

genuine need for corrosion specialists to-day, and when this need is realized by those in authority a demand is likely to arise for which no adequate supply exists in Great Britain. Dr. Evans gave examples from past work of the value of applying established scientific principles to the elucidation of corrosion problems. Much more remains to be done, and he said that the formation of the Corrosion Group marks a forward step of outstanding importance.

#### Birds of Trinidad and Tobago

ALTHOUGH several works describing the birds of the West Indies have been produced, none of them has dealt adequately with the birds of Trinidad and Tobago. The most comprehensive ornithological account of Trinidad and Tobago was that by Sir Charles Belcher and G. D. Smooker. Their work, however, was mainly concerned with nesting habits and not with descriptions of birds; it appeared in copies of the *Ibis* between 1934 and 1937 and is now difficult to obtain. To fill the gap, Father Raymund Devas has prepared a handbook of Trinidad and Tobago ornithology ("Visitors' Book of Birds") under the general headings of sea birds, birds of the land and some water birds. The descriptions are interspersed with light-hearted commentary which indicates the author's enthusiasm and keen interest in birds. In the absence of an agent in Great Britain, Mr. William J. Tull, of 96 Knightsway, Leeds, is acting as the medium for sales.

#### British Instrument Industries' Exhibition

IN the past, the various sections of the scientific instrument industry of Great Britain have exhibited their products under the aegis of a variety of organizations. Thus the Physical Society has fostered an exhibition, the background of which has been the immediate application of current scientific knowledge to instrument design; at the British Industries Fair, the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers' Association has organized a sectional exhibit of instruments, partly scientific and partly industrial; and sections of the industry have organized displays at the various industrial exhibitions. At the suggestion of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, it was thought appropriate, during this Festival year, to stage a comprehensive scientific instrument exhibition, covering every aspect of British scientific instrument manufacture. Five manufacturers' associations, generally known by their abbreviated titles of S.I.M.A., B.E.A.M.A., B.I.M.C.A.M., D.O.M.M.D.A. and B.L.S.G.M.A., have collaborated in staging, for the first time, a British Instrument Industries' Exhibition, which will take place at the National Hall, Olympia, during July 4-14. This will be the largest instrument exhibition ever held in Great Britain and will provide every user of instruments, whether he be concerned with research, testing, process control, or the teaching of science, with an opportunity of surveying the entire field of the use of instruments in our modern age.

#### International Radio Consultative Committee : Plenary Assembly in Geneva

THE sixth plenary assembly of the International Radio Consultative Committee (C.C.I.R.) will be held in Geneva during June 5-7. This meeting follows the previous assembly held in Stockholm in 1948 (see *Nature*, 163, 493; 1949) for the discussion of various technical problems on which recommendations are required to be submitted to the International

Telecommunications Union. The work of the Committee is divided among thirteen study groups which were set up at Stockholm to deal with such subjects as radio transmitters and receivers, propagation along the ground and through the troposphere and ionosphere, broadcasting and television, time signals and standard frequencies. In view of the international nature of radio communication, navigational aids and similar services, it is very desirable that there shall be general understanding, and, so far as possible, agreement on the technical features of the various systems and their capabilities, in order to secure the most efficient and economical use of the portions of the radio-frequency spectrum involved. Some of the subjects concerned are of considerable scientific interest, particularly in the fields of wave propagation, atmospheric and extra-terrestrial noise, and of standards and measurements; and in such cases adequate liaison arrangements have been established between the Committee and the International Scientific Radio Union (U.R.S.I.). In the case of Committee meetings, the United Kingdom delegation is formed under the auspices of the General Post Office, which is the administration responsible for telecommunications in Great Britain.

#### Second International Gerontological Congress

THE Second International Gerontological Congress, sponsored by the International Association of Gerontological Societies, the Gerontological Society, Inc., and the American Geriatrics Society, will be held at the Hotel Jefferson, St. Louis 3, Missouri, during September 9-14. The programme is divided into four sections, each under a director, as follows: (1) biology and medicine, J. E. B. Kirk, Department of Gerontology, Washington University Medical School, 5600 Arsenal Street, St. Louis 9, Mo.; (2) sociology, psychology, education and religion, Dr. R. J. Havighurst, Committee on Human Development, University of Chicago, Chicago 37, Ill.; (3) economics and welfare, Prof. E. E. Witte, Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.; (4) medical services, hygiene and housing, Dr. J. W. Mountin, associate chief, Bureau of Medical Services, U.S. Public Health Service, Washington, D.C. Dr. A. I. Lansing, Department of Anatomy, Washington University Medical School, 660 South Kingshighway, St. Louis 10, Mo., is the chairman of the committee on exhibits.

#### Society for the Bibliography of Natural History

THE annual general meeting of the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History was held in London on April 9 in the rooms of the Linnean Society. It was reported that the Society has had a successful year, and it is hoped to issue shortly, as part of the *Journal* of the Society, a bibliography of the Isoptera (1758-1949), by Francis Griffin. The following officers were elected: *President*, Dr. J. Ramsbottom; *Honorary Secretary and Treasurer*, A. C. Townsend, British Museum (Natural History), London, S.W.7; *Committee*, A. G. Davis, W. N. Edwards, Dr. F. C. Fraser, F. J. Griffin, W. T. Stearn and C. Kirke Swann.

#### Queen's University of Belfast : Appointments

C. F. CARTER, at present director of studies in economics at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, has been appointed to the chair of applied economics in the Queen's University of Belfast; Mr. Carter is joint editor of the London and Cambridge Economic Service and is in charge of the British Economic