

in 1947, but further development awaits the incorporation of the Society, which was still pending at the end of 1949. The interests of the local fauna are to a certain extent safeguarded by the Wild Animals and Birds (Protection) Ordinance, under which the conservator of forests is chief game warden; but it is becoming increasingly difficult to enforce the regulations and during 1949 poaching was widespread. This is an interesting report and must be a satisfaction to the conservator of forests, Mr. G. N. Sale, who is leaving the Colony on retirement.

#### Fish Collections from the Leeward and Line Islands

THE George Vanderbilt Pacific Equatorial Expedition of 1951, which was jointly sponsored by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the California Academy of Sciences, has recently completed a 3½-month cruise through the Hawaiian, Leeward and Line Islands, in which it obtained the largest fish collections as yet taken from the Leeward and Line Islands. The collections are being sorted at the California Academy of Sciences; reports on some of the groups will be made by Robert R. Harry, a graduate student in ichthyology of Stanford University, who was a member of the Expedition during the cruise through both sets of Islands, and other groups will be dealt with by Dr. Earl S. Herald, curator of aquatic biology, Steinhart Aquarium, California Academy of Sciences, who helped in the organization of the biological work and participated in the voyage through the Line Islands. Vernon E. Brock, director of the Hawaiian Division of Fish and Game, took part in the Leeward Islands cruise as the official observer of the territorial government. The Expedition was directed by George Vanderbilt.

#### German Hydrographic Institute, Hamburg: Report for 1950

THE fifth annual report of the German Hydrographic Institute (pp. 70+11 plates; Hamburg, 11: the Institute, 1951) gives an account of its activities during 1950, and is furnished with an extensive appendix which gives very comprehensive details of the publications issued by the Institute and its constituent parts during the year. The Institute, having been rated a 'Federal Superior Authority', was transferred on July 1 of the year to the sole control of the Federal Ministry of Transport. Consequent upon the re-birth of the German merchant fleet, the Department of Nautical Publications and Nautical Notices, in common with the Chart-Producing Establishment, had to meet greatly increased demands, and the same was true of all the Divisions of the Institute directly concerned with shipping requirements—the Tidal Service, the Division of Nautical Astronomy, the Time Service and, in particular, the Department of Nautical Engineering. The Institute's new survey and research vessel *Gauss* was commissioned early in the year, and in summer and autumn she made three cruises in the North Sea devoted to oceanographical and geological-morphological investigations. Among further oceanographical research work were theoretical and laboratory studies of wind-stress effects upon water-level, and investigations of the effects of tidal streams on the structure of the water column and on climate (in the latter connexion a paper by Dr. G. Dietrich was published in *Nature*, 168, 8; 1951). Investigations into the chemistry and geology of the sea were devoted in part to problems of hydrobiology and coast erosion, and in part

to problems facing the Ice Service of the Institute. The Geomagnetic Service was occupied with the design of geomagnetic charts to serve the needs of shipping, and with the elaboration of the numerous observations made at the Institute's magnetic observatory at Wingst.

#### Atomic Scientists Association

THE September issue of the *Atomic Scientists News* contains, in addition to a report of the annual meeting of the Atomic Scientists Association, an extract from Sir John Cockcroft's lecture on nuclear power which he delivered at the Naturvidenskabelige Samfund in April and an article by Prof. R. E. Peierls, in which he directs attention to the necessity of not allowing the long-term interests of science and of the community to be neglected in favour of immediate needs. At the annual general meeting of the Association, held in the Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford, on June 30, the main discussion was on the policy to be adopted by the Association towards matters having political implications. Lord Cherwell urged that it should refrain altogether from expressing views on political matters; but Prof. N. F. Mott and several other speakers disagreed and considered it important that the Association should provide, in its *News*, a forum in which such matters could be openly discussed. No formal decision was made; but the president indicated that the newly elected council would take careful notice of the views expressed by both sides. At the meeting, the following were elected to hold office for 1951–52: *President*, Prof. M. H. L. Pryce; *Executive Vice-President*, Prof. Kathleen Lonsdale; *Treasurer*, Dr. L. E. J. Roberts; *Honorary General Secretary*, Dr. J. L. Michiels; and *Editor of the News*, Dr. H. R. Allen.

#### British Glaciological Society: Officers for 1952

THE following have been elected officers for 1952 of the British Glaciological Society: *President*, G. Seligman; *Vice-Presidents*, J. M. Wordie, The Bishop of Portsmouth, Dr. K. Sandford and W. V. Lewis; *Honorary General Secretary*, A. H. Bolitho; *Honorary Assistant Secretary*, D. W. Humphries; *Honorary Meetings Secretary*, D. S. Brock; *Honorary Treasurer*, T. H. Best.

#### Announcements

THE annual conference of the Geographical Association will be held in the Main (Old) Building and the New Building of the London School of Economics, Houghton Street, Aldwych, London, W.C.2, during January 1–4, 1952. In addition, the annual general meeting of the Association will take place at 3.30 p.m. on January 2. Further details can be obtained from the organizer of the conference, Dr. W. G. V. Balchin, Department of Geography, King's College, Strand, London, W.C.2.

J. C. MACRAE has been appointed lecturer in gas chemistry in the Department of Coal, Gas and Fuel Industries, University of Leeds.

IN the article in *Nature* of Dec. 1, p. 930, on the Royal Dublin Society meeting to mark the centenary of the birth of G. F. FitzGerald, it is stated that photostat copies of the FitzGerald-Heaviside correspondence had been presented to the Society by the Royal Institution. This is incorrect; these copies were presented by the Institution of Electrical Engineers.