

Zoological Laboratory, Johns Hopkins University ; Prof. P. Karrer, professor of chemistry and director of the Chemical Institute, Zurich ; Prof. O. Veblen, professor of mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton.

*British Fellows* : The Right Hon. J. C. Smuts, Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Defence, South Africa ; Prof. H. F. Baker, emeritus professor of geometry and astronomy in the University of Cambridge ; Sir Joseph Barcroft, emeritus professor of physiology in the University of Cambridge ; Sir Lawrence Bragg, Cavendish professor of experimental physics in the University of Cambridge.

### University of Birmingham

At the annual degree congregation of the University of Birmingham, the Chancellor (Viscount Cecil) conferred the honorary degree of doctor of laws on Dr. Benes, President of the Czechoslovak Republic, Mr. J. G. Winant, American Ambassador to Great Britain, Mr. R. G. Casey, Minister of State in the Middle East, Sir Edward Appleton, secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and Dr. H. R. Ricardo, a pioneer in the development of the high-speed internal combustion engine. In introducing Mr. Winant the Public Orator said : "What is clearest in these dubious times is that in international conflict his country and ours stand for the same things and stand or fall together. We shall not fall. This University has not fallen but is still working on, diminished but not brought low, making light of scars upon her buildings. Her desire is to see Americans and British continuing to work together, mix together, in time of peace as they are so freely doing in time of war, and from this hour to be mixed up herself, as inextricably as possible, with Mr. Winant, with the American universities and with the entire people of the United States".

Mr. Winant, in a short address, said : "We need opportunity for an education which includes understanding of one another if we are to be far-sighted and if we are to see friendly but distant lands. We have a shortage of teachers throughout the world to-day, and yet I believe we have new techniques which would help in that situation if we put our minds to it. The international picture language of Isotype and documentary films, the tactile aids to instruction, which have been evolved in the work of nursery schools, are examples. All of them have this in common : they operate through the medium of a common language, the language of eye and touch. Such new instruments of education—which may well mark an advance of human enlightenment without parallel since the invention of printing—are international in scope. Mass production can provide a system of education by the universal picture language of Isotype, or by the international picture language of the documentary film, at once attractive and, as such, capable of creating its own demand, suitable for use by people who speak different tongues, and equally adaptable to the re-education of those who have been indoctrinated with the Nazi virus and to our own needs, if we envisage the problem of re-educating Fascist youth as part of the wider problem of our common re-education to the tasks of the century of the common man. You can do a great service in Birmingham University to all mankind if you make these new tools available so that we can this time finish the job."

### Ministry of Food : Cereals Research Station

THE Ministry of Food has, by arrangement with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the flour milling industry, taken over for the period of the War the extensive laboratories at St. Albans which were previously occupied by the Research Association of British Flour Millers. The Ministry will have the advantage of the use of these laboratories and the existing staff for the consideration of all food research problems, but they will continue to be used in the main for specialized work connected with cereals and cereal products. The laboratories will, in future, be known as the Cereals Research Station of the Ministry of Food. Dr. P. Moran, who was previously director of research to the Research Association of British Flour Millers, has been acting as deputy scientific adviser to the Ministry since June 1940. In March last he was appointed, in addition, director of research in the Ministry of Food. In this latter capacity he will direct the work at St. Albans. From June 1, the date on which the transfer took place, the entire control and direction of the laboratories passed to the Ministry of Food.

### The Solar Corona and Geomagnetism

THE recurrence of certain terrestrial magnetic storms at intervals of 27 days (the sun's rotation period) without any disturbance being visible on the sun's disk has long been an outstanding puzzle of solar physics. Observations of the chromosphere in monochromatic light have established a close connexion between the chromospheric eruptions responsible for short-wave radio fade-outs and certain of the great sporadic magnetic storms, which tend to occur about a day after the visible flare ; but the recurrent storms seem as unconnected with chromospheric activity as with photospheric. A recent observation by Waldmeier (*Z. Astrophys.*, 21, 275 ; 1942) throws light on this subject. By coronagraph observations at Arosa he has found that certain regions of the solar corona ("C-regions") exhibit temporary bursts of activity characterized by abnormally high intensity of the coronal line at 5303 Å. The appearance of these areas at the sun's edge is often followed, or preceded, according as the region is being carried in front of or behind the disk by the solar rotation, by magnetic activity on the earth, the time interval being about 7 days (roughly a quarter period). The C-regions are very long-lived compared with chromospheric eruptions (at least 24 days as against about an hour). They are confined to the spot zones and seem to exhibit the 11-year periodicity in their frequency of occurrence. If further observations should confirm the connexion between magnetic storms and the central meridian passage of these active zones in the corona, it would seem that both C-regions and chromospheric eruptions must emit corpuscles, roughly radially and at speeds up to about 1,000 miles per second, throughout their life-times of the order of a month and an hour respectively.

### Statistics of Public Opinion

PUBLIC opinion research may be considered to have started with Dr. Gallup, who predicted the voting in the presidential election in the United States of 1936 with an error of only 6½ per cent. For