

### Leukon Synthetic Resin

A NEW synthetic resin known as 'Leukon' was exhibited in granular thermo-plastic moulding form at the British Industries Fair by Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. The main physical properties of the material are stated to be as follows: density 1.2 at 20° C., impact strength 4 kgm. cm. (Charpy units), tensile strength up to 10,000 lb. per sq. in., cross breaking strength 80/85 lb. cantilever, Young's modulus 227 tons per sq. in. The material flows before breakdown under high pressure. As regards the chemical properties of the material, it is said to be insoluble in water, alcohol and aqueous media, to be unaffected by acids or alkalis up to concentrations of 40 per cent in the case of sulphuric acid and caustic soda at atmospheric temperature, and to be unaffected by many high boiling organic esters. It is soluble in certain of its forms in a number of organic solvents, including acetone, chlorinated hydrocarbons and benzene. The material machines easily, can be die-stamped at 120°-140°, has very good insulating properties and low thermal conductivity. A property which is emphasised is the capacity of the material for colour, in transparent, translucent or opaque forms.

### The Prehistoric Society of East Anglia

At the recent annual meeting of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia, held at the Norwich Castle Museum, it was resolved that in future the title of the Society shall be "The Prehistoric Society". Dr. J. G. D. Clark, in proposing the change, directed attention to the fact that the Society is no longer predominantly East Anglian either in membership or scope of work, and emphasised the point that the recognition of the Prehistoric Society as the only society operating on a national basis exclusively in the sphere of prehistoric archaeology will be a contribution towards the much-desired rationalisation of the subject in Great Britain. The Prehistoric Society of East Anglia was founded in 1908 by the late Dr. Allen Sturge and the late W. G. Clark of Norwich. From very small beginnings it has grown until the membership now approaches 400 and includes the leading prehistorians in this and many other countries. Prof. L'Abbé Henri Breuil, the retiring president, is succeeded by Prof. V. Gordon Childe, with Mr. M. C. Burkitt as vice-president, Dr. J. G. D. Clark as editor and Mr. G. Maynard, curator of the Ipswich Museum, as honorary secretary.

### The Philosophy of Sir James Jeans

IN the December number of *Adult Education*, Prof. L. Susan Stebbing subjects Sir James Jeans's recent presidential address to the British Association to searching criticism. She complains that he has rated the intelligence of his hearers and readers too low by presenting them with contradictory statements concerning Nature, space and time, and knowledge. Some of the questions raised were referred to in our leading article on the address which was published in *NATURE* of September 8 last, but Prof. Stebbing makes no attempt to

penetrate to the vital ideas which were expressed, however imperfectly, by Sir James Jeans; she contents herself with pointing out the imperfections. As destructive criticism, the paper is of value, though, in the absence of counter-balancing constructive thought, it achieves less than its full potentialities. Prof. Stebbing fortunately does not make the common error of supposing that a single statement, by however distinguished a physicist, represents the unanimous view of 'physics'. "The point to be maintained here," she says, "is that these cloudy speculations cannot properly be regarded as 'philosophical implications' of the new 'physics'." This goes far to justify what might otherwise be construed as a philosopher's attack on the philosophical tendencies of modern physics.

### Biology, a new Journal

WITH the object of helping teachers of biology in different types of schools at home and abroad, the British Social Hygiene Council has launched a new journal, *Biology*. It is hoped that the magazine will "serve as a medium for the interchange of ideas and information on practical and pioneer ventures in biology teaching". The scope of *Biology* is suggested by the articles in the first number. They include one advocating microscope work, dissection and physiology of growth and development in elementary biology teaching; another describing the methods in use in African dependencies. More general articles deal with plant communities and the school; the value of the micro-projector; biological activities out of school; and biology and general science in the First School Examination. The hesitation and delay in the introduction of biological teaching in schools throughout Great Britain is due largely to the indefiniteness of the subject's boundaries, and the lack of well-organised graded courses of fairly definite content. If *Biology* can lead to the development of such courses by pooling information, it will be performing great service to the science of life.

### Research on Causes of Blindness

MR. WILLIAM H. ROSS, chairman of the Distillers' Company, Ltd., who is himself totally blind, has recently given £40,000 to establish in Edinburgh an organisation "with the object of investigating the origin and causes of blindness, and utilising the results of such investigation towards its prevention and cure". The income from the money will be applied partly to research work on blindness, and partly to practical measures for its prevention and for the preservation of sight. The chairman of the trustees is Dr. Arthur H. H. Sinclair, president of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

### New Australian Research Laboratories

Two new research laboratories are to be built for the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, using money voted for relief of unemployment. One, at a cost of £6,000, will replace an existing small building at the Council's viticultural research station near Mildura on the River Murray,