of learning and science as "are now or may be hereafter taught in the English universities", but subject to "the fundamental and immutable rule and condition" that the professors, officers, students, etc., shall not be required to submit to any religious test whatsoever. Owens's estate realized £168,025 10*s*. 5*d*., and the residue which came to the College was £96,654 4*s*. 6*d*. The College was opened in 1851 in William Cobden's old house, and new buildings were erected in 1870–73. Frankland was the first professor of chemistry, and in 1857 he was succeeded by Roscoe, under whom worked many men afterwards famous. The engineering department was opened in 1868 with Osborne Reynolds as professor of civil and mechanical engineering. "Owens," says Mr. Redford, in the article referred to, "was a plain man with no aspirations to greatness, who builded better than he knew."

Memorial to John Dalton

Two years ago, on the occasion of the centenary of the death of John Dalton (see *Nature*, **154**, 103; 1944), the Society of Friends arranged to erect a memorial stone to his memory in the quiet graveyard at Pardshaw Hall close by his birthplace, Eaglesfield, near Cockermouth, Cumberland. Dalton was educated at the Quaker School at Eaglesfield and was a teacher there before he removed first to Kendal and then in 1793 to Manchester, where he spent the remainder of his life. At his death on July 27, 1844, he was buried in the public cemetery at Ardwick, but it is considered by some that he would have preferred to be buried in his native county. Owing to the War the plan made in 1944 for a memorial stone had to be postponed, but is now to be carried out. The stone will bear his name, places and dates of birth and death, and the epitaph "Not for an age but for all time: This to his memory".

Mineral Development in Great Britain

THE Minister of Fuel and Power has appointed a committee, to be known as the Mineral Development Committee, with the following terms of reference: "To inquire into the resources of minerals in the United Kingdom, excepting coal, oil, bedded ironstone, and substances of widespread occurrence; to consider possibilities and means of their co-ordinated, orderly, and economic development in the national interest, and to make recommendations in regard thereto".

The Committee is constituted as follows: Lord Westwood (Chairman); Mr. T. Balogh (Institute of Statistics, University of Oxford); Mr. A. R. Davies (partner in the firm of T. C. Horabin and Partners, industrial consultants); Prof. W. R. Jones (Imperial College of Science and Technology; adviser to Board of Trade (China Clay); chairman, China Clay Working Party); Mr. L. C. Hill (technical adviser to the board of directors of Rio Tinto, Ltd.); Prof. A. O. Rankine (chief physicist, Anglo-Iranian Oil Co., Ltd.); Prof. J. A. S. Ritson (professor of mining, Royal School of Mines; deputy chairman of the Coal Commission); Mr. Stanley Robson (director of Imperial Smelting Corporation, Ltd.); Mr. Tom Steele, M.P.; Captain Peter Thorneycroft, M.P.; and Mr. R. E. Yeabsley (partner in the firm of Hill, Vellacott & Co., chartered accountants). The secretary of the Committee is Mr. W. C. C. Rose, to whom all communications should be addressed at the Ministry of Fuel and Power, 40 Upper Brook Street, London, W.1.

Scientific Posts in the Development of Atomic Energy

ACCORDING to the *Daily Mail* of August 3, Mr. L. J. F. Brimble, joint editor of *Nature*, attacked "Secrecy over the appointment of scientists to posts in the development of atomic energy", at a gathering of "scientists at Wadham College, Oxford". This statement is so inaccurate as to convey the opposite of that which Mr. Brimble actually did say. He was addressing the summer school of the British Social Hygiene Council on "Science and Social Progress". In dealing with atomic energy, Mr. Brimble pleaded that public (especially lay) opinion should be based on more accurate and fuller knowledge. He gave a brief history of atomic research in an attempt to show that no one country could claim all the credit, and emphasized the important pioneer work of Dalton in Manchester followed later by the crucial researches under Rutherford at Cambridge. This, he claimed, should be more widely known, for it might surprise some if they knew how widespread among the lay public was the belief that all atomic research had so far been practically confined to the United States. As regards the appointment of physicists to posts dealing with atomic research, Mr. Brimble neither said nor implied anything. In fact it should here be stated that in the opinion of the Editors of *Nature*, such posts as exist in Britain are held by the most suitable and competent men of science, and, so far as they are aware, there has been no "secrecy" in appointing them. Mr. Brimble did, however, direct attention to the hasty decisions being made in appointing personnel to certain scientific and educational bodies—decisions which seem to be made by a few without consulting other authorities—and often not followed by any published announcement of such appointments. Those bodies which Mr. Brimble had in mind are far removed from atomic energy, or indeed any other kind of scientific research.

Pharmaceutical Products and their Manufacture

MR. B. A. BULL, in his address as chairman to the British Pharmaceutical Conference meeting in London on July 16, reviewed the various fields of development in pharmaceutical practice which have occurred during the past ten or fifteen years. A good deal of attention has been devoted to methods of analytical control, particularly the extension of physical methods, such as spectroscopic, adsorption, fluorimetric, X-ray and the selenium cell. The technique of microanalysis had been developed so that routine examinations can be carried through with a considerable degree of both speed and accuracy. Adsorption has been applied in the development of chromatography. The range of synthetic chemical compounds having medicinal properties has been widely extended and, in addition to the synthesis of naturally occurring substances such as the vitamins and the development of fermentation, and biological processes, whole series of new compounds possessing marked physiological activity have been prepared. The search for true chemotherapeutic agents has proceeded with increased vigour and with considerable success, notably in the case of penicillin.

Many new developments have occurred in the basic processes underlying manufacturing processes. Thus with vacuum evaporators, the design has tended to emphasize the advantage of rapid circulation of the liquid with a consequent diminution in