

with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization. The full range includes also mechanical, civil and electrical engineering projects.

Prof. R. M. Hartwell

Mr. R. M. Hartwell has been appointed to the foundation chair in the Faculty of the Humanities in the University; the title of the chair will be that of economic history. Mr. Hartwell is completing requirements for the degree of doctor of philosophy in the University of Oxford under a National University Fellowship, and he has also been elected to a fellowship of Nuffield College. Mr. Hartwell, who is twenty-nine years of age, was a foundation student of the Armidale University College and took his M.A. degree with first-class honours and the University medal in economics at the University of Sydney as a teaching fellow in the Faculty of Economics. He has carried out research on the economic history of both Australia and Tasmania, and on the development of the wool manufacturing trade of the British Commonwealth. He is at present visiting leading universities and technological institutions in Europe and in America. His present appointment at Sydney is in conformity with the policy adopted by the governing council of the New South Wales University of Technology of including the humanities as compulsory subjects in its degree courses from their inception.

Bicentenary of A. G. Werner (1750–1817)

ABRAHAM GOTTLÖB WERNER, the eminent German geologist, came of a family long engaged in the mining industry, and was born at Wehrau in Saxony on September 25, 1750. He was educated at a school in Silesia and then was employed in a foundry under his father, who taught him to recognize the various minerals. At the age of eighteen, a visit to Freiburg led to his studying there and at Leipzig, and in 1774 he published his first paper, "The External Characteristic Features of Fossils". In 1775 he was appointed inspector of collections and teacher in the Mining School at Freiburg. His teaching was always fresh and vigorous, and in a few years Freiburg became the great centre for the study of mineralogy and structural geology. Werner published but little, and his widespread influence was due to the succession of eminent students who worked under him: among these were Humboldt, Brucechi, von Buch, Reuss, Brochant de Villiers, Giesecke, Hailstone, Greenhough, Freiesleben, Charpentier and many others. In 1787 Werner published a treatise on the classification of rocks, and in 1791 he wrote a work on his view of the formation of veins. The Wernerian doctrine taught "that all the rocks of the crust like the earth's body itself have taken origin from aqueous solutions, either as chemical or as mechanical precipitates, while volcanic lavas and scoriae represented rock material that had been so precipitated but had subsequently been melted and ejected". The controversy between the Neptunists and Vulcanists waged for many years, especially in Germany, and much valuable time was lost in the discussions that followed. Werner was a born teacher; he possessed a marvellous memory and quick powers of observation, and he never relaxed his reading and research. He visited Paris in 1802 and was elected a foreign associate of the Academy of Sciences. After holding his post in the Mining School at Freiburg for more than forty years, Werner died at Dresden, unmarried, on June 30, 1817.

Chemistry and the Press: Panel of Expert Writers

THE Chemical Council, which represents the Royal Institute of Chemistry, the Chemical Society and the Society of Chemical Industry, has recently set up a panel of chemists who are qualified both as chemists and as writers, and also who are willing to undertake the writing of occasional articles for the weekly periodicals and magazines and the daily Press. In selecting this panel, due regard has been paid not only to the members' qualifications in chemistry, particularly in specified fields of work, but also to their ability to write for the non-scientific reader. The council of the Royal Institute of Chemistry has agreed to act as a centre for directing inquiries from editors to appropriate experts on the panel; but the Chemical Council insists that neither the contributors of articles nor the officers of the Royal Institute of Chemistry should be troubled by requests for information over the telephone or asked to supply quick answers to current inquiries, since this method involves risk of the information being incorrectly reported. The Council also considers that there should be some assurance from editors that the articles thus prepared will not be treated in a way that distorts the meaning or balance of the presentation, and it suggests that the scientific contributor should be given the assurance that he will see a proof of the article before publication so that he may have an opportunity of amending or rejecting. The panel has been drawn up mainly at the suggestion, and for the convenience, of representatives of the Press; but no claim is made that the list contains the names of all those qualified to write suitable articles for the lay Press, nor does the Chemical Council claim to be the sole source of information as to who is most competent to write such articles. As a general guide to editors, the list of writers is classified under six main headings: the science of chemistry; chemistry in agriculture; chemistry in relation to foods and nutrition; chemistry in relation to medicine; chemistry and the law; and chemistry in industry.

Dunlop Research Centre in Negri Sembilan, Malaya

AT a time of political stress in Malaya, it is a noteworthy achievement that the Dunlop Research Centre, situated in Negri Sembilan, on the Regent Estate of Dunlop Malayan Estates, Ltd., should have been opened last June. It is to be hoped that, with improving conditions, it will form a nucleus leading to considerable new knowledge and technical achievement in the East. The main building contains two large air-conditioned laboratories, an office, a store, an air-conditioning plant, a large workshop, and three good flats for senior Asiatic staff. In the immediate vicinity are bungalows which provide accommodation for the director of research (Dr. F. J. Paton) and the technical staff. Since Dunlop Malayan Estates, Ltd., devotes almost all the capacity of its 80,000 acres to the production of rubber latex, its problems are to a large extent physico-chemical and colloid in character, and considerable attention is being given to the study of latex constitution and to treatments in Malaya that will make the latex more and more suitable for home-manufacturing processes. New methods of latex preservation other than the usual ammonia preservation are being actively investigated. Centrifuging is the chief method employed for concentrating latex, although, more recently, interesting electrodecantation methods have received close