

NEWS and VIEWS

University of Ankara

THE University of Ankara has appointed the following, nominated by the British Council, to professorships: Mr. B. E. C. Davis, reader in English language and literature, Westfield College, University of London, to the chair of English; Dr. W. J. McCallien, Carnegie teaching fellow in geology in the University of Glasgow, to the chair of geology; and Prof. J. A. Strang, professor of mathematics in the University of Lucknow, to the chair of mathematics.

British scholars already occupy ten chairs at the University of Istanbul, as follows: Prof. C. E. Bazell (English philology); Prof. F. H. Constable (physical chemistry); Prof. P. du Val (mathematics); Prof. V. H. Legg (industrial chemistry); Prof. A. K. McIlwraith (English); Prof. W. C. W. Nixon (gynaecology); Prof. J. S. Rankin (theoretical mechanics); Prof. F. Royds (astronomy); Prof. the Hon. Stephen Runciman (Byzantine art); Prof. Ronald Syme (ancient history).

British Trade Associations: Structure and Functions

THE broadsheet "British Trade Associations" which has been issued by P E P gives a description of the structure and activities of these associations, which should provide a useful factual basis for discussion of a subject much to the fore at the present time. The arguments for and against trade associations and related questions of policy are not considered, but this well-documented summary of the internal structure, functions and techniques of trade associations and of recent trends, such as the growth in numbers, in the representation both of firms and of output in a given trade, the range of activities, the growth of distributive and composite associations, and the coalescence of trade associations, should at least stimulate the growth of informed opinion of this subject and facilitate its objective discussion. In regard to technical functions, trade associations have furthered co-operation in such matters as standardization, pooling and interchange of patents, and research. Discussion and negotiations with Government departments and co-operative advertising are also considerable spheres of activity. Commercial functions may be distinguished as non-regulative, such as credit bureaux, mutual insurance schemes, market research, and, less frequently, joint purchase of materials and regulative activities. The latter are of four types: control of prices, as by price agreements; control of the channels of distribution; the regulation of productive activity; and the centralization of selling activities. Examples illustrating all these activities are cited in the broadsheet, which also points out that in practice it is not always easy to maintain the distinction between trade associations concerned primarily with trade, and employers' federations which are concerned primarily with labour questions.

Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

ALTHOUGH research work is the major occupation of the staff of the Laboratory of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, the Laboratory has, during the War, been occupied with Government work for the Armed Forces and for the Emergency Medical Services. In the annual report for 1943 of the Curator, it is stated that the agreement between the College and the Carnegie Trustees for the Universities

of Scotland, made forty years ago, is being modified as from this autumn. The Trustees will retain the proprietor's obligations in respect of the building in which the Laboratory is situated and will contribute £1,000 a year for research for five years, but the treasurer of the Carnegie Trust will no longer do the Laboratory's accounting work. The retirement of Mr. James Davidson, who for forty years has acted as the Laboratory's treasurer and financial adviser, ends a long and devoted service. Plans for reorganization and future work depend on the development of post-war medical schemes in general.

Considerable work has been done by the Laboratory on the histology of cancer, on sarcoma of the breast and on tumours of the adrenal gland, the nervous system and the pituitary gland. Other problems studied have been congenital microphthalmos in mice, a research promoted by the Ross Foundation for the Study of Blindness, Edinburgh; the diagnosis of sterility; and the study of hæmoglobin and the testing of hæmoglobinometers. The Biochemistry Department, directed by Dr. W. O. Kermack, who also directs the Department of Statistics, has continued the difficult study of the synthesis of new anti-malarial drugs, and considerable progress has been made. The Bacteriological Department has studied the anaphylactic theory of rheumatic diseases and is engaged on the typing of pneumococci and on chemotherapeutical research on corneal infections, which has shown that the cornea of the rabbit is highly susceptible to the gonococcus and can be used for chemotherapeutic research on this organism. Work on blood groups is planned for the future. During 1943 the Laboratory issued 22,461 reports on laboratory findings, and this side of its work is increasing. This work provided a revenue of £5,744, with a profit of £781; it is thus a valuable help to the finance of a laboratory which is not run for profit, but seeks only to maintain itself and to contribute to the advancement of knowledge.

Paper for School Text-books

IN reply to a question in the House of Commons on October 12 referring to the shortage of school text-books, Mr. Butler, Minister of Education, said: "I have been in touch for some time with those of my colleagues who are concerned with the object of securing an increase in the allocation of paper for educational books, and I am glad to say that, in spite of the many pressing calls upon the available supplies, a substantial additional tonnage of paper has now been allocated which should go a considerable way towards meeting the most urgent cases of shortage."

The Reversible Transit Circle, Greenwich

Sir Harold Spencer Jones and R. T. Cullen (*Mon. Not. Roy. Astro. Soc.*, 104, 3; 1944) describe the principal features of, and preliminary results of tests and observations with, the new reversible transit circle of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich. The instrument was installed in 1936 and replaced the transit circle designed by Airy and installed in 1851. This latter instrument had a wonderful record for work, and the value of the Greenwich meridian observations is due very largely to the continuity of observation with the Airy transit circle. The new instrument was constructed by Messrs. Cooke, Troughton and Simms, Ltd., and follows closely in design the reversible transit circle of the Cape Observatory, designed by Gill. After the erection of