

ship lapsed, however, after Faraday's death. The other 'elected' professorship in the Institution at the time, that of natural philosophy, had been established ten years earlier, and was not so short-lived. It was created for Tyndall when he went to the Institution in 1853, and since his retirement in 1887 has continued by election and re-election down to the present day. Sir James Jeans has thus been nominated to the first new professorship to be established in the Royal Institution for some seventy years. It is also the first chair of astronomy in the history of the Institution.

#### Revision of Ordnance Survey Maps

DURING last autumn, the council of the Chartered Surveyors' Institution decided to press for an official inquiry into the present position of the maps and plans of the Ordnance Survey, and an article on the subject appeared in *NATURE* of November 3 (p. 677). In reply to a question by Sir Francis Fremantle in the House of Commons on April 1, Mr. Walter Elliot, Minister of Agriculture, said: "A substantial addition has been made to the Ordnance Survey Estimates for 1935, and this will enable a beginning to be made in the way of overtaking arrears. I propose, however, to refer to a Departmental Committee the whole question of the acceleration of the revision of Ordnance Survey maps and the preparation of plans for town and country planning. I hope shortly to be able to announce the composition of the committee and its terms of reference."

#### Model of the Rocket

A FULL-SIZE replica of the locomotive *Rocket*, as originally designed and constructed by Robert and George Stephenson, has now been acquired for the National Collections in the Science Museum, and will be unveiled by Mr. L. Hore-Belisha, Minister of Transport, at noon on April 11. The model has been made by Messrs. Robert Stephenson and Co., the firm which built the original engine, and represents it, as nearly as possible, in form, materials and workmanship, as it originally appeared. The original engine was built to compete at the Rainhill Trials in October 1829, which was perhaps the most important event in early locomotive history. The success of Stephenson and Booth's *Rocket*, which won the premium of £500 offered by the directors of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway for the most improved locomotive engine constructed in accordance with certain conditions, definitely proved the suitability of the locomotive as a means of general railway haulage, and showed that speeds hitherto unapproached could be attained. The engine was entered by George and Robert Stephenson and Henry Booth. Its success was mainly due to the adoption of the tubular boiler, which was suggested to George Stephenson by Booth. While George Stephenson is popularly credited with the design of the *Rocket*, its actual construction, at Newcastle, was carried out by his son Robert, the father's time being fully occupied with the making of the railway itself.

#### Co-operation between the Chemical Societies of Great Britain

THERE has recently been circulated to all members of the Chemical Society, the Institute of Chemistry and the Society of Chemical Industry a draft agreement between the three Societies in regard to co-operation. The adoption of the agreement is unanimously recommended by the Council of the Society of Chemical Industry and the draft agreement was published in *Chemistry and Industry* on March 15. The agreement provides for the establishment of a fund to be administered by a Chemical Council consisting of three members nominated by the Council of each Society, together with three representatives of industry, co-opted in the first instance on the nomination of the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers. The objects of the fund are the allocation of grants to the constituent bodies for the co-ordination of scientific publications, promotion of research, maintenance of a library, etc. Complete freedom of action is reserved to each constituent body in respect of the matter it publishes. The management of the library of the Chemical Society is delegated to a joint library committee, and contributions to the net annual maintenance expenditure are to be borne by the constituent bodies in proportion to their membership, with due allowance for overlap. This involves, for example, an increase in the contribution of the Institute of Chemistry to £654 and from the Society of Chemical Industry to £448. The agreement is for seven years and thereafter to continue for successive periods of three years, subject to right of withdrawal on giving one year's notice at the end of any period. If the agreement succeeds, it is anticipated that means of reducing subscriptions to the three organisations will be found.

#### American Chemical Industry

THE American Chemical Society is holding in conjunction with its annual meeting in New York on April 22, what may prove to be the largest scientific assembly in history. The object is to expound and commemorate the development of the American chemical industry since its foundation three hundred years ago by John Winthrop Jr., son of the pilgrim Governor of the Massachusetts Colony. In 1633 he set up in Boston the first chemical laboratory and library in the United States, for which he imported apparatus, chemicals and chemical books, and two years later when he became the first colonial Governor of Connecticut, he mapped out a far-reaching programme of local industries including the production of salt, iron, potash, tar, black lead, saltpetre, medicines, copper, alum and other chemicals. Some of these chemicals were made for local use; the chemicals of the forest were exported. It was at Winthrop's suggestion that Massachusetts passed a law in 1642 requiring every town to collect manures to make saltpetre. Chemical industry in the modern sense did not begin in the United States until 150 years later, when in 1792 the manufacture of sulphuric acid was commenced in Philadelphia by John Harrison.