

his own continued interest is shown in his editorship of the British Association volume on Birmingham (1950), and his work on the Domesday geography of Warwickshire. He has also travelled widely, and his resulting writings have done much to stimulate studies in Latin America, Poland and southern Africa. His services to the University were recognized by the conferment of a professorship in 1950 and to his subject by his election to the presidency of Section E of the British Association (which he long served as recorder) in 1953, and the presidency of the Institute of British Geographers in 1957.

Prof. David L. Linton

PROF. D. L. LINTON, who has held the chair of geography at Sheffield since 1945, has been appointed to succeed Prof. Kinvig at Birmingham. He is now among the most senior of those who graduated from the new honours schools of geography established after the First World War, taking first a general degree in science and then a special degree in geography in 1927 from the Joint School of Geography of King's College, London, and the London School of Economics. He shares with his former teacher and life-long friend and associate in research, Prof. S. W. Wooldridge, an especial interest in geomorphology. He was appointed to the chair at Sheffield at the age of thirty-eight (*Nature*, 106, 106; 1945) after service in his old college, King's, and Edinburgh, and a distinguished career in the R.A.F.V.R., where his special talents were used in photographic interpretation. There, as in all his later work, his critical and incisive thinking often resulted in new and fresh interpretations of familiar features. This is seen in his work on delimitation of morphological regions, on drainage patterns and the origin of tors, and in his presidential address to Section E of the British Association in 1957. His long and unobtrusive service as honorary editor of *Geography* is reflected in the current high standing of that journal. Before taking up his duties in Birmingham he is spending a year on research in the Falklands.

Space Science Board

THE U.S. National Academy of Sciences has announced the formation of a sixteen-man Space Science Board, "to survey in concert the scientific problems, opportunities and implications of man's advance into space". Dr. Lloyd V. Berkner, president of Associated Universities, Inc., president of the International Council of Scientific Unions and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, is to be the chairman. The Board, besides acting as the focal point for all Academy and National Research Council activities connected with space-science research, will be called upon to co-ordinate its work with appropriate civilian and government agencies, particularly the proposed National Aeronautical and Space Agency, the National Science Foundation, and the Advanced Research Projects Agency, and with foreign groups active in this field.

Darwin, Demography and Development of Life

THREE outstanding lectures have now been made available to bigger audiences. The first, by Sir Gavin de Beer, is his well-known lecture on Charles Darwin in the Master-Mind Series of the British Academy (pp. 24. Oxford University Press, 1958. 3s. 6d.). Besides a succinct introduction to Darwin's life and

thought, the lecture provides an admirable exposition of the pre-eminent place of natural selection among contemporary theories of evolution. The second, by the grandson of the genius whom de Beer honoured in his lecture, is the 1958 Rede Lecture, in which Sir Charles Darwin expounds the belief that the present rapid increase in world population holds threats for the future outweighing completely any of the menaces that preoccupy statesmen and politicians (pp. ii+42. Cambridge University Press, 1958. 3s. 6d.). The third is the inaugural lecture by the recently appointed Quain professor of botany in the University of London, Prof. David Lewis ("The Experimental Approach to Life". Pp. 17. London: H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 1958. 2s. 6d.). In his lecture, Lewis discusses the experimental approach to life, and shows how physics and chemistry are beginning to play an equally important part with biology. The invasion of biology by physics and chemistry has created a crisis that must be resolved by all who are concerned in biological teaching and research. In research the crisis is partly met by establishing departments of biochemistry and biophysics, but this does not solve the immediate problem of training biologists, which must be carried out in departments of botany and zoology.

Oversea Visual Aids Centre, London

As a result of the unanimous request of an Oversea Visual Aids Conference held in 1956, a Centre has been set up in London from which advice and help will be given on all aspects of audio-visual aids. The Centre, which is to be known as the Oversea Visual Aids Centre (O.V.A.C.), is sponsored by H.M. Government and the Nuffield Foundation. Its director is Mr. G. H. Busbridger, who served in the Educational Service in Northern Rhodesia for many years and afterwards became director of Education in Tanganyika Territory. The Centre has started its activities at Tavistock House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1, while alterations are being made to premises at 31 Tavistock Square, which will become its permanent headquarters towards the end of the year. The Centre is controlled by a Board of Governors under the chairmanship of Mr. L. Farrer-Brown, director of the Nuffield Foundation. The Centre will have on permanent display a wide range of projected and non-projected aids, so that visitors can see for themselves examples of the latest equipment used by British manufacturers, as well as cheap non-projected aids made from local materials. It will organize training in the educational use of all kinds of audio-visual aids, in the handling and maintenance of equipment and in techniques of making simple aids from cheap materials. In addition to these services, Governments and individuals overseas will be kept informed of new developments by regular publications.

River Pollution in Britain

In its first report to the Central Advisory Water Committee (pp. 10. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1958. 9d. net), the Trade Effluents Subcommittee, appointed in October 1956 with Sir Frederick Armer as chairman, to examine existing legislation and the operation of the common law respecting the disposal from trade premises of liquid effluents, concludes that the time has not yet arrived for dispensing with the consent of the Minister of Housing and Local Government before river boards