

## 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

and orchestral, and for various types of exhibitions. The fire affected the Research Laboratories of Baird Television, Ltd., situated at the Palace, but the part of the building leased by the Baird Company for the production of receiver sets and their testing fortunately was sufficiently remote from the main building not to be damaged in any way. While, therefore, a great amount of research apparatus was destroyed, the delivery of Baird receiving sets will not be seriously affected. Immediate measures are being taken to find alternative accommodation for the Baird Company's large number of research workers and for the re-equipment of the laboratories, and it is not considered that the research programme of the Company will be seriously prejudiced. The fire at the Crystal Palace does not affect the B.B.C. television programmes being broadcast from the Alexandra Palace by the Baird system and by the Marconi E.M.I. system.

#### Television in the London Area

THE issue of *Television and Short Wave World* of December makes some critical comments on the programmes that have been transmitted from the Alexandra Palace. Complaints are made that intervals, sometimes totalling more than fifteen minutes, occur in a programme of an hour. These intervals are usually filled up by gramophone records, but the owner of the set feels that it is extravagant to run about twenty valves together with a cathode ray tube merely to hear these records. It is unfair to be too critical in the early stages of development, but it looks as if more should be spent on the programmes. Television receivers are being advertised for immediate delivery at prices ranging from 85 to 135 guineas, the picture size being about 12 in. by 9 in. Free demonstrations are given by various manufacturers in London. The Science Museum is still giving demonstrations, and the Southern Railway is giving demonstrations at Waterloo Station to railway ticket holders. Carrington House, a large block of flats in Mayfair, has been equipped for 'bulk reception' of television signals and of ordinary broadcast programmes. The building contains seventy-three flats each of which is fitted with plug points for both kinds of services. The residents of any of these flats can purchase a television or a radio set or both with confidence that the programmes will be produced without interference. It is possible that the actual Coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey may be televised. The two great difficulties are relaying the signals to the Alexandra Palace and the provision of the necessary bright light.

#### Derbyshire Caves Exhibition

ON behalf of the Derbyshire Caves Exploration Committee appointed by the British Association, Mr. Leslie Armstrong has excavated Pin Hole, a cave in Creswell Crags inhabited in Upper Palaeolithic times and exceptionally rich in prehistoric remains. A preliminary report was published in the *Transactions of the Hunter Archaeological Society*, 4, part 2, with a diagram showing the brick-earth, red above and

yellow below, which underlay the present stalagmitic floor, with layers of slabs fallen from the roof marking periods of exceptional cold. The palaeolithic cultures represented are Le Moustier and Aurignac, the latter persisting through the glaciation associated elsewhere with La Madeleine; and the fauna shows severe and temperate conditions alternating. There are chipped pebbles of quartzite, and flint implements of excellent workmanship, nearly all with white patina; also slight engravings on bone, a bone blade regarded as a bull-roarer, as well as a cowrie shell and piece of mother-of-pearl. Mr. Armstrong has also excavated Mother Grundy's Parlour in the same valley, and published an account in the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 55, Jan.-June 1925, with eight pages of careful drawings of the stone implements mostly of Aurignac types, but with a microlithic industry in the uppermost layer, and chipped quartzite at the base. The cave-earth of the Parlour has large stones from the roof incorporated throughout, not at intervals, and shows the same difference in colour as Pin Hole. Engravings of animals on bone in the Aurignac style and the best of the finds from both sites are now exhibited in the Department of British and Mediaeval Antiquities at the British Museum, near the top of the main staircase, and will, by the kindness of Mr. Armstrong, remain there for the rest of the year.

#### Romano-British Pottery Kiln from Berkshire

A ROMANO-BRITISH pottery kiln removed intact to the Science Museum, South Kensington, from its original site in Berkshire was exhibited to the public for the first time on December 1. The kiln, now shown with a reproduction of its original surroundings painted by Mr. E. M. Dinkel as a background, is one of two discovered through the introduction of the tractor-drawn plough in the cultivation of a field overlooking the dried-up bed of the River Pang on Woodrows Farm, Compton, near Aldworth, Berks. The deeper ploughing in soil only a few inches deep on chalk turned up a darker earth mixed with potsherds, which on investigation by General W. K. Hardy proved to be due to the presence of two pottery kilns. Of these, one was found to be intact, while the other had been broken up by the ancient potter. The kilns had been constructed by digging an oval hole in the chalk about four feet deep. One half of this was taken up by a rough oven of clay with a front wall of clay and stones, in which was a stoke-hole. A floor of clay, supported by a wall from centre to back, an inch or two below the level of the chalk, served as the stand on which were placed the 'green' pots for firing, heat from the fire passing through holes in the floor. Over the pots had been a dome-shaped cover of clay, which had to be broken at each firing, but of which fragments were found nearby. Pots reconstructed from the numerous sherds collected, as well as coins associated with the find, give a date not later than the beginning of the fourth century A.D. The removal intact of the undamaged kiln entailed not a little skill and ingenuity, as with reinforcement it weighed nearly