

News and Views

An Institute of Chemotherapy

THE malaria epidemic in Ceylon in 1934-35 directed attention anew to the importance of chemotherapy, particularly in relation to malaria, and the subject received full discussion at a joint meeting of Sections B (Chemistry) and E (Geography) of the British Association at the Norwich meeting. Last July, the Royal Society decided upon a scheme for research on malaria, and, as part of it, Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Sinton was appointed for a period of five years to work at the Malariatherapy Centre at Horton, where he would be able to include chemo-therapeutic testing and experimentation in his investigations. Hitherto, little work has been done in Great Britain on this subject, in spite of the fact that the British Empire includes vast malarious areas in Africa, India and the Far East. In the British Association discussion referred to above, Colonel S. P. James stated that of the $3\frac{1}{2}$ million deaths annually from malaria, the great majority occur in the British Empire, and that the Empire spends £450,000 annually on quinine for combating malaria. It is now announced that Great Britain is to have an institute of chemotherapy, and at the annual dinner of the Royal Society, Mr. Neville Chamberlain stated that, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, he had just consented to give a grant of £30,000 a year towards the establishment of such an institute. It is difficult to foresee, he said, all the possibilities of the new institute, but the fact that the grant has been made is evidence that the Government is not indifferent to the duty of one generation to carry on investigations which may benefit only the generations to come.

Royal Society Research Funds

ACCORDING to the annual report for 1936 of the Council of the Royal Society, Mr. H. B. Gordon Warren, who died in 1932, directed that the income of his residuary estate should be used for the promotion of scientific and industrial research, and in particular to advance knowledge in metallurgy, engineering, physics and chemistry. The trustee of the estate, Williams Deacon's Bank, Ltd., has agreed that the trust shall be administered by a committee consisting of two members appointed by the Bank and eight others appointed by the Royal Society. It is understood that the fund will be slightly in excess of £200,000. The Society has also received the residuary estate of the late Sir Joseph Petavel, which amounts to about £40,000. During the past year, the Society applied to H.M. Treasury for an increase of £1,000 annually for the grant-in-aid for scientific investigations, and an increase of £500 annually for international research associations and scientific congresses. These applications have been approved by Parliament, so that the annual grants for 1936-37 for scientific investigations and for international and other congresses will be £7,000 and

£2,500 respectively. From the Parliamentary grants-in-aid, a sum of £6,000 has been allotted to scientific investigations, and a sum of £1,775 to scientific publications of institutions other than the Royal Society. The Council has also decided unanimously to propose to the Society that the number of annual elections to fellowships should be increased from seventeen to twenty.

Charles Frederick Chandler, 1836-1925

ON December 6, the centenary occurs of the birth of the distinguished American chemist, Charles Frederick Chandler, who in 1899-1900 served as president of the Society of Chemical Industry. He was brought up in New Bedford, Mass., being the son of a draper. As a schoolboy he contracted with his father to sweep out and open his shop every morning for a dollar a week, in order to buy chemicals and apparatus. From school he passed to Harvard and the Lawrence Scientific School, afterwards studying chemistry under Wöhler at Göttingen. On returning home, he obtained a post as janitor under Prof. Joy at Schenectady, becoming successively instructor first in mineralogy, then in geology and eventually professor of chemistry. It was at Schenectady that he began his lifelong efforts to bring chemistry into daily life and into industry. In 1864, when the School of Mines was organized as part of Columbia College, he was invited to occupy the chair of chemistry, and thus began his great career as a teacher in New York. He was a founder and sometime president of the New York College of Pharmacy, served as president of the American Chemical Society and president of the Metropolitan Board of Health. For many years he edited *The Chemical News*. He died on August 25, 1925, at the age of eighty-eight years.

Destruction of the Crystal Palace

THE destruction by fire of the greater part of the Crystal Palace on the night of November 30-December 1 will be widely regretted, for, although its general form and architecture have often made it the subject of good-humoured ridicule, sometimes of derision, it held a unique position and was one of the most famous landmarks of London. As is well-known, it originated from the Great Exhibition of 1851 in Hyde Park, where the Crystal Palace was constructed by Sir Joseph Paxton. When the Exhibition was closed, this "blazing arch of lucid glass" was removed to Sydenham. There it was extended, and finally opened by Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort in 1854. Through public subscription, the grounds became public property in 1913. Though fantastic in appearance, the Palace has for many years been symbolic, and apart from this sentimental loss, its destruction is to be regretted since it had become a centre for music, chiefly choral