

THROUGHOUT these years of developmental work, Kapitza had visited Russia almost every summer. During these visits he gave lectures and advised on the construction of new institutes, and it was known that he had at one time been offered the directorship of an institute in Russia, but Kapitza himself considered that conditions in the U.S.S.R. were not favourable for the development of his work. It came, therefore, as a shock to his colleagues to learn in October that Kapitza's return passport had been refused, and that he had been ordered to begin the construction of a new laboratory in Russia. The reasons underlying this action may be inferred from the following statement from the Soviet Embassy which appeared in the *News-Chronicle*:—"Peter Kapitza is a citizen of the U.S.S.R., educated and trained at the expense of his country. He was sent to England to continue his studies and research work . . . Now the time has arrived when the Soviet urgently needs all her scientists. So when Prof. Kapitza came home last summer he was appointed as director of an important new research station which is being built at Moscow". This commandeering of Kapitza's services on behalf of the U.S.S.R. ignores the personal and psychological factors involved, as was pointed out by Lord Rutherford in a letter to *The Times* of April 29. A man of Kapitza's highly-strung type must inevitably be profoundly disturbed by a sudden frustration of years of work; and it comes as no surprise to his friends to learn from reliable sources that his health has already been seriously impaired by anxiety and strain. The right of the Soviet to retain Kapitza in his native country can scarcely be questioned, but from the point of view of international science we venture to express the hope that he may be permitted to return to Cambridge to complete the investigations with the remarkable plant designed by him and installed in the Royal Society Mond Laboratory at the University.

#### Retirement of Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell

LAST summer it was announced that Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell was to retire from the post he had held for more than thirty years as secretary of the Zoological Society of London (see *NATURE*, Aug. 25, 1934, p. 280). At the annual meeting of the Society held on April 29, Sir Peter formally vacated the secretaryship and his successor, Prof. Julian S. Huxley, took his place. Sir Henry Mahon and Prof. J. Stanley Gardiner presented Sir Peter with his portrait, painted by Mr. William Nicholson, on behalf of some 1,250 members of the Society; very appropriately, the background of the portrait includes a map of the Whipsnade estate, with the development of which Sir Peter's name will always be associated. The response to the appeal for the portrait was so generous that it has been possible to send each subscriber a reproduction in colour of the portrait and also to present to Sir Peter a personal memento. The Duke of Bedford, president of the Zoological Society, in moving a resolution of thanks to Sir Peter for his many years of active and inspiring service to

the Society and to science, stated that whereas in 1902 the Society's Gardens in Regent's Park had 69,500 visitors, in 1934 the number had increased to 1,690,000, while the Society's high reputation as a scientific body has been similarly enhanced. The Society has been a pioneer, under the guidance of Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell, in the improvement of the conditions under which animals are kept in captivity. On the more strictly scientific side, mention should also be made of the valuable investigations carried out by the succession of anatomists, pathologists and other workers who have been encouraged by Sir Peter to study the Society's collections.

#### King George's Jubilee Trust

No social change of our time is more significant than the way in which leisure has ceased to be the privilege of a few and become the concern, if not indeed the lot, of the many. In the problems which leisure now presents, there is none more serious and pressing than those which it presents in adolescence. The Jubilee Trust inaugurated by the Prince of Wales at St. James's Palace on March 1 is designed specially to deal with such problems, and a further reference to its objects was made in an appeal broadcast by His Royal Highness on April 12. The main objects of the Trust are to provide more and better facilities for the recreation and guidance of the younger generation, to encourage the cultivation of abilities, craftsmanship and all those outdoor interests and activities which make for mental and physical fitness. The Trust will assist, strengthen and extend the work of the many voluntary organisations in existence, the work of which is to promote the welfare of the boys and girls of Great Britain. It will enable similar movements to be started in places at present untouched, particularly through lack of local resources and the need of help from a central source. It should encourage co-ordination of effort and prevent the waste of money and effort in overlapping.

APART altogether from its direct activities, the existence of the Trust should encourage a more enlightened and generous attitude to the many problems which arise in regard to juvenile employment and leisure. It should lend powerful moral support to all agencies which are concerned with the education and recreation of young persons, whether in relation to industry or to citizenship. It may provide a focus from which powerful support will be forthcoming for all efforts to deal wisely with the tragedy of juvenile unemployment, with excessive hours of work or with any other matters which hinder the normal development of citizens possessing the qualities of physical, mental and spiritual fitness and ideas of service which make a people great. The Jubilee Trust aims at dealing with the most crucial educational task of the time—that of guarding from the worst dangers of unemployment or unsuitable work at the most critical time of their physical, moral and mental development that large section of our young people between fourteen and eighteen years of age who are drifting into manhood and

womanhood with little guidance, and it should inspire not merely protective or remedial measures but also courageous efforts to deal with the root causes.

