

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,