. There are more hospital beds occupied by mental patients than by all other diseases put together, and the annual cost of upkeep