

The Foreign Office announces the publication and distribution of the first volumes of the "FIAT Review of German Science", compiled by German experts under the direction of the British, American and French Field Intelligence Agencies (Technical). The Review is written in German and covers fundamental research in pure science during the years 1939-46. By agreement between the British, American and French agencies, the first printing is a restricted edition for official distribution between the three Allies and U.N.E.S.C.O. The British share of about 250 sets will be issued to Government and other bodies within the Commonwealth, to universities and medical schools and to the libraries of certain learned and professional societies. It is hoped that the edition will be completed within the next six months. The Allied edition of the FIAT Review will be followed by a German edition. The latter, also printed in German, will be published by Dieterich'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Wiesbaden, Germany, and will be obtainable through normal trade channels. It is understood that volumes will not be sold separately but only in sets comprising the titles under the headings physics, chemistry, mathematics, medicine, biology and sciences of the earth.

Eclipse Observations for Geodesy

It is now possible to amplify the brief reference in *Nature* of February 7 (p. 196) to the application to geodesy of the times of contact to be observed at different stations on the track of the annular eclipse of May 8-9, 1948. The first suggestion that such observations might provide information as to the earth's shape over areas where geodetic triangulation is impracticable was made by Mr. G. E. Barton (*Mon. Not. Roy. Ast. Soc.*, **64**, 105; 1926). His observations at Benkoelen at the eclipse of January 14, 1926, were spoilt by an unfortunate accident, but the idea was afterwards adopted, and expeditions from a number of countries used improved methods of time determination of such observations at the total eclipses of 1945 and 1947 by parties well separated in longitude. For the annular eclipse of next May, the National Geographic Society of the United States has prepared an elaborate scheme of observations at seven ground stations from Mergui in southern Burma to Kiska in the Aleutians. These will be supplemented by observations from aeroplanes of the U.S. Air Force; photographs of the eclipse will be taken from above the clouds from positions determined by short-range radar navigational methods.

The U.S. Army's Map Service, Engineer and Signal Corps, the U.S. Navy, Air Force, Bureau of Standards, Coast and Geodetic Survey and State Department will co-operate with the National Geographic Society in the scheme. The leaders of the different parties are to be as follows: at Mergui, Mr. E. A. Halbach; at Bangkok, Prof. Charles H. Smiley with Prof. C. W. Miller; at Wu-K'ang, China, Father Francis J. Heyden with Dr. V. C. Chang; at Cho-nan, Korea, Dr. George van Biesbroeck; at Kiska and Adak, Lieut.-Cmdr. Clarence R. Reed and Mr. Clarence A. Shelton; while at the Japanese island of Rebun Jima there will be a Japanese astronomer selected by Prof. Hagihara, of the Tokyo Observatory. This marks a welcome move towards international co-operation in science between Japan and the United States. Measurements of the times of contact will be made by photographing the eclipse on 35-mm. sound motion pictures which will record the ticks of a chronometer on the sound track. The chronometers will be

checked and rated from radio time-signals. The techniques which make these observations practicable have been developed to a high degree of efficiency in the last twelve years.

Journal of the Institute of Navigation

THE recently founded Institute of Navigation, the headquarters of which for the present are at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, London, S.W.7, has issued the first number of its quarterly *Journal* (London: J. Murray. 25s. per annum). The object of the Institute is to unite those interested in the science and art of navigation, both by sea and in the air. Fellows are those who are either professional navigators or who have made outstanding contributions to the science of navigation; members are those who are generally interested. The Astronomer Royal is president of the Institute, and he has contributed to the new *Journal* an introductory address on the development of navigation. Other articles are on radio aids to navigation, consol, pressure pattern flying and many other topics. The new ocean weather service also finds a place: its ships, equipment and tasks are explained. The *Journal* promises to be a useful addition to the list of scientific periodicals.

