

NEWS and VIEWS

British Representatives at Soviet Academy Celebrations

At the invitation of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., transmitted through the Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Court of St. James, a party of scientific men and scholars left England for the U.S.S.R. on June 14 to participate in the celebration of the two hundred and twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. The foundation of this Academy was in some measure due to the visit which Peter the Great paid to England in 1698, when he met men like Evelyn and Halley, who were then prominent members of the Royal Society of London. The following are taking part: Prof. N. K. Adam; Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade (representing the Physical Society, also the University of London); Prof. E. D. Adrian (also representing the University of Cambridge); Prof. J. D. Bernal; Prof. P. M. S. Blackett; Prof. Max Born; Prof. V. Gordon Childe (also representing the Royal Society of Edinburgh); Dr. E. M. Crowther, Sir Charles Darwin (also representing the Institution of Naval Architects); Prof. P. A. M. Dirac; Prof. F. G. Donnan (also representing the Chemical Society); Mr. W. N. Edwards; Prof. C. N. Hinshelwood (also representing the University of Oxford); Sir Thomas Holland (representing the Geological Society); Dr. J. S. Huxley; Sir Harold Spencer Jones (Astronomer Royal); Prof. E. A. Milne; Prof. N. F. Mott; Dr. Alex Muir; Prof. R. G. W. Norrish; Dr. W. G. Ogg; Lord Radnor (representing the Rothamsted Experimental Station); Prof. E. K. Rideal; Sir Robert Robinson (representing the Royal Society of London); Prof. A. Sorsby (representing the Anglo-Soviet Medical Council); Prof. R. H. Tawney; Dr. Henry Thomas (representing the British Museum); Prof. D. M. S. Watson (also representing the British Association); Dr. W. A. Wooster (representing the Association of Scientific Workers).

James Alfred Ewing Medal:

Award to Mr. B. N. Wallis

On the joint recommendation of the presidents of the Royal Society and the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers has awarded the James Alfred Ewing Medal for 1944 to Mr. B. N. Wallis. The Medal is awarded annually for specially meritorious contributions to the science of engineering in the field of research. Mr. Wallis is chief of aeronautical research and development to Vickers-Armstrongs, Ltd. He invented and designed the special type of bomb used for the destruction of the Moehne and Eder Dams in Germany in 1943, and designed the Tallboy and 10-ton bombs used by the R.A.F. He was responsible for the design and construction of the airship *R.100*. Since the airship programme was abandoned, he has been engaged in the design and development of geodetic construction to enable the production of long-range load-carrying aircraft, as exemplified in the production, in collaboration with Mr. R. K. Pierson, of the "Wellesley" type monoplane, which holds the world's non-stop record of 7,162 miles made in 1938. Geodetic construction has been used in the well-known "Wellington" bomber and the "Warwick".

Geology at Columbia University: Prof. S. J. Shand

PROF. S. J. SHAND has been appointed to fill the Newberry chair of geology at Columbia University. Shand, a graduate of the Universities of St. Andrews and Münster, spent a short time at the Royal Scottish Museum in Edinburgh, and then for twenty-five years was professor of geology at Stellenbosch. In 1937 he became professor of petrology in Columbia. He has devoted much attention to the occurrence and origin of the alkali rocks. He mapped masses of nepheline-bearing rocks in Sutherlandshire and the Bushveld, describing them in a series of masterly papers. As early as 1913 he was considering the thorny problems of the classification of eruptive rocks, and has recently elaborated one. In this the role of physical chemistry in helping to choose the diagnostic features of a rock is emphasized, and the result is practical and useful. A philosophical outlook permeates all he writes, and he has proved himself one of the most stimulating of living petrologists. Many geologists and others will be happy to learn of his promotion, and know he is a worthy successor to J. F. Kemp, C. P. Berkey and Douglas Johnson.

Industry and the University:

Exchange of Research Personnel

THE London, Midland and Scottish Railway has announced an important scheme whereby it will send members of its research staff for varying periods to carry out fundamental research in their particular fields in university laboratories; and, in exchange, the universities will be invited to send members of their staffs to spend a period in the company's research laboratory at Derby, working on applied problems in which they are interested from the fundamental side. The benefits should be felt by both parties to this arrangement. On one hand, it is hoped that the company's staff visiting the universities will be invited to assist in teaching, so bringing the practical atmosphere to the university lecture-room; on the other hand, university research men will be brought more closely into contact with the problems of industry. The L.M.S. Research Laboratory has a staff of seventy research workers, and has sections dealing with engineering, metallurgy, chemistry, physics, paint and textiles; hence it can provide a very varied experience for university research workers able to take advantage of the scheme. The company is to be congratulated on its foresight in promoting this exchange of research workers; it should prove an important step in promoting that two-way flow of research personnel between industry and the university, the need for which has been emphasized repeatedly in recent months. The example might well be followed in other industries.

Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal

IN the editorial article "Science and Progress in India" in *Nature* of May 5, p. 525, the history of the development of the present scientific background in India since the end of the eighteenth century is traced along two parallel lines of progress, official and non-official, the origin of the latter being the foundation of the Asiatic Society (now the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal) by Sir William Jones in 1784. The annual address of Dr. Shyam Prasad Mookerjee, president of the Society for the year 1944-45, has now been received, as well as the annual report of the Council. It is pleasing that Dr. Mookerjee, the son of the late Sir Ashutosh Mookerjee,