

News and Views

Sir William Pope

By awarding the Messel medal to Sir William Pope, the Society of Chemical Industry has paid a well-deserved tribute to one of Great Britain's most distinguished chemists. Moreover, the news of the award will be received with interest and satisfaction outside as well as within the boundaries of his own country, for Sir William, as president of the Federal Council and a former president of the Union Internationale, is well known to foreign chemists as the principal ambassador of their British colleagues. He held office from 1917 until 1919 as president of the Chemical Society, and from 1920 until 1921 as president of the Society of Chemical Industry. Sir William Pope, who was born in London in 1870, was one of Prof. H. E. Armstrong's pupils, having studied chemistry at the Finsbury Technical College and at the Central Technical College (now an integral part of the Imperial College of Science and Technology) at South Kensington. In 1897 he became head of the chemical department at the Goldsmiths' Institute, New Cross, and in 1901 became professor of chemistry at the Municipal School of Technology, Manchester; in 1908 he was appointed professor of chemistry and director of the Chemical Laboratories at Cambridge. Sir William's greatest triumphs in the domain of original research are associated with advances in stereochemistry, but other studies, for example, those with Dr. W. H. Mills on photographic sensitizers, are equally important and well known. Working in collaboration with Peachey, he succeeded in 1889 in resolving phenylbenzylmethylallylammonium iodide, an optically active compound containing an asymmetric nitrogen atom, and so demonstrated the quinquevalency of nitrogen. This extension of the scope of stereochemistry beyond the range of asymmetric carbon compounds was followed by the preparation of optically active substances containing asymmetric atoms of sulphur, selenium, and tin. In association with Barlow, he published work on the relation between chemical composition and crystalline form which led to interesting conceptions concerning the size and arrangement of atoms.

Mellon Institute of Industrial Research

MR. ANDREW MELLON, the newly appointed American Ambassador in London, has a claim to fame in relation to the promotion of scientific research which has escaped recognition in announcements of his appointment. He and his brother, Richard B. Mellon, gave their name and a generous benefaction to the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research in the University of Pittsburgh. Of the original benefaction of £100,000, half was used to provide the permanent building accommodating 70 research workers, £12,000 for equipment and apparatus, £4000 for the chemical library, and £8000 a year for at least five years for maintenance. The objects of the Institute are stated to be: "The increase of useful knowledge through the application of contemporary science to industrial processes, the promotion of American industry, and

providing opportunities for the training of men for high industrial appointments, and, in addition to this, the training of men in advanced chemical engineering and industrial chemistry for specific industries". The principles on which the work of the Institute was based were enunciated by the first director, Prof. Robert Kennedy Duncan, and were explained for English readers in Educational Pamphlet No. 30, entitled "An Experiment in Industrial Research", by T. Ll. Humberstone, published by the Board of Education in 1915. It is a tribute to the wisdom of the founders of the Mellon Institute, and the essential soundness of the principles on which the Institute is based, that the Liberal party in an official statement of policy recently published has urged the establishment in Great Britain of an institute on similar lines.

Industrial Bursaries

It is now almost platitudinous to say that industrial efficiency can be furthered by the introduction into works and factories of men trained in science and ready to use such training in industrial pursuits. The difficulty, however, is to find really suitable openings for students whose special scientific training will ultimately fit them for responsible posts. It is true, of course, that employers are realising more and more the value of such men to industry, but it is not always easy for students to gain practical experience when their financial position is such that they cannot accept employment at the nominal remuneration which usually accompanies the 'learning period' in industry. In these cases the Industrial Bursaries of the Royal Commission of 1851 are specially useful. The scheme is designed to assist "young men who, after a course of training in a University or approved technical college, desire to take up Engineering, Chemical or other industrial work". It has no intention of facilitating collegiate studies; it is solely "to enable suitable applicants to tide over the period between their leaving college and obtaining remunerative employment in industry". To carry out its full intention, the candidate must be under twenty-five years of age, must have been a *bona fide* student of science for three years, must be able to obtain an industrial post approved by the Commissioners, and must be in need of pecuniary assistance to enable him to hold such a post. He is not allowed, except in particular circumstances, to accept less than the standard wage. Elsewhere we publish an article dealing with the record of bursars appointed between 1911 and 1929, and we shall not, therefore, deal with the actual record here. In spite of that part of the regulation which we have indicated above, however, it would appear that the bursars were nominated chiefly by universities: only the Heriot Watt College, Edinburgh, would fall under the heading of "approved technical college". We would, therefore, direct the attention of technical colleges to the scheme, for we feel that it would be of enormous value to students who may not contemplate proceeding to universities