

decessor organized an oceanic fisheries conference in Bermuda during 1951, at which the prospects for taking fish from the open and deep ocean—a difficult problem—were explored. An outcome of this was the provision by the Bermudan Government of a research vessel for ocean work, which should enable valuable fishery investigations to be undertaken.

Institution of Civil Engineers' Secretaryship:
Mr. E. Graham Clark, C.B.E.

WHEN he retires this year on reaching the age of sixty-five, Mr. E. Graham Clark, secretary of the Institution of Civil Engineers, will have completed thirty-five years on the permanent staff of the Institution. A graduate of the University of Durham, he had spent four years as a pupil and assistant engineer before the First World War took him into the 50th (Northumbrian) Division, Territorial Forces. He was awarded the Military Cross, and on his return home in 1919 joined the staff of the Institution of Civil Engineers as chief technical assistant. He later became chief assistant to the secretary, Dr. H. H. Jeffcott. After a period as acting secretary in 1937, Mr. Clark was chosen to succeed him. Only those who have worked closely with Mr. Clark know how loyally and enthusiastically he has striven to advance the prestige and usefulness of the Institution. He leaves an Institution which has greatly developed in character and influence during his years of office. Before his time, there were no special divisions of the Institution, no Colonial Engineering Conference and no international associations of engineering societies. The local associations and the associate members of the Institution were not represented on the Council. Institution meetings were relatively few and the publications far less comprehensive than to-day. The bringing together of the three major engineering institutions of Britain, the Civils, the Mechanicals and the Electricals, to work in close collaboration has been one of Mr. Clark's noteworthy achievements. This *rapprochement* was soon followed by the formation of the Conference of Representatives from the Engineering Societies of Western Europe and the United States of America and the Conference of Engineering Institutions of the British Commonwealth. He has played a leading part both in their inception and in the conduct of their business. Mr. Clark was honoured for his services to engineering by being created C.B.E. in 1948, and by the award of an honorary M.Sc. of the University of Durham in 1953.

Mr. Alexander McDonald

IN succeeding Mr. Graham Clark as secretary of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Mr. Alexander McDonald will be undertaking a task which has no equal in service to the civil engineering profession. A graduate of the University of Edinburgh, he entered the Nigerian Engineering Service after practical training in Britain. At the age of fifty, Mr. McDonald has completed more than twenty-five years service in Nigeria and has risen to become the Inspector-General of Works—the head of the Public Works Department—a post which he has held with distinction during the past three years of active political change in that country. He brings to his new task a wide and varied experience of civil engineering ranging from water supply to airfield construction, and has studied highway engineering in the United States. He has contributed two papers to the Institution. He has always shown a keen

interest in the affairs of the Institution, and it was to satisfy his desire for the Institution to play a greater part in the life of the Colonial engineer that the Colonial Engineering Conference, now held biennially, was instituted; he was also the moving spirit in forming the West African Joint Branch of the three Institutions and is its first chairman.

Verband Deutscher Physikalischer Gesellschaften

WITH the close of hostilities in 1945 the Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Physik ceased to function; later, in their place, there was founded the Verband Deutscher Physikalischer Gesellschaften, made up of the following five organizations: Physikalische Gesellschaft in Bayern, Physikalische Gesellschaft zu Berlin, Physikalische Gesellschaft Hessen-Mittelrhein, Nordwestdeutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft, and Physikalische Gesellschaft in Württemberg-Baden-Pfalz. At a meeting of the Verband in Innsbruck last September it was decided that amends should be made to all former members of the two original German physical societies whose names were removed, for political or other reasons, from the societies' rolls. There are many such persons, mostly living outside Germany, and an attempt has been made to get into touch with each one by letter and invite him to join the new organization. Unfortunately, in many cases it has not been possible to find out whether a particular person is still alive and, if so, what is his address; consequently, an open invitation is now being extended to all such victims of the Nazi persecution to join the Verband Deutscher Physikalischer Gesellschaften. All those interested or anyone who can give information regarding the whereabouts of any former member should write to the Verband at Scheffelstrasse 2, Heidelberg.

Visas to the United States for Scientific Workers

A NEW survey of the effects of the present immigration legislation in the United States on issuing visas to foreign scientific workers is now being made by the Federation of American Scientists. The Federation wishes to be informed, with as many details as possible, of any case during the past two years in which a scientific worker was refused a visa or in which the issue of his visa was delayed so long that his projected visit to the United States had to be cancelled. All information will be treated confidentially, and no information will be made public without the written consent of the person involved. The Federation is of the opinion that, if the present restrictive provisions on visas to the United States are to be amended, it will be necessary for the American public and Congress to be convinced of the inadequacy of the present law. This can be accomplished only by assembling information which shows the adverse effects of the present visa policy, and the co-operation of foreign scientists in this matter is therefore essential. Information should be sent to the Committee on Visa Problems, Federation of American Scientists, 1749 L Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C.

M. and B. Laboratory Bulletin

THE first number of the *M. and B. Laboratory Bulletin*, a new venture of May and Baker, the well-known manufacturers of chemical reagents, was published in January, and further issues are promised from time to time (obtainable free from May and