

### British Research Chemicals.

WE have received a pamphlet entitled "British Research Chemicals produced by Members of the Association," issued by the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers. This is a revised edition of the association's earlier pamphlet, and now contains inorganic as well as organic chemicals. In the list of inorganic chemicals, however, there are many which cannot fairly be called research chemicals, and can be obtained from almost any dealer. These include alum, ammonium chloride, barium chloride, bismuth subnitrate, and the like. It is evident that the Association had research chemicals in mind in drawing up the list, since such substances as ferrous ammonium sulphate are omitted. This inclusion of common chemicals swells the bulk of the list without adding to its value.

Although the preface states that there are certain chemicals on the list a permanent supply of which cannot be guaranteed unless there is sufficient demand (these might have been indicated in some way), it is evident that considerable progress has been made since the issue of the first edition, and the manufacturers are to be congratulated heartily on their efforts to supply from home sources materials which were obtained formerly from abroad. The list is far from complete; the present writer sought in vain for four not very rare substances he requires for research and used to obtain from Germany. With such an excellent beginning, however, the by no means small difficulties of research workers at the present time should rapidly be alleviated.

We notice that the manufacture of new chemicals may be undertaken by one or other of the firms "according to demand." We wish to point out, however, that this will scarcely meet the case satisfactorily. There are some materials which could formerly be obtained from German firms for which the demand must have been extremely small. If the research worker is to be told that the materials he requires cannot be made in this country because there do not happen to be a hundred other people working on the same subject, he will not derive much comfort from the statement. We offer these criticisms in the hope that they may be of assistance, and not in any way as detracting from the praise which is due to the firms for what they have already accomplished.

### University and Educational Intelligence.

LEEDS.—At a meeting of the Court of the University of Leeds, held on April 26, it was decided to confer the following honorary degrees among others: *D.Sc.*, Sir Dugald Clerk; Sir Frank Dyson, Astronomer-Royal; Sir Richard Gregory; Sir Charles Sherrington, President of the Royal Society, Waynflete Professor of Physiology in the University of Oxford; and Sir Harold Stiles, President of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland, Professor of Clinical Surgery in the University of Edinburgh. *M.Sc.*, Mr. R. W. Haydon, until recently Lecturer in Agriculture in the University.

A CONFERENCE of representatives of the Universities of the United Kingdom will be held on May 13 in the Botanical Theatre, University College, London. The subjects and the openers of the discussions are as follows: the urgent need for the provision of enlarged opportunities for advanced study and research (Dr.

J. C. Irvine); the increase of residential accommodation for undergraduate and other students (Sir Michael E. Sadler); specialisation in certain subjects of study by certain universities (Dr. L. R. Farnell); and the organisation of adult education as an integral part of the work of the universities (Sir. Henry A. Miers).

THE Melbourne correspondent of the *Times* announces that the Universities of Melbourne, Sydney, and Adelaide have agreed to invite Prof. Einstein, when he visits Java, to continue afterwards to Australia and visit the principal cities. Sydney and Melbourne will contribute 80*l.* each towards his expenses, and Adelaide 60*l.*

It is announced in the *Chemist and Druggist* that under the will of the late Mr. Henry Musgrave sums amounting to 57,000*l.* have been bequeathed to Queen's University, Belfast. The Senate requested the Academic Council to make the consequential regulations for awarding "The Musgrave Research Studentship."

IN a new magazine, *The Beacon*, for April, Mr. E. H. Dance writes on "The Channels of Education: a Suggestion for Remuneration Economy." He admits that economy is as necessary in education as in other national activities, and he remarks that the Scripture lesson is the most unfruitful in the whole curriculum; he also states that the advantages of commandeering a large proportion of the time allotted to it and transferring it to geography would be incalculable. It is suggested that economics might largely take the place of Latin. Science teaching in its present form he condemns because its matter is of little real utility, "even when the canon of utility is educational . . . in spite of recent developments, education continues to lay undue emphasis on deductive reasoning." Science teaching, as now carried out, might, he thinks, be replaced by a more suitable medium: "that medium lies ready to hand in the modern treatment of history. History may be described as the laboratory of politics." "The inculcation of a general aesthetic sense is perhaps the most obvious need of modern education." Some of us may find it difficult to accept the writer's conclusions, but the article is well written and suggestive.

IN the course of his presidential address, delivered on April 20 at the annual general meeting of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, Mr. S. J. Speak referred to the part which the Institution has played in the development of technical education. Speaking of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and particularly of the Royal School of Mines, he said that the Institution had aimed always at securing recognition for the College as "the technological centre of the Empire." The work of the College was, however, hampered seriously by lack of the power to grant degrees, and for this reason it is advocated that the status of the College should be raised to that of an Imperial University of Science and Technology. Opposition to this suggestion comes mainly from two sources: first, from the University of London, which naturally desires to absorb vigorous local institutions into itself and fails to see that facilities for obtaining London degrees do not meet the case. The second source of opposition is found in those educated on the classical side of existing universities, and to them a University of Science and Technology is unthinkable. Mr. Speak protested against this as suggesting that the study of the "humanities" is a higher form of education than the study of science.