

for the Dominion of New Zealand. Returning to Canada two years later, Mr. Thomson joined the Meteorological Division, being first chief of the Research Division, followed by promotion to assistant controller of meteorological services in 1939 and controller in 1946. During his term in the post of controller, the meteorological service in Canada has been expanded considerably, and, in particular, weather stations and an aerial service have been set up in the arctic regions, a development which is of great importance both from a defence point of view and for the pursuance of new knowledge.

#### Melchett Medal of the Institute of Fuel

THE Institute of Fuel has awarded the Melchett Medal for 1952 to Dr. D. T. A. Townend in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the science of combustion, particularly in the field of higher hydrocarbons. Dr. Townend is at present director general of the British Coal Utilization Research Association; he was formerly Livesey professor of coal gas and fuel industries in the University of Leeds, and was president of the Institute of Fuel during 1948-50.

#### Technological Education in Great Britain

REPLYING in the debate on education in the House of Commons on March 25, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Mr. Kenneth Pickthorn, said that no very positive declaration could be made at present about technological education. The Government, he said, is fully aware of its importance, and he emphasized that the best technological education in Britain is in no way inferior to that anywhere else; he added that the real difficulty is that we were not producing enough of the best type of technologists. The matter is one which, he suggested, is primarily the concern of the universities and not the Minister of Education. Mr. Pickthorn's comments demonstrated how unsatisfactory the present situation is; but he gave no clear indication whether or not the Government proposes to place on the shoulders of the University Grants Committee the responsibility for general oversight of technological education. Nor will misgivings be removed by his further admission that the Minister of Education is endeavouring to encourage the use of technical colleges for the production of technologists and intends to do all she can to assist in that way.

#### Air Pollution in the United States

THE second National Air Pollution Symposium, sponsored by the Stanford Research Institute in co-operation with the California Institute of Technology, the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California, will be held during May 5-6 at the Huntington Hotel, Pasadena, and will follow the general pattern of the first symposium, held in 1949. The meeting will be attended by men of science, engineers, technical workers and executives interested in the various aspects of air pollution as it affects industrial communities. The programme will cover general topics of new techniques in sampling, analysis and instrumentation, fundamental chemistry and physics of the atmosphere, and the contribution of internal-combustion engines and biological aspects of atmospheric contamination, as well as the views of management on the problem. Further information can be obtained from the headquarters of the Symposium at Room 332, 612 South Flower Street, Los Angeles 14, California.

#### Charts of the History of Science

THE Science Museum (South Kensington, London, S.W.7) has recently published a set of three charts, bearing the title "Synopsis of Events connected with Science" (29 × 26½ in.; from the Museum; 1950; 5s. 3d. a set), in which the period of time covered extends from the "age of cosmos", indicated as "Infinity/c. 30,000 million B.C.", to the middle of the present century. After a short introductory section on the approximate stages leading to primitive man, c. 1,000,000 B.C., the Synopsis is divided into six columns labelled history, applied science, physical science, biological science, basic ideologies and art. The lettering used is such that these charts can conveniently be read when affixed to a wall. With such type, the size of the charts admits a very large number of entries in each column; proportionately more space is allotted to recent years, so that the third chart covers the period 1850-1950, with a blank space for future entries. As befits a publication of the Science Museum, special attention has been paid to detail and clarity in the preparation of these charts. Like all time-charts, however, they are open to criticism—either of omission or commission—according to the particular purpose in view; but the student and general reader will find in the appropriate columns a useful survey of the history of science.

#### Earthquakes in South Africa during 1938-44

IN a recent publication entitled "Earthquakes in South Africa" (Department of Mines, Geological Series Bulletin No. 20. Pp. 14; Pretoria: Govt. Printer, 1951; 1s. net), L. J. Krige and B. D. Maree have given accounts of eleven local earthquakes which occurred between 1938 and 1944. The data were chiefly obtained from replies to seventy-three questions on a questionnaire circulated to magistrates, postmasters and postal agents. The answers enabled the earthquake intensity at any place to be assessed on the Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale of 1931. Instrumental data were obtained from readings from seismograms obtained at the Cape Town and Johannesburg Observatories. Details of earthquakes are given in the paper under the following headings: intensity and epicentre; time (in South African Standard Time) and duration; foreshocks and aftershocks; direction of propagation; damage; possible geological explanation; instrumental data; and analysis of seismograms. The earthquakes occurred in Zululand (epicentral intensity 5) just after 10 p.m., February 10, 1938; Bethlehem (5) just after 1.40 a.m., March 1, 1940; Mozambique (6), 8.18 p.m., May 19, 1940; Aberdeen (5), 3.45 p.m., October 13, 1940; Tzaneen (6), 11 p.m., November 10, 1940; Namaqualand (5), 8.30 p.m., October 23, 1941; Port Shepstone (6), 6.50 a.m., November 1, 1942, together with six subsidiary shocks; Prieska (5), 8.45 p.m., November 24, 1943; Beaufort West (3), during the night of August 28, 1944; Vryheid (5), 10.15 a.m., September 17, 1944; Ladybrand (5), 10.55 p.m., November 12, 1944. The greatest intensity (6), mentioned above, indicates such an intensity as would awake people from sleep, set church bells ringing and damage poorly constructed buildings. In some cases of very local earthquakes, the initial movement (at the focus) was near enough to the earth's surface for the authors to be able to correlate it with geological phenomena such as surface fault movement; but in greater earthquakes the focus