

which is of the value of £1,000, bears the name of Kalinga, the empire which covered part of India and Indonesia three centuries before the Christian era.

Royal Geographical Society : Awards for 1952

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has been pleased to approve the award of the Royal Medals as follows: *Founder's Medal*, to Mr. H. W. Tilman, for his exploratory work among the mountains of East Africa and Central Asia; *Patron's Medal*, to M. Paul-Émile Victor, for his contributions to Polar exploration, including his geophysical investigations of the Greenland ice-cap. The Council has made the following awards: *Murchison Grant*, to Mr. W. D. C. Wiggins, deputy director of Colonial Surveys, for his contributions to Colonial cartography; *Back Grant*, to Dr. H. F. P. Herdman, senior scientific officer in *Discovery II*, for his oceanographical work in the Southern Ocean; *Cuthbert Peek Grant*, to Mr. P. H. T. Beckett, leader of the Oxford University Expedition to Persia, 1950, for geographical work; *Gill Memorial*, to Mr. R. S. Webb, for his contribution to the study of Basuto place-names, and his "Gazetteer of Basutoland".

Linnean Society of London : Anniversary Meeting

At the anniversary meeting of the Linnean Society of London, held on May 24, the Linnean Gold Medal was awarded to Mr. I. H. Burkill, director of the Botanic Gardens, Straits Settlements, during 1912-25. The following were elected officers for the session 1952-53: *President*, Lieut.-Colonel R. B. Seymour Sewell; *Treasurer*, Colonel F. C. Stern; *Secretaries*, (Zoology) Dr. A. Tindell Hopwood, (Botany) Dr. George Taylor; *New Members of Council*, Mr. J. E. Dandy, Dr. S. M. Manton, Prof. P. B. Medawar, Mr. E. Milne-Redhead and Dr. W. E. Swinton. Prof. Lothar Geitler, of the Botanical Institute, University of Vienna, and Dr. Ernst Mayr, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, were elected foreign members. The Rev. S. G. Brade-Birks, Mr. H. Gilbert-Carter and Mr. G. W. Robinson were elected associates *honoris causa*.

University of London

THE following appointments in the University of London have been announced: Prof. V. C. A. Ferraro, professor of applied mathematics in University College, Exeter, to the University chair of mathematics tenable at Queen Mary College from October 1; Dr. P. C. C. Garnham, to the University chair of medical protozoology tenable at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine from October 1; Mr. J. A. B. Gray, of the National Institute for Medical Research, to the University readership in physiology tenable at University College from October 1. The title of reader in technical optics in the University has been conferred on Mr. B. K. Johnson in respect of the post held by him at the Imperial College of Science and Technology. The following doctorates have been conferred: *D.Sc.*, Izrael Hieger (Royal Cancer Hospital); D. S. Kettle (University College); John O'Mara-Bockris (Imperial College of Science and Technology).

Mellon Foundation : Research Fellowship in Artists Materials

THE thirty-eighth annual report of the president of the Mellon Institute—that for 1950-51—contains a brief but significant reference to the new fellowship,

awarded to Dr. R. L. Feller, for development of "new materials and techniques for the fine arts, both for use in original work and for restoration, with a special view towards permanence". The fact that important advances have been made in recent years in our knowledge of materials (oils, pigments, and so forth) should not excuse the relatively minor benefits which have so far been conferred upon the artist and sculptor. The very special and delicate problems associated with the conservation of works of art—of all kinds—have received too little attention. These questions are the cause of much proper anxiety to museum and gallery authorities. The tendency of varnish to yellow, and its propensity of blooming are examples. Many others could be quoted, once classical paintings are conceived as a stratified system (support-ground-paint-varnish) and the interrelations of the layers examined. In all this, the new developments at the Mellon Institute will be watched with the keenest interest.

Perhaps it is not inappropriate to note that this recent venture coincides approximately with the setting up—with headquarters in London—of the International Institute for the Conservation of Museum Objects, a project originally conceived in New England, and now endeavouring to make known to scholars and conservators the fruits of scientific investigations applied to the fine arts. The *Carnegie Magazine* (January and February 1952) contains contributions relevant to these special activities, both those of Dr. Feller and those of the new Institute for Conservation in London. They are indicative of a serious awakening to the value of prophylactic treatment, and a stimulus to renewed efforts towards the mastery over materials.

Boyle and Alchemy

CONCERNING Robert Boyle even the smallest fact is of interest. In 1684 Weidenfeld published a work entitled "De Secretis Adeptorum Sive De Usu Spiritus Vini Lulliani Libri IV". This work is dedicated to the "most illustrious Robert Boyle of the Royal Society" and contains, at the end of the table of contents of the first book, a list of eight "writings of the adepts not yet printed by the Maccenates of the art, imparted to me by patrons and friends for the common good". Among these titles is "De Magisterio, sive de investigatione secreti occulti Lullii: ab illustri Domino Roberto Boyleo". According to the dedication, Weidenfeld, who lived at Vilna, heard of Boyle, and came to England to visit him. Boyle received him kindly, praised his studies and thereby "raised his mind to greater things". Apparently he also presented him with this manuscript on the Lullian type of alchemy (Thorn-dike, L., "History of Magic and Experimental Science", Vol. 4, pp. 3-65; Sherwood Taylor, F., "The Alchemists", pp. 109-122; New York, 1949). Boyle's attitude to alchemy was ambivalent, as is seen, on one hand, by his criticisms in the "Sceptical Chymist" and elsewhere, and on the other by his "Historical Account of a Degradation of Gold, Made by an Anti-Elixir. A Strange Chymical Narrative" (Fulton, No. 137). His possession of this alchemical manuscript and his willingness to give it away may serve as a measure of his interest in such matters.

Applied Statistics : New Journal of the Royal Statistical Society

THE Royal Statistical Society has just started a third journal, *Applied Statistics*, which will deal with