

university teachers dismissed have left Germany. Of these, 248 have been permanently re-established, 131 in Europe and 117 outside Europe; 366 others have been given temporary assistance which has enabled them to continue their studies in universities or other institutions. Most of this work of academic assistance has been carried out by special emergency committees in Europe and the United States, which have succeeded in raising a quarter of a million pounds for the purpose of creating special positions in universities and research centres for the refugee scholars. Nearly £69,000 has been specially raised in Great Britain for the assistance of the refugee scholars. 40 have been permanently re-established and 170 have been given temporary hospitality. In addition, the Academic Assistance Council has been recognised as the international information centre by the High Commission for Refugees. The pamphlet outlines the plans of the academic committees for the future; it states that a constructive solution of the problem is possible and that the task undertaken by the committees is manageable, provided that there is sufficient financial support.

#### Academic Assistance Council

A PUBLIC appeal for funds has been made by the Academic Assistance Council to enable it to continue its work. The appeal is signed by Mr. Stanley Baldwin, Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, Mr. Winston Churchill, the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, the Marquess of Crewe, Viscount Halifax, the Marquess of Londonderry and Lord Meston, in their private capacities as members of the university world and not officially as chancellors of British universities. The Council needs funds with which to continue emergency grants-in-aid to approximately seventy of the displaced German scholars for a period of not more than two years, and also for the creation of twenty special research fellowships of a more permanent character. It is essential also that the Council shall be enabled to continue its important work as an information centre and its investigations throughout the world for new positions in which the temporarily assisted scholars may be placed on a self-supporting basis. The Academic Assistance Council has, from the start, emphasised the issues of principle implicit in its work; it has not confined its activities to the displaced German scholars alone. The great importance of the research which the Council has been able to salvage has been demonstrated from time to time during the past two years in our own columns and in those of other scientific journals. As a research subsidising organisation, the Council has, indeed, an impressive record and merits continued support. Donations, subscriptions or bequests should be sent to Lord Rutherford, president, Academic Assistance Council, Rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, W.1; cheques should be made payable to the Academic Assistance Council.

#### Col. Crompton's Ninetieth Birthday

THE many friends of Col. R. E. B. Crompton, F.R.S., are organising a banquet to be given in his

honour on May 31, which will be his ninetieth birthday. At this banquet he will be presented with his portrait, and he has signified that his intention is to present it to the Institution of Electrical Engineers. Col. Crompton has had a wonderful life. He still talks about the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park in 1851 as if it were an affair of yesterday. At the age of eleven, he enrolled as a cadet in the Royal Navy, and before reaching the age of twelve received the Crimean War medal and Sebastopol clasp. In 1864 he was gazetted into the Rifle Brigade, and did much for road transport in India by helping to substitute road engines for bullock trains. He began work as an electrical engineer in a small way at Chelmsford in 1878, but in 1881 at the Paris Exhibition he gained the first gold medal ever given for electric lighting plant. In 1886 we find him, with the warm approval of the Emperor Francis Joseph, supplying the Opera House in the Ring Street in Vienna with the electric light; and he soon found it necessary to open a branch in Vienna. He took a leading part in the South African War, designing traction engines fitted with dynamos and portable searchlights. He also saw much active service. During the War of 1914-18 he did very valuable work in connexion with 'tanks'. He has always had an unflagging interest in motor vehicles and in the adaptation of roads for their use. Those who use our highways owe him a deep debt of gratitude. He has been a member of the councils of the Institutions of Civil and Electrical Engineers longer than anyone else.

#### Prof. Norbert Wiener

PROF. NORBERT WIENER, professor of mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has accepted an invitation to join the faculty of the National Tsing Hua University in Peiping, China, as research professor of mathematics for the next academic year. Prof. Wiener expects to sail for China next July. Dr. Wiener's outstanding contributions in the field of higher mathematics have brought him wide recognition. Last April he was elected to membership of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and in 1933 he was a joint recipient of the Bocher prize given by the American Mathematical Society for notable work in mathematical analysis. He is a member of the London Mathematical Society, and in 1931-32 served as lecturer at the University of Cambridge. He has carried on advanced studies at Cornell, Columbia, and the Universities of Cambridge, Göttingen and Copenhagen. He joined the staff of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1919 and in 1932 was appointed to full professorship. The National Tsing Hua University is maintained by indemnity funds following the Boxer rebellion, which were returned to China for educational purposes by the United States. From time to time the University entertains men eminent in various academic fields as visiting members of its staff. Among them have been Prof. George D. Birkhoff of the mathematics department at Harvard, the Indian poet and philosopher, Rabindranath Tagore, Bertrand Russell, the French mathematician, Hadamard, and the French physicist, Langevin.