interest, which was referred to a special committee appointed by the recent International Congress of Anthropological Sciences held in London in August last. The committee is international in its composition, Great Britain being represented by Capt. T. A. Joyce of the British Museum. The matter, however, is not to be allowed to rest there so far as Great Britain is concerned; and it is announced in the February issue of *Man* that the British Film Institute has established a Scientific Research Panel of its Advisory Council, of which Prof. J. L. Myres will act as chairman, to collect information as to the extent to which the cinematograph has been used in scientific work, details of methods and difficulties in technique, and particulars of films of scientific interest which have not been put into circulation through the ordinary commercial channels. The Panel will welcome information on any of these points; communications should be addressed to the Secretary, British Film Institute, 4 Great Russell Street, London, W.1.

City and Guilds (Engineering) College, London

IN speaking, at the jubilee celebration of the City and Guilds (Engineering) College, Prof. H. E. Armstrong directed special attention to the origin of the Imperial College, tracing this and the general development of scientific activity at South Kensington mainly back to the late Lord Playfair, in particular to his appointment at the Museum of Practical Geology, the home of the Geological Survey, about 1843. South Kensington, he believes, is still without any memorial of the great 'little' man. Discussing the history of the Royal College of Chemistry, established in Oxford Street in 1845, now the Royal College of Science, Prof. Armstrong said that the funds were chiefly obtained from the farming community, owing to the enthusiasm aroused by Liebig in his tour throughout agricultural England in 1842–43. When the Royal College of Science was opened, its rural promoters had looked forward to the development of the school in the interests of agriculture. Man may propose but professors dispose: nothing was further from Hofmann's genius. Agricultural chemistry, Prof. Armstrong said, is not taught in England in a way in the least comparable with that in which engineering has been taught in the Guilds Colleges. He ventured to express the hope that, by the time the College of Chemistry celebrated its centenary, it will have learnt what its original purpose was and will seek to fulfil this. By that time perhaps the world will have recognised that no other subject is so worthy of chief attention as is agriculture.

SPEAKING of his work at the Central, after referring to the importance attached both there and at the Finsbury College to engineering as a necessary subject in the chemist's course, Prof. Armstrong said of the engineer: "I made no attempt to teach him chemistry: that I soon found to be impossible. I tried to teach him through simple acts of chemical inquiry, to experiment with a purpose; to observe accurately: above all to describe his work in lucid English: to take notes, in short, the hardest task of all. My schoolmastering was not popular with many, at the time. In after years I have had my full reward, as not a few have told me that my insistence on their learning to help themselves has been of special value to them". He ended by saying: "At this, perhaps the most critical and solemn moment of my life, in the interests of our national engineering efficiency, I would plead for the recovery of the original spirit and a reconstitution of the College as a separate entity."

Sir Alfred Ewing and Seismometry

DR. C. DAVISON writes: "During the five years (1878–83) that Ewing spent in Japan, like other English teachers in Tokyo he was infected by the enthusiasm of Prof. John Milne, and became one of the first members, and afterwards a vice-president, of the Seismological Society of Japan founded by Milne in 1880. At one of the early meetings of the Society in that year, Ewing described his seismograph for horizontal motion, in which he preceded Rebeur-Paschwitz in devising a horizontal pendulum with two fixed supports. In 1881, he followed with an account of a seismometer for vertical motion, this, with the preceding, forming the well-known instrument made by the Cambridge Instrument Co., Ltd. In the following year, he devised his duplex pendulum seismometer. The horizontal pendulum was erected in the Engineering Laboratory of the University of Tokyo in November 1880, and, at several later meetings of the Seismological Society, he exhibited the diagrams obtained with it. The interest aroused by these early accurate records of the movements of the ground during an earthquake can be readily imagined. Shortly before he left Japan, Ewing wrote his great memoir on 'Earthquake Measurement', in which he described the various forms of known seismographs and their underlying principles (*Tokyo Univ. Sci. Dept. Mems.*, No. 9; 1883). Soon after this, his active interest in seismometry seems to have ceased, for, after his return to Great Britain, he made only one new contribution, that on seismometric measurements of the vibrations of the Tay Bridge during the passing of railway trains (*Roy. Soc. Proc.*, **44**, 394–402; 1888). In these experiments made with a duplex pendulum seismometer, he showed that the greatest lateral and longitudinal movements of the bridge were about $\frac{1}{10}$ in. and $\frac{1}{40}$ in. respectively."

Research Laboratory at the National Gallery

TOWARDS the end of 1934, the Trustees of the National Gallery approved a scheme for the establishment of a laboratory to undertake the physical examination of pictures by means of X-rays, ultra-violet and infra-red radiations, and by micrographic methods. They also appointed a committee, consisting of Sir Henry Lyons, Sir William Bragg, and Dr. H. J. Plenderleith, to act as an advisory body, should need arise: the laboratory is in charge of Mr. F. I. G. Rawlins. A considerable amount of the plant has already been installed, and work has begun with photomicrographic investigations, and to some extent with ultra-violet light. At the present rate of progress