Plant Disease Charts

PLANT PROTECTION, LTD., has recently issued two useful wall charts illustrating common and important crop diseases and pests. Both charts are beautifully produced in colour, depicting parts of the plants diseased and the insects where such are concerned. One is entitled "Some Crop Pests and Diseases" and illustrates and describes the following: tomato blight, celery leaf-spot, celery leaf miner, cabbage white caterpillar, black aphid, potato blight, carrot fly, turnip flea beetle, onion mildew, chocolate spot of broad bean, mole cricket, locust, pea and bean weevil, leatherjacket, wireworm, cutworm. The other, "Pests and Diseases of Apples", deals with brown rot, woolly aphid, sucker, apple and pear scab, winter and March moths, sawfly, capsid bug, codling moth, apple blossom weevil and apple mildew. Methods of prevention or protection are shortly described in each case. These wall charts will be a valuable visual aid for schools and agricultural colleges and institutes, which can obtain copies free of charge from Plant Protection, Ltd., Yalding, Kent.

Biology of Lice

A SECOND edition of the booklet entitled "Lice" by Dr. John Smart, published as Economic Series No. 2A by the British Museum (Natural History) has recently appeared (British Museum (Natural History), London, S.W.7, 1948. 9d.). It deals with the incidence, development and habits of lice affecting man and the best methods for controlling these pests. During the six years interval that has elapsed since the appearance of the first edition of this booklet, much new knowledge concerning lice has come to hand, especially relative to control measures acquired during the War. Information on these and other features are incorporated in the new edition.

International Conference on the Physics of Metals

THE Netherlands Physical Society is organising an international conference on the physics of metals, to be held at Amsterdam during July 12-18, after the Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics. The provisional programme

includes general lectures by Dr. R. Kronig (Delft) on the electronic structure of metals; Prof. L. Pauling (Pasadena) on valency in metals; Dr. H. B. G. Casimir (Eindhoven) or Prof. C. J. Gorter (Leyden) on superconductivity; Sir Lawrence Bragg (Cambridge) on slip in metals; Prof. N. F. Mott (Bristol) on work hardening and creep in metals; H. Borelius (Stockholm) on transitions in super-cooled metallic solutions; A. Guinier (Paris) on precipitations in metals; Prof. W. G. Burgers (Delft) on crystal growth; Prof. J. H. van Vleck (Harvard) on fundamentals of ferromagnetism. The reception committee in Amsterdam is prepared to give advice and to make hotel reservations. Particulars of the conference can be obtained from Prof. C. J. Gorter, Kamerlingh Onnes Lab., Nieuwsteeg 18, Leyden.

Summer School in Chemistry at Dublin

A SUMMER SCHOOL IN CHEMISTRY is being arranged by the Irish Chemical Association and will be held in the Department of Chemistry, University College, Dublin, during July 5-9. Four courses of lectures will be given: "Some Recent Advances in Chemotherapy", by Dr. V. C. Barry, of the Medical Research Council of Ireland; "Recent Advances in the Determination of the Structure of Organic Compounds", by Prof. W. Cocker, professor of chemistry, Trinity College, Dublin; "Recent Advances in Biochemistry", by Prof. E. J. Conway, professor of biochemistry and pharmacology, University College, Dublin; "The Electronic Theory in Chemistry", by Prof. T. S. Wheeler, professor of chemistry, University College, Dublin. Particulars of the School can be obtained from the honorary secretary, Irish Chemical Association, The Laboratory, 12 Dawson Street, Dublin, to whom applications to attend must be sent not later than June 26.

British National Committee for Crystallography

THE Royal Society, as the national body adhering to the newly formed International Union of Crystallography, has recently set up a British National Committee for Crystallography under the chairmanship of Sir Lawrence Bragg. The members of the Committee are: Prof. W. T. Astbury, Prof. J. D. Bernal, Mrs. D. C. Hodgkin, Mrs. K. Lonsdale, Sir George Thomson, Prof. C. E. Tilley (all representing the Royal Society), Dr. G. M. Bennett (Chemical Society), Mr. D. A. Oliver (Institute of Metals), Prof. E. G. Cox (Institute of Physics), Dr. C. Sykes (Iron and Steel Institute), Dr. F. A. Bannister (Mineralogical Society), and Dr. H. Wilman (Physical Society). In addition to the above, Prof. P. P. Ewald, Dr. R. C. Evans and Dr. W. H. Taylor as members of the provisional executive committee of the International Union are *ex officio* members of the National Committee. The first General Assembly of the International Union of Crystallography is being held at Harvard University during July 28-August 3.

