

must not be originality or novelty in books, but the promotion of national welfare, of national safety, of national wealth and national solidarity. There must be no more battles of theory among you." He goes on to bid the teachers of law and economics show the way to German intellectual life by their good example. By a strange perversion of logic, policy dictated by political expediency is made the touchstone of truth and teaching, research and speculative thought are to be conditioned by predetermined conclusions, outside the terms of which they may not stray. The restrictions placed on the study of race and the history of culture are evidently now to be extended to jurisprudence and economics.

#### Clinical Research at Guy's Hospital

THE governors of Guy's Hospital and the governors of Guy's Hospital Medical School have accepted an invitation from the Medical Research Council to cooperate in the establishment of a new 'unit' for scientific research work in clinical medicine. It has been agreed that the Council will provide the salary of a whole-time director and of his assistants, with the cost of all apparatus and research material used by the unit. For its part, the Hospital will provide suitable laboratory accommodation free of charge, and will place and maintain beds at the disposal of the director: the latter is to be *ex officio* a member of the visiting staff, with a seat on the Medical Committee and the committees of the Medical School. These arrangements are to be effective for a period of five years in the first instance. Dr. Ronald T. Grant, hitherto working in the service of the Council in the Department of Clinical Research at University College Hospital, London, has been appointed director of the new unit. The invitation was issued to Guy's Hospital by the Medical Research Council in accordance with its general policy of improving the facilities available in Great Britain for the scientific study of disease in the human subject, and with this end in view of increasing the number of higher appointments for whole-time workers in this field. The financial resources which the Council is able to apply to the purpose are those which were released when the senior post formerly maintained by the Council at University College Hospital, and held by Sir Thomas Lewis, received permanent endowment through the generous action of the Rockefeller Foundation.

#### Electrical Launching Gear for Lifeboats on the *Queen Mary*

THE electrical generators of the *Queen Mary* have a total capacity of about 10,000 kilowatts. There are in addition two 75 kilowatt generating sets driven by Parsons oil engines, which can be used for emergencies. Messrs. Samuel Taylor and Sons, Ltd., of Brierly Hill, Staffs, are supplying all the launching gear for the lifeboats. It includes twenty-four sets of gravity davits and winches. These davits run down inclined trackways carrying the boat with them until they finally reach their outboard position, when the boat is lowered from the davit head into the sea; the whole operation is done without stop-

ping, the motive power being gravity. The cradle holding the boat is made in two portions, the carriage and the arm. The two portions run down the track bodily, after which the arm swings out of the carriage until the boat attains the outboard position and the lowering begins. There is no jerk anywhere, the motion being continuous. The movement of the davit is controlled by an electric winch mounted on a deck house. The winches are fitted with patent speed-sustaining brakes which limit the lowering speed of the lifeboats to one foot per second. For raising the lifeboats, after they have been lowered for any reason, such as lifeboat drill, the electric motors are used. Limit switches are provided which check the movement when the davits reach their inboard position and the interlocks make it impossible for the operator to make a mistake.

#### Mining in Great Britain

THE thirteenth annual report of the Secretary for Mines for the year 1933 from the Mines Department, which includes as usual the annual report of the Chief Inspector of Mines, has recently been issued (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1934. 3s. 6d. net). The most important statement in this report is to be found in a review of the British coal-mining industry, which states that "Signs of an improvement in the position of the British coal-mining industry were evident in the latter part of 1933". This is a very satisfactory statement as showing that the coal production of the country is at last recovering from the serious slump that has affected it for so long. It must not, however, be supposed that all the difficulties have been overcome, because the report goes on to state that work at the pits was most irregular and that the prices of British coal were slightly lower than in the previous year. It is shown that various trade agreements made with different Governments of Europe have resulted upon the whole in an advantage to the coal trade of Great Britain. It is satisfactory to find that the utilisation of coal and the products derived from it are on the increase, and that serious attention is being given to the question of the use of compressed gas for motors. The statement, though now old, that during November 1933 the Secretary for Mines opened the first public filling station for vehicles using compressed gas, is repeated in the report, and it is decidedly interesting to have it thus authoritatively stated. It is obvious from the report that the mining of iron improved during 1933, the increase in the output being more marked in the second half of the year than in the first, as in the case of coal. The remainder of the report of the Secretary for Mines is not of great scientific importance, although his summary of the results obtained in the various testing stations is of a certain amount of public interest. The report of the Chief Inspector of Mines is, as usual, mainly of importance for the numerous tables which it presents.

#### Weekly Weather Reports

THE *Weekly Weather Report* of the Meteorological Office, Air Ministry, for the period February 28,