

Dunlop, from the beginning, had the hope that a permanent organisation would grow out of the first World Power Conference. But it was not his intention himself to make a proposal to this end. In the event, all the countries which participated united to demand that the work begun in 1924 should continue and, as is well known, during the past eleven years the second plenary World Power Conference has been held in Berlin and sectional meetings in Basle, London, Barcelona, Tokyo and the Scandinavian capitals, while the Chemical Engineering Congress of the World Power Conference will take place in London next year.

The World Power Conference has, under Dunlop's guidance, become a highly important international body with forty-nine member-countries and a central office in London. But from the beginning he envisaged something much more than a technical organisation of the producers and consumers of power and fuel.

He saw in it the meeting-place between scientific workers and engineers on one hand, statesmen and economists on the other. He placed an even higher value upon the opportunities for personal encounters which the World Power Conference provided than upon the great technical results already enshrined in more than forty volumes of transactions.

WE regret to announce the following deaths :

Colonel W. C. Blackett, past president of the Institution of Mining Engineers and of the North of England Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, on June 13, aged seventy-five years.

Mr. W. S. Franks, who, for twenty-five years, was in charge of the Brockhurst Observatory, East Grinstead, known for his work on the colours of stars, on June 19, aged eighty-four years.

News and Views

Award of the Albert Medal to Sir Robert Hadfield, Bt., F.R.S.

THE Albert Medal for 1935 of the Royal Society of Arts has been awarded, with the approval of the president, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, to Sir Robert Hadfield "for his Researches in Metallurgy and his Services to the Steel Industry". The Society's Albert Medal, its premier award, is given annually "for distinguished merit in promoting Arts, Manufactures or Commerce". It commemorates the work for the Society of the Prince Consort, who for eighteen years was its president, and to whom the success of the Great Exhibition of 1851, organised by the Society, was largely due. Awards are made irrespective of nationality, and the list of former recipients of the Medal includes the leading men of science, inventors and other benefactors of humanity. Seventy-five awards have now been made, of which nineteen have been to workers outside Great Britain. The first Albert Medal (1864) went to Sir Rowland Hill, for his reform of the postal system of Great Britain. In 1866, Michael Faraday was the medallist, and later recipients have included forty-one ordinary fellows of the Royal Society and nine foreign members. The other metallurgists of the distinguished company which Sir Robert Hadfield now joins are Bessemer, Siemens, John Percy and Sir Isaac Lowthian Bell.

The Abbotsbury Swannery

HOWEVER patriotic and air-minded we may be, however much alive to the urgent necessity governing the general policy of the Air Ministry at this particular moment, the proposal to set up an aerial machine-gun practice ground in the very middle of the "Fleet" alongside Chesil Beach in Dorset, was bound to call forth the protests which it has already done in consequence of the near neighbourhood of the famous Abbotsbury Swannery. Not unnaturally, those informed members of the community who are

well qualified to realise the very regrettable consequences which are bound to result, have attempted to make their influence felt. One of the most important would be the all too frequent disturbance of the swans on their very localised winter feeding ground. Founded in all probability in 1044 by the monks of the Benedictine Abbey of Abbotsbury, Lord Ilchester has stated recently in *The Times* (June 18) that the first references to the swannery which he has been able to discover are to be found in the Court Rolls of the Manor, 16, Richard II (A.D. 1393); and there are many others, including disputes about ownership in the time of Queen Elizabeth. The actual number of swans forming this *perfectly natural colony of wild birds* varies around eight hundred. It is, therefore, not only historically and biologically of very considerable interest, but also in all probability it is the largest swannery in Europe at the present moment. Associated with it there are other birds and plants. It has been stated in defence of the proposed target practice ground that birds soon get used to aeroplanes and noise. That is no doubt true; but is not the point. The vital objection is the ploughing up of their feeding ground by missiles. If the choice of such a locality is really a matter of urgent necessity, it seems altogether deplorable.

Maintenance of Life in Isolated Animal Organs

To study the functions of an organ under well-controlled conditions frequently necessitates its removal from the body in order to avoid influences reaching it from other tissues, which it may not be easy to control. It is difficult, however, to maintain the isolated organ in a condition even approximating the normal. One of the greatest advances was made by Knowlton and Starling in 1912, with the introduction of the 'heart-lung preparation'. This consists of the lungs—artificially ventilated—and heart