

production of heavy water, dose-rate meters, the production of reactor fuel elements, and the research facilities at the research laboratories of Tube Investments, Ltd., and at the Battelle Institute, Columbus, Ohio. There is also the first of a series of articles on reactor physics by J. F. Hill, of the Reactor School, Harwell. Other sections of the journal consist of editorial comments, news items from various parts of the world, news of equipment used in connexion with nuclear engineering, and abstracts of patents. The remaining section is devoted to reviews of books of use or of interest to the nuclear engineer. Synopses of the articles are given in five languages. These, as well as the contents on the title page, are in type which is unusually small in size. It is stated that forthcoming issues will contain papers, articles and features on nuclear fuel enrichment, fabrication and reprocessing, on reactor design, construction and performance, on the associated power plant, on instrumentation and on isotope production, handling and application to industry.

### Courses and Awards in Technology

DETAILS of the award to be given by the recently created National Council for Technological Awards, under the chairmanship of Lord Hives, have been announced. The National Council will grant a diploma in technology, the courses for which will be equivalent in standard to honours degree courses of a British university. The award will be denoted by 'Dip. Tech. (Eng.)' for engineering and by 'Dip. Tech.' for other technologies. There will be two honours classes and a pass level. The courses which will be recognized may be either full-time or sandwich. The minimum time required for a course in a technical college will be three years full-time or four years sandwich course. Students attending full-time courses will be expected to have suitable industrial training amounting in aggregate to not less than one year in industry. The minimum age of admission to courses will normally be eighteen. It should be assumed that the standard of admission to courses will be that of the General Certificate of Education, with two appropriate subjects at advanced level and three subjects at ordinary level, or a comparable standard. Holders of good Ordinary National Certificates, for example, will be eligible; in most other cases National Certificate holders will need additional instruction to qualify for entry to the course. Since the courses are intended for those aiming at becoming professional technologists, they should include a thorough education in the fundamentals of science and technology and their application to development and design. To help fit the students for future responsibilities, the courses must include liberal studies and some instruction in the principles of industrial organization.

Colleges seeking recognition for a course must make formal application to the Council. They will be expected to provide a substantial programme of advanced studies. In particular, the subjects constituting the course must be conducted in an environment where advanced studies are the main pre-occupation of the staff. Good library facilities and social amenities are necessary. It is desirable for the college to have residential facilities; but the absence of such facilities will not prevent courses from being recognized at the moment. It is intended, however, to make this a condition as soon as possible. The staff will be expected to be of high quality. In particular, the leaders of each branch of study should

have either higher degrees and substantial academic experience, or suitable academic qualifications supported by substantial industrial experience or both. They should also be professionally active in their subjects. It is highly desirable that colleges and industry should arrange their conditions of employment so that interchange of staff for suitable full-time periods can be encouraged. In assessing the staff, the emphasis will be on their intellectual and personal qualities. They should include persons to whom industry would go for advice. Above all, they will be expected to be good teachers and to be able to relate their industrial experience to their teaching work. It is essential that staff engaged on the course should have opportunities for research. Details of the procedure for applying for the recognition of suitable courses and the fees to be charged for the courses will be announced later.

### Permanent Commission of the International Fisheries Convention

THE fifth meeting of the Permanent Commission set up under the International Fisheries Convention of 1946 took place in London during May 8-11. Delegations attended from all thirteen of the member governments, namely, Belgium, Denmark, the Federal German Republic, France, Iceland, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Observers were present from the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, which was represented for the first time. There were also observers from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries. Much of the Commission's discussion was devoted to the report of an *ad hoc* scientific committee set up at the previous meeting to review available information and to advise the Commission on minimum mesh sizes and minimum size-limits for fish, and to say whether any changes were required. This report is to be published, and it was agreed to recommend that the member governments should have it translated and should seek the views of their own fishing industries, and should report back with their recommendations and proposals by December 31, 1956. Meanwhile, the 75-mm. minimum mesh for ordinary trawls will be continued until April 4, 1958. The Commission also gave further attention to the problem of mixed fishing for protected and for other species. The Commission appointed a Committee composed of representatives of the six countries most concerned, namely, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, the Federal German Republic, Poland and Sweden, to study this problem further for the next meeting. Finally, the Commission received reports from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea on the question of a definition of the light trawl, and the problem presented by the capture of undersized whiting in the industrial fisheries. No further action is to be taken at present on these problems since the International Council is continuing its investigations. Klaus Sunnanaa (Norway) was elected president for the next three years in succession to R. G. R. Wall (United Kingdom), whose term of office had expired, and A. Alloy (France) was elected vice-president in succession to Dr. G. Rollefson (Norway). The Commission will hold its next meeting in London beginning on May 14, 1957.