scientific monographs resulting from these expeditions have been noticed from time to time in the *Geographical Journal*, and we have had the pleasure on a former occasion of hearing a paper by him upon the physical characteristics of glaciers. Professor Ahlmann's work has stimulated much interest in this important branch of our science, and younger explorers and students owe a great deal to his encouragement and assistance. He is leaving in a few weeks' time to continue his researches in northeast Greenland.

The Murchison Grant has been awarded by the council to Mr. Robert Bentham for his surveys and geological investigations in Ellesmere Land. Mr. Bentham first went to the Arctic with the Oxford University Exploration Club's Ellesmere Land Expedition in 1934. In 1936 he returned by himself to the police post at Craig Harbour, Jones Sound, where he spent two years making a plane-table survey of southeast Ellesmere Land and in geological and archeological work. He also made an extended journey to the northwest.

The Back Grant has been awarded by the council to Lieutenant-Commander R. E. D. Ryder, R.N., for his captaincy of the *Penola* and his marine surveys on the British Graham Land Expedition. Commander Ryder's achievement in navigating the *Penola* in high latitudes and often in uncharted waters, with a crew which had little nautical experience before leaving England, was a fine feat of resourceful seamanship. He also took every opportunity of extending our hydrographical knowledge of the island-strewn waters and coasts of western Graham Land, and his surveys have been incorporated in the official charts. Commander Ryder being absent on duty, I shall ask his father, Colonel Ryder, to accept the award on his behalf.

The Cuthbert Peek Grant has been awarded by the council to Mr. W. V. Lewis for his physiographical studies in Great Britain and Iceland. Mr. Lewis, who is university demonstrator in geography at Cambridge, has taken part in one expedition and led another to Iceland. His interests are chiefly in the evolution of glacial features and of shorelines and he had also pursued these studies in Great Britain. At various times he has imparted to us the results of his observations on Dungeness Foreland, the Chesil Beach and elsewhere on the English coast, as well as upon the coast of southeast Iceland.

The council has awarded the Gill Memorial to Mr. J. V. Harrison for many years' exploration in Central and South America and southern Iran. Mr. Harrison, who is a geologist by training, saw active service during the war with the Royal Engineers in Mesopotamia. Since then he has been engaged on topographical and geological surveys in Iran, Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia, Honduras and the West Indies. In particular he has described to the society his journeys and surveys of the mountainous and inhospitable Bakhtiari and Kuhgalu country in southwestern Iran, formerly difficult of access to travelers and unsurveyed, the homes of restless tribes. Mr. Harrison's work has not only provided us with our first precise knowledge of the topography of these regions, but has also contributed to the elucidation of some major problems of the earth's structure. He is now at work in the Central Andes of Peru, and I shall ask Dr. G. M. Lees to accept this award on his behalf.

## SURVEY OF RESEARCH IN INDUSTRY

THE appointment of Raymond Stevens, vice-president of Arthur D. Little, Inc., of Cambridge, Mass., as director of a nation-wide survey of research in industry which is to be started at once, has been announced by Dr. Ross G. Harrison, chairman of the National Research Council. The announcement followed the first meeting of a special committee held at the Engineers' Club in New York City to formulate initial plans. Mr. Stevens has obtained leave of absence that will permit him to devote a principal portion of his time to the survey, the headquarters of which will be in the National Research Council Building in Washington. He is known as an authority on the organization of large-scale research programs, as well as the application of research for the solution of specific problems in industry.

In announcing the appointment, Dr. Harrison stated that while funds for the work had been made available by the National Resources Planning Board, of which Frederic A. Delano is chairman, the survey would be conducted and the report prepared by the National Research Council. This is in accordance with plans approved by an advisory committee of leading scientific men, industrial research directors and executives, of which F. W. Willard, president of the Nassau Smelting and Refining Company, New York, is president. The report will be submitted in printed form by the council next year and will present "an objective study of industrial research as a national resource, as a means of aiding in its further development and utilization."

The National Research Council is composed largely of the accredited representatives of about eighty-five national scientific and technical societies. It was established in 1916 at the request of President Woodrow Wilson, by the National Academy of Sciences, to coordinate the research facilities of the country for work on war problems involving scientific knowledge. An executive order by President Wilson in May, 1918, complimented the National Academy and the National Research Council on war services and requested that the academy perpetuate the National Research Council with six peace-time objectives: to stimulate research in natural sciences for national defense and public welfare; to survey larger possibilities and formulate comprehensive research projects; to promote cooperation in research at home and abroad; to promote active cooperation with War and Navy Departments and civil branches of the government; to direct attention of scientific workers to war problems and to make available scientific information at home and abroad in cooperation with other agencies.