#### Chemical Industry at the Brussels Exhibition

PUBLICITY is a kind of vitamin or hormone essential for the proper growth of an industry. Like those accessories, it needs to be used constantly, judiciously and in appropriately small doses; an excess may do more harm than good, and the different varieties are more or less specific in their action. After a period of unrestrained enthusiasm, during which we sought rapidly to restore supposed deficiencies in vitamins of every alphabetical designation, we have learned to submit our requirements to the examination and prescription of experts; likewise we are learning that the best publicity is that which is well planned and well informed, that which is presented through the right channels by those best qualified, and that in which reality and literal truth are the corner-stones. The British chemical industry has been represented at many exhibitions, but for many years no demonstration of its ramifications and of the excellence of its products has been so comprehensive as that which has been arranged for the Brussels Universal and International Exhibition, 1935, opened by King Leopold on April 27. The exhibit, which is located in the British Government Pavilion, has been organised by the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers on a national basis; all sections of the industry have co-operated in its organisation and industrial firms have sunk their identity in order that the display might be truly national. It has been designed to show, by a series of tableaux, the modern applications in industry of selected chemicals. There are six main sections: heavy chemicals, agricultural chemicals, dyestuffs, coal-tar products, fine chemicals, and pharmaceutical chemicals; there are also exhibits of rayon and of the products of the new plastics or synthetic resin industry.

EVERY other industry depends to-day on the chemical industry, whether in the raw material, in the means of manufacture, in testing and control, or in the finished product. New industries have been created by the application of discoveries and inventions relating to chemical substances; old industries, such as agriculture, have been given a helping hand, as in the form of fertilisers and sprays. A clear impression of the degree to which industrial chemistry and chemical industry play their part in national life and in individual well-being is offered by the booklet which the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers has prepared in connexion with the Brussels Exhibition. The English edition—others in French, German and Spanish are being prepared—is of much interest apart from the exhibits which it describes; it is a waistcoat-pocket guide to the British chemical industry rather than the programme of a show. It gives a brief account of the part which Great Britain now plays in supplying with its chemical products not only its own needs and those of the Dominions and Colonies, but also

the wants of foreign countries less happily placed. The booklet contains a list of firms and organisations which have contributed to the exhibit, together with statements of their principal products. This is the right sort of publicity; dignified, informative, accurate and interesting. The exhibitors deserve their due reward.

#### Aborigines and Australia

A CABLE from Adelaide in *The Times* of April 26 announces the composition of a Federal Board of Inquiry, which has been set up to investigate the treatment of the Australian aborigines. The Board will consist of three members, Prof. J. B. Cleland, professor of pathology in the University of Adelaide, Mr. White, acting Federal Chief Protector of Aborigines, and the Rev. J. H. Sexton, secretary of the Aborigines Friends Association of South Australia. The responsibility of the Federal Government of the Australian Commonwealth is limited to the aborigines of the Northern Territories, including the Arunta of the Alice Springs area, famous in the annals of anthropology as the tribes among whom the late Sir Baldwin Spencer and F. J. Gillen made their epoch-making investigations. Although a liberal policy has been pursued by the Federal Government in the protection of these aborigines, especially in the matter of endeavouring to ensure that they should have free access to their hunting grounds and to the springs and water-holes, allegations have been made recently that the aborigines are being forced off the land necessary to their livelihood. Attention has also been directed in a recent report of a Commission in West Australia, to which we hope to refer later, to the inadequacy of the arrangements for dealing with leprosy among aborigines. This is a Federal responsibility, a leprosarium being provided at Darwin, at which cases from the various States are received. The accommodation, it is stated, is inadequate, causing serious delay in evacuating cases from their point of origin, while, notwithstanding an agitation which has been proceeding for ten years, no steps have been taken towards a systematic examination of the aboriginal populations for the disease.

#### Broadcasting in Great Britain

THE Postmaster-General recently appointed a committee to consider the constitution, control and finance of the broadcasting services of Great Britain, including broadcasting to the Empire, television broadcasting and the system of wireless exchanges which will be conducted after December 31, 1936. He appointed as chairman Viscount Ullswater, and everyone will agree that this was a happy choice; but we were surprised to see that the committee did not include any men of science. We do not believe that any other country in the world would have appointed such a committee without a representative of science. Mr. Whitley was very proud of the new research department of the B.B.C. and was looking forward to it being a great help in the future. Already it has done valuable work, but little reference is made to it in the *B.B.C. Annual* for 1935. In our opinion,