News and Views

Royal Society of Edinburgh: Honorary Fellows

THE following have been elected British honorary fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh: Sir Charles Boys; Sir Henry Dale, director of the National Institute for Medical Research; Prof. F. G. Donnan, professor of chemistry in the University of London, University College, London. Foreign honorary fellows have been elected as follows: Prof. L. H. Baekeland, honorary professor of chemical engineering, Columbia University, New York; Prof. M. Lugeon, professor of geology, University of Lausanne; Dr. George Sarton, editor of *Isis* and *Osiris*; Dr. G. L. Streeter, director of the Department of Embryology, Carnegie Institution of Washington; N. I. Vavilov, director of the Institute of Genetics, Academy of Sciences, Leningrad; Prof. W. M. Wheeler, emeritus professor of entomology, Harvard University.

Dr. W. S. Bruce Memorial Prize

A COMMITTEE consisting of representatives of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Royal Physical Society and the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, has awarded the Dr. W. S. Bruce Memorial Prize to James W. S. Marr, who first went to Polar regions with Sir Ernest Shackleton in the *Quest* in 1921, sailing as a boy scout. On Shackleton's death, the expedition continued under Commander Worsley into the Weddell Sea. Marr next sailed with Commander Worsley in 1925 to Spitsbergen and White Island in the Algarsson expedition. In 1927 he joined the staff of the R.R.S. *Discovery* and since then, with brief intervals at home, he has spent his time in the Southern Ocean, partly in the old *Discovery* and partly in *Discovery II*. From 1929 until 1931 he was in *Discovery* when she was lent to Sir Douglas Mawson for the British-Australian-New Zealand Expedition which found many new stretches of the coast line of Antarctica. Last year Marr published in the "Discovery Reports" a large monograph on the South Orkney Islands, which extended the original researches of Dr. W. S. Bruce on that Antarctic Group.

Dr. F. G. Novy

DR. FREDERICK GEORGE NOVY, formerly professor of bacteriology and dean of the Medical School of the University of Michigan, was presented with the 250,000th microscope produced by Messrs. Bausch and Lomb at a luncheon given to members of the American Association for the Advancement of Science during its summer sessions at Rochester, New York. Dr. Novy was selected for this honour by the executive committee of the American Association, for outstanding research in the field of bacteriology and immunology. He discovered and isolated the *Bacillus Novyi*, the agent of gas gangrene; he was the first to culture *Trypanosoma Lewisi*, and is the discoverer and isolator of *Spirochæta Novyi*, the cause of American relapsing fever. He has also made notable contributions to the study of filterable viruses, the respiratory processes of bacteria, and the causes of diphtheria, yellow fever and bubonic plague. A student of both Koch and Pasteur, Dr. Novy has the distinction of being the only person in the United States to-day who studied under Pasteur. France has made him a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour; Czechoslovakia created him a member of the Order of the White Lion, and Sinclair Lewis has romanticized him in his book, "Arrowsmith". For nearly fifty years, Dr. Novy was a member of the Medical Faculty of the University of Michigan, and is almost the last of the distinguished group gathered together by the late Dean Victor C. Vaughan. Dr. Novy's address at the luncheon, on "Some Results of Microscopic Research of Specific Significance for Human Welfare", was preceded by brief addresses by Dr. Edwin G. Conklin, president of the American Association, Herbert Eisenhart, president of Bausch and Lomb, and Dr. Edward Bausch who presented the 250,000th microscope of the company. It was Dr. Bausch's fifty-ninth year as a member of the Association.

The Use of Knowledge

IN his address at the graduation ceremony of the University of St. Andrews on June 26, Sir James Irvine, referring to the way in which new knowledge is being acquired at a rate much faster than man's capacity to absorb it, and to the way in which the impact of changing conditions has caught us unprepared, suggested that the machinery of Government should include a 'Ministry of Knowledge', the functions of which would be to predict the repercussions of new knowledge on all phases of life. Through such an organization, it might be possible to frame in advance a national policy in which due regard is paid to such far-reaching problems as the future sources of energy, such fundamental questions as to whether our coal supplies are to be used merely for power or as raw material for manufactured products, or whether our forests will be utilized for the purposes for which they were planted or devoted to alternative uses already looming in sight.

UNDOUBTEDLY the rapid diminution almost to vanishing point of the lag between the origin of new knowledge and its application has left man with less time than ever to adapt himself to the repercussions of the new ideas he has evolved. The need for foresight and intelligent anticipation in such matters as the development of industry, transport and town-planning cannot be disputed. While Sir James Irvine's suggestion deserves serious consideration, it