

and permanent record of the functioning of the heart, lungs, thorax, etc. These records can easily be sent by post to the specialist in charge of the case.

The Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society

THE annual report of the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society for 1935 provides ample evidence that although the Society has passed its centenary (see also p. 547 of this issue), age does not diminish its activities, and that it continues to play an important part in stimulating interest in education and industry throughout the county. Foremost among its proceedings are its exhibition and summer meeting, held last year at Penzance. At the exhibition both art and science were well represented, while the industrial exhibits included a working model of the flotation process of separating minerals that contain an excess of sulphides. There was also a special section of scientific apparatus used for teaching. The report contains three original memoirs, one on the ancient mining districts of Cornwall by Mr. F. J. Stephens, another on Cornwall's part in ceramic history by Mr. E. A. Rees and a third on some minor foundries of Cornwall, based on material collected by the late Mr. S. Michell. It also includes the report of the Cornwall Rainfall Association for 1934 and the report on the Falmouth Observatory, with meteorological notes and tables for 1935. The observatory receives a grant from the Falmouth Town Council, and is inspected periodically on behalf of the Air Ministry. In a comparison of the records at Falmouth with those in other parts of England and Wales, Mr. W. T. Hooper, the superintendent of the observatory, says: "It will be seen therefore that the maximum temperature range at Falmouth was 52°, as compared with 79° elsewhere, and our hottest day was 13° cooler, and our coldest day 14° warmer than the extreme temperature as a whole. This equability is the outstanding characteristic of our local climate." As regards sunshine, "in the year's aggregate, percentage and daily average, Falmouth is a good third in order of merit".

Working to Music

In the factory of the Standard Motor Co., Ltd., of Coventry, the employees work to music. According to the British Motor Number published with *The Times* of March 17, those sections of the factory where the noise is not too great are fitted with loud-speakers all supplied from a radio-gramophone unit. At set times during the day, programmes are given. When a suitable wireless programme is available it is given. At other times gramophone records bought by the Company are played. In those parts of the factory where the work is of a monotonous nature the music is particularly helpful, engendering an atmosphere of cheerfulness. Dance tunes and simple rousing marches are the most popular. Among other privileges many of the workers are allowed to smoke. Morning coffee and afternoon tea are provided, workpeople being allowed half an hour of freedom to visit the buffet in groups. The factory is designed to produce a complete car every four minutes. The parts of the car are carried on an ever-moving conveyor—the chassis

taking 2½ days to complete its circuit—the various processes such as body painting and the assembling of the car, which takes 2½ hours, being co-ordinated. The workers are proud that only very rarely has a customer calling for delivery had to wait for his car. Conveyors take the materials from worker to worker, each one of whom performs a single operation. On the test beds the 9 horse-power models are not run under their own power but driven electrically. As the energy consumed is at once recorded, a sufficient indication of their condition and the general tightness of their parts is obtained. The Standard Co. plans to produce three hundred cars a day, and when the present extensions are completed will have a floor space of more than a million square feet.

An International Air Force

A MEMORANDUM on the functions of an international air force has been issued by the governing committee of the New Commonwealth and by the Parliamentary Group of the British Section of the Society. Discussing the uses of an international air force, it is emphasised that the code of policing regulations to be drawn up must distinguish between acts of aggression and cases of default. Two distinct policing functions are involved—those of defence and of enforcement. The role of the international air force is that of a reinforcing agency, aimed at bringing aggressive action to a standstill. It is precluded from assuming the offensive, but to be effective the intervention of an international air force must be made in the shortest possible space of time. The main objective would be to paralyse the military activities of the aggressor and compel him to desist from hostilities, and distinction between military objectives and civilian centres is unlikely to be practicable. An international air force might also conceivably be called upon to enforce the decisions or awards of an international court or tribunal, but its main object is deterrent and its functions are those of a police and not of a military force. Attention is also directed to the psychological factors involved.

Empire Fibres Exhibition

AN Empire Fibres Exhibition is open at the Exhibition Pavilion of the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, S.W.7, until April 9. The object of the exhibition is partly to interest the general public, and especially school-children visiting the Institute, in vegetable fibres of the Empire, in the various methods of preparation for the market and in the different products into which they are converted; partly to interest technical experts and business men in existing and potential uses for Empire fibres. A series of eight stands or 'bays' comprise the exhibition. Two central bays, facing each other, are devoted to flax and linen exhibits organised by the Linen Industry Research Association with its headquarters at Lambeg, Northern Ireland. Here there are a number of exhibits showing the cultivation and processing of flax and its conversion into linen; also the various lines of research carried out at the Lambeg Research Institute under the guidance of the director, Dr. W. H. Gibson, and at the Flax