Royal Society of Edinburgh: New Fellows

THE following have been elected fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh: Sir Robert Allan, 41 N. Castle Street, Edinburgh 2; Prof. J. F. Allen, Department of Natural Philosophy, University of St. Andrews; Mr. Alexander Cullen, architect and town planning consultant; Dr. F. J. Elliott, head of the Department of Physiology, Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh; Dr. M. A. Ellison, principal scientific officer, Royal Observatory, Edinburgh; Major M. D. W. Elphinstone, Threeways, Highfield

Road, Chislehurst, Kent; Prof. T. H. Fraser, Department of Economics, Fouad I University, Cairo; Sir John Fryer, secretary of the Agricultural Research Council; Prof. T. N. George, Department of Geology, University of Glasgow; Dr. John Morrison Hay, deputy director and head of Engineering Division, Scottish Seaweed Research Association; Dr. J. F. Heggie, senior pathologist, North Middlesex County Hospital; Dr. G. O. T. D. Henderson, officer-in-charge, Oceanographic Laboratory, Leith; Dr. I. G. W. Hill, lecturer in pharmacology, University of Edinburgh; Dr. W. C. O. Hill, lecturer in physical anthropology, University of Edinburgh; Prof. E. L. Hirst, Department of Organic Chemistry, University of Edinburgh; Mr. E. P. Hudson, director, Scottish Agricultural Industries, Ltd., Leith; Prof. W. Q. Kennedy, Department of Geology, University of Leeds; Mr. J. Gibson Kerr, 51 Castle Street, Edinburgh 2; Dr. D. N. Lawley, lecturer in statistics, University of Edinburgh; Dr. T. N. MacGregor, lecturer in gynaecological endocrinology, University of Edinburgh; Dr. A. P. Orr, deputy director (senior principal scientific officer), Millport Laboratory, Scottish Marine Biological Association; Dr. R. Passmore, lecturer in clinical and industrial physiology, Department of Public Health and Social Medicine, University of Edinburgh; Dr. T. R. Tannahill, lecturer in astronomy, University of Glasgow; Dr. S. I. Tomkeieff, lecturer in geology, King's College (University of Durham), Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Prof. C. H. Waddington, Department of Animal Genetics, University of Edinburgh, director of the Genetics Laboratory of the Animal Breeding and Genetics Research Organisation of the Agricultural Research Council.

Announcements

THE James Tait Black Memorial Prize of the University of Edinburgh for 1947, awarded for a biography or work of that character, has been awarded to Dr. C. E. Raven, regius professor of divinity in the University of Cambridge, and master of Christ's College, for his book "English Naturalists from Neckham to Ray" (see this issue of *Nature*, p. 373).

DR. J. E. KEYSTON, formerly assistant director of scientific research, Admiralty, has been awarded the United States Medal of Freedom with Bronze Palm for promoting interchange of scientific and engineering information and collaborating with American research groups during the Second World War. The investiture took place in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. Dr. Keyston has recently been appointed research secretary of the Central African Council (see *Nature*, February 14, p. 230).

THE Committee of Privy Council for Medical Research has appointed Prof. H. P. Himsworth, professor of medicine in the University of London, to be a member of the Medical Research Council.

THE Council of the Royal Statistical Society offers the Frances Wood Memorial Prize, value £30, for competition in 1948. The Prize is offered for the best investigation, on statistical lines, of any problem bearing directly or indirectly upon the economic or social conditions of the people. Essays (which must be either printed or typed, and accompanied by copies of all statistical tabulations and diagrams) must be sent to the honorary secretaries of the Royal Statistical Society, 4 Portugal Street, W.C.2, not later than December 31, 1948.