lish a trust fund to the memory of the late Professor Henry E. Armstrong. At the Finsbury Technical College and later at the Central College, South Kensington, Dr. Armstrong and his co-workers, Dr. Ayrton and Dr. Perry, tried out and established the principles of technical education in Great Britain, and thus encouraged the foundation of polytechnics and technical colleges. The hope is for a memorial fund amounting to about £3,000. This will provide a guarantee fund to give, as it accumulates, enough to ensure the publication (or to give substantial financial assistance in the publication or preparation) of any original works, within Professor Armstrong's recognized interests, that it would otherwise be impossible to publish. Publications will carry as frontispiece a portrait of Professor Armstrong, a biographical note and a reference to the foundation and objects of the trust. Furthermore, the fund will provide for a memorial plaque, or bust, for the City and Guilds College, South Kensington.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE NETHERLANDS GRAVITY EXPEDITION

HER Majesty's submarine O–16 of the Netherlands Navy will leave Holland for the East Indies in May, on a new extensive gravity expedition sponsored by the Netherlands Geodetic Commission. The ship will be commanded by Lieutenant-Commander B. C. Meurs Schouten. The route of the expedition has been carefully planned in such a way that valuable scientific results may be expected. The submarine will proceed by way of Dakar, Capetown, and Durban to Java. The research will be carried out by Dr. W. Nieuwenkamp, attached to the Netherlands Geodetic Commission, which is to continue the gravity of the sea, so successfully pursued by Dr. F. A. Vening Meinesz on recent expeditions.

Observations will be made both with the multiple pendulum apparatus and with a new pendulum instrument of long period which was constructed for the measurements of the ship's accelerations and the determination of Browne's second order corrections. For timing the pendulum observations, the older chronometer will be replaced by the crystal chronometer constructed by the Bell Telephone Laboratories. This fundamental method for improving the timing of the pendulums was first used in 1937 on the U. S. Navy-American Geophysical Union Expedition under the direction of Dr. Maurice Ewing, who, together with Dr. Morison, perfected its application. The crystal chronometer was sent to the British Admiralty for their gravity cruise last summer by the International Commission on Continental and Oceanic Structure (Dr. R. M. Field, chairman), and is now on loan to the Dutch Navy under the same auspices. The increase in precision introduced through the use of the crystal chronometer has also been demonstrated on land by Ewing, Woolard and Johnson in investigations of the geological structure of the eastern coastal plain and reported by Dr. Ewing to the American Philosophical Society in 1937.

The Netherlands expedition will record its soundings by the echo method with the collaboration of naval authorities in effecting the special arrangements needed. It is anticipated that soundings will prove possible even when proceeding on the sea's surface and that a continuous series of soundings will give valuable data for the entire route of the submarine. It is expected that the results of this expedition will greatly assist in answering such questions as: (1) how generally deep ocean basins show positive anomalies as have been found in nearly all cases on previous trips; (2) whether gravity anomalies in the Atlantic west of Morocco show evidence of the continuation of the tectonic folding axis of the Moroccan mountain range; (3) whether the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the Walfish Ridge in the South Atlantic are in isostatic equilibrium, and other geophysical questions arising concerning the areas crossed by the route. Observational material relative to gravity in the region of the Indian Ocean up to the present time is exceedingly scarce.

The expedition is indicative of important results that may be obtained through international cooperation, and it is hoped that a preliminary report will be included in the report of the Commission on Continental and Oceanic Structure at the Seventh Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics which is to convene in Washington next September.

THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

IN the annual report of H. H. Bennett, chief of the Soil Conservation Service, it is stated that during the past fiscal year farmers in 18 of the 25 states which had enabling legislation organized 72 soil conservation districts, with a total area of more than 38 million acres. By the end of June, 34 of these districts had entered into cooperative agreements with the Soil Conservation Service, and the farmers of 18 districts were already actively engaged in conservation work.

Farmers in conservation districts have provided virtually all supplies and materials required for erosion control measures, and the contribution of the Soil Conservation Service has been limited generally to technical service for planning and to types of labor