

tion Committee are related to and conditioned by the aeronautical information activities of governments, industrial organizations, research institutes and technical associations, and it was resolved accordingly that the proceedings of the Committee should be made available to all interested agencies in each country. Inquiries regarding, or comments on, the work of the Committee should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Royal Aircraft Establishment, South Farnborough, Hants. The agenda of the first two meetings included such items as standardization of the size and format of documents, the provision of catalogue cards with reports, the improvement of existing abstracting services, particularly in respect of coverage and elimination of duplicate effort, and research into documentation. Proposals for the classification of aeronautical literature were considered, including the development of the aeronautical sections of the Universal Decimal Classification and trial of the scheme by the Nationaal Luchtvaart Laboratorium (Holland) for cataloguing aerodynamic data; and the United Kingdom delegates indicated that careful experiment will be made both into the use of the cards thus provided and into the problems involved in producing similar cards for security-graded classified reports issued in the United Kingdom. The production of an up-to-date aeronautical interlingual dictionary in English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish, based on the British Standards Institution's glossary of aeronautical terms, was also discussed.

#### Pleistocene Correlation and Nomenclature

At the Fourth Congress of the International Association on Quaternary Research, held in Rome and Pisa during August-September, the following committee was appointed to consider regional and world-wide problems of Pleistocene correlation and nomenclature: *Chairman*, Prof. I. M. van der Vlerk (Leyden); *Secretary*, Prof. E. Tongiorgi (Pisa); Prof. C. Arambourg (Paris), Prof. R. F. Flint (Yale), Dr. K. P. Oakley (London) and Prof. P. Woldstedt (Bonn). The committee will be assisted by a number of corresponding members. Its first task will be to collect the views of specialists in different parts of the world on the question of the subdivision of the Pleistocene. The secretary (at Via Luca Ghini 2, Pisa) would be glad to receive any relevant suggestions.

#### The Free University of Berlin

An article in *Science* (118; 1953) by Prof. W. O. L. Heubner, of the Free University of Berlin, gives a first-hand account of events in the University of Berlin while under Nazi and, later, Communist control. Under Russian control it became clear that the University of Berlin would not be tolerated as an institution of higher learning for its own sake; it was used as a means of educating 'specialists' who would serve the advancement of the 'working' people, subjects like religion, law, history, Greek and Latin becoming superfluous. Student organizations were controlled by indoctrinated pro-Communist enthusiasts. Prof. Heubner also describes how the Free University of Berlin came into being in 1948.

#### Mineralogical Society: Officers for 1953-54

THE following have been elected officers of the Mineralogical Society for 1953-54: *President*, Dr. J. Phemister; *Vice-Presidents*, Dr. F. A. Bannister and Dr. F. Dixey; *Treasurer*, Prof. J. H. Taylor; *General*

*Secretary*, Dr. G. F. Claringbull (c/o Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1); *Foreign Secretary*, Dr. L. J. Spencer; *Editor of the Journal*, Dr. L. J. Spencer.

#### Announcements

DR. S. J. FOLLEY, head of the Physiology Department of the National Institute for Research in Dairying, Reading, has been appointed a visiting professor in the Collège de France, Paris, for the month of December. He will deliver a course of six lectures on "La Physiologie et la Biochimie de la Sécrétion lactée".

DR. W. ROMAN has been appointed head of the Division of Biochemistry at the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science in Adelaide, South Australia; he will carry out research on metabolic problems in co-operation with the medical and veterinary professions. He will continue to edit *Enzymologia*.

THE Wellcome Research Library of the Royal Society of Medicine will be opened officially by the Marquess of Salisbury, the Lord President of the Council, at 2.30 p.m. on December 4, 1953, in the Barnes Hall. Admission will be by ticket, obtainable from the Assistant Secretary of the Society.

THE first Middleton Memorial Lecture, organized by the Trustees of the Sir Thomas Middleton Memorial Trust, will be delivered by Sir James Scott Watson in the Senate House of the University of London on December 10 at 5.30. The title of Sir James's lecture will be "The State and Agriculture (with special reference to Thomas Hudson Middleton's contribution to the development of agricultural education and research)". The chair will be taken by Dr. Norman C. Wright. The lecture is open to the public.

UNDER the auspices of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, and the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, an effort is being made to bring together in book form all that is known of John Abbot's life and of his work as a student and delineator of American birds. Miss Elsa G. Allen, of the New York State College of Agriculture, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, would be grateful for information which may help to throw light on the history of this remarkable man. Information as to the present whereabouts of any of his illustrations would also be welcomed.

THE Société Chronométrique de France, with the support of the corresponding bodies in Belgium, Germany, Great Britain and Switzerland, is organizing an international congress of chronometry, to be held in Paris in the spring of 1954. The congress will not be restricted to horology but will cover all aspects of the measurement of time, including the determination of intervals of time and of the quantities derived from them, questions of frequency, speech, acceleration, etc. Those interested should write to Prof. R. Baillaud, president of the Société Chronométrique de France, director of the Observatoire National at Besançon, Doubs, from whom further details can be obtained.

ERRATUM. In the communication entitled "Influence of Cysteamine, Methylamine and Cortisone on the Toxicity and Activity of Nitrogen Mustard", by Dr. O. Peczenik, in *Nature* of September 5, p. 454, par. 2, line 14, for "0.125 gm." read "0.125 mgm."