

graduated M.Sc. in 1928 and D.Sc. in 1937, and where as demonstrator in zoology (1929) and lecturer in the Department (1937) he showed his ability as a teacher and research worker. At the end of the Second World War he went to Great Britain and spent two years in the Zoology Department of the University of Edinburgh, developing his knowledge of the life-histories of various helminths in order to further this line of investigation in India. He was awarded the D.Sc. degree of Edinburgh in 1947, and on his return to Lucknow was appointed reader in zoology. Recently he represented India at the General Assembly in Rome of the International Union of Biological Sciences. He was elected this year a member of the Zoology Committee of the Union. Dr. Lal's main line of investigation has been helminthological, but that has not prevented him from making useful contributions in other fields of invertebrate and experimental zoology. Under his conscientious care, zoology in Lucknow should continue to flourish.

#### Textile Institute

HONORARY life membership of the Textile Institute, Manchester, has been conferred on Mr. Fred Scholefield, formerly head of the Department of Textile Chemistry, Manchester College of Technology, in recognition of the long and valuable services given by him to the Institute. Mr. Scholefield has been a member of its Examinations Board for twenty-five years, being chairman of the Board in 1938, and received the Institute Medal in 1951.

The first formal lecture to be given on the Continent of Europe under the auspices of the Textile Institute will be delivered by Mr. J. R. Whinfield at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, on November 25. Mr. Whinfield gave the Emsley Lecture at Institute headquarters on October 14, and will speak on the same subject at Zurich, namely, "Textiles and the Inventive Spirit".

#### British Museum (Natural History): Appointments

THE Principal Trustees of the British Museum have appointed Dr. George Taylor, keeper of the Department of Botany in the British Museum (Natural History), to be a deputy chief scientific officer on the retirement of Mr. N. D. Riley, who has held that office in conjunction with the keepership of entomology; and Dr. William Edward China to be keeper of the Department of Entomology in succession to Mr. Riley.

Dr. Taylor (who will continue to be keeper of the Department of Botany) entered the Museum in 1928 after graduating with first-class honours at the University of Edinburgh. During his service in the Museum Dr. Taylor has been concerned mainly with flowering plants, and has taken part in collecting expeditions to East Africa and Tibet. Apart from his Museum work, he is a general secretary of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and president of the Botanical Society of the British Isles, and takes an active part in the affairs of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Dr. China was a scholar of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, where he graduated with second-class honours in zoology in 1920 (Sc.D., 1948). He entered the Museum in 1922 and throughout his career has specialized on the Hemiptera-Homoptera (the 'true' bugs). He has published some two hundred papers on these insects and is general editor of the World Catalogue of Hemiptera (published in the United States).

#### Water Resources and Water Requirements in Britain

THE Central Advisory Water Committee has decided to institute inquiries into the growing demand for water and into the collection of information about the water resources of Britain. It appointed members to form the nucleus of two sub-committees which will report back to the main committee; they have power to co-opt, so that the inquiries will be widely representative. The terms of reference of the sub-committees are: (a) Sub-Committee on the growing demand for water (*chairman*, Alderman R. C. Yates). "To consider the extent to which the demand for water for domestic, industrial, agricultural and other purposes is increasing and is likely to increase; to consider the problems involved in meeting these demands, including, in broad terms, the cost; to consider whether there are any substantial economies in the use or cost of water which could be made without reduction in standards of hygiene or in industrial or agricultural efficiency; and to make recommendations". (b) Sub-Committee on information on water resources (*chairman*, Prof. J. Proudman). "(i) To review the current activities which contribute to our knowledge of the nation's water resources; (ii) to define the additional work needed to make a balanced survey of the quantity and quality of surface and underground water available for domestic, industrial and agricultural use; (iii) to advise on ways of collecting and interpreting the necessary information, correlating it with information from other sources and publishing it".

#### Society for Visiting Scientists: Report for 1954-55

THE annual report of the Council of the Society for Visiting Scientists, presented to the eighth general meeting on September 27, welcomes an additional grant of £1,500 from the British Council, which has enabled the Society to undertake necessary repairs and improvements to its house at 5 Old Burlington Street, London, W.1. Prof. W. Wardlaw has succeeded Prof. F. J. M. Stratton as joint honorary secretary. Though a small increase has been made in the charges, the facilities offered to scientists staying at the Society's house have been considerably improved. The information service has also been extended, as well as the use made of it, and has proved useful in Britain as well as overseas for locating individual scientists or obtaining particulars of their special fields. It has been necessary, for financial reasons, to reduce to a minimum the receptions given to special groups of scientists or to distinguished individual scientists from abroad, and it has also been decided to concentrate on a limited number of discussion meetings in each session. Those held during the past session dealt with nuclear energy in industry and medicine; recent research on speech; colour from the point of view of the painter and the scientist; and current concepts of allergy. The home British membership of the Society has increased to three hundred and twenty (including sixty temporarily abroad), and the total membership exceeds two thousand five hundred. Personal contact still seems to be the most effective form of publicity for the Society.

#### Publicizing the Chemical Profession

UNDER the title "Public Relations for the Chemical Profession", the American Chemical Society News Service has issued a handsome brochure, replacing