

recipients of Nobel prizes for physics, chemistry and medicine (more than one quarter) have passed to Germans. Herr Hitler has decreed the creation of three German National Prizes of 100,000 marks (£8,300) each, to be awarded annually to Germans distinguished in art and science.

Gold Medal of the International Faculty of Sciences

AT the dinner following the annual conference of the International Faculty of Sciences applied to Human Progress, held in London on January 30, the Faculty's Gold Medal was presented to Mr. John Logie Baird, inventor of the Televisor, and managing director of Baird Television, Ltd. The chairman, Dr. Joseph S. Bridges, said the presentation was made in recognition of Mr. Baird's outstanding contributions to the science of television. In acknowledging the presentation, Mr. Baird indicated the progress that had been made since he first, in 1925, secured a television image with distinct definition. While the high cost of the apparatus at present is a drawback to its wide use among amateurs, he looked forward to a substantial reduction in the near future. Great Britain, he said, definitely leads in the science of television and is the only country in the world which has a television service. Among other speakers, Dr. L. E. C. Hughes commented on the necessity of scientific workers in all branches co-operating more closely to ensure that the achievements are properly applied to the requirements of human progress, and indicated the value of the International Faculty of Sciences in bringing into close touch such workers in all the countries of the world. Prof. B. W. Holman, replying on behalf of "The World's Scientific Workers", stressed the necessity for the social sciences being developed to keep pace with other sciences, so that the achievements of the research workers could be applied in accordance with the objectives of the Faculty, namely, human progress.

Aboriginal Tribes of the Malay Peninsula

WHILE of the aboriginal tribes of the Malay Peninsula the Sakai, the Semang and the Jakun, though by no means well known, have been the subject of careful investigation by a number of observers, the Temiar, a hill people of Perak, are virtually untouched in an anthropological sense. Yet they number nearly one half of the aboriginal population of 25,000. They have, however, been made the subject of a considerable study by Mr. H. D. Noone of the Perak State Museum, who has given some years to the investigation of their culture, their ethnic affinities, and their language, which is said to belong to the Austro-Asiatic group, and to show Indo-Chinese affinities. A preliminary outline of Mr. Noone's results in *The Observer* of January 24 is cabled from Singapore, where a number of the tribe are staying at present for the purpose of a record of their speech. It is there stated that Mr. Noone finds that the Temiar show traces of negritic influence and also an Australoid type, akin to the Vedda, but that, essentially a hill tribe, they link up with the hill stocks of Sumatra and other parts of south-east

Asia. They are lighter skinned than the Sakai and belong to a higher order of intelligence and culture. They build communal long-houses instead of the rude shelters of the Sakai, use the bow, and hunt with the blow-pipe. Their religion is animistic. For driving out the spirits of disease, they make use of the religious dance, in which the medicine man is an important figure. These dances are performed in the event of an epidemic, the dancers becoming 'possessed' by a tiger spirit. Eventually they fall into a state of trance, which sometimes ends in complete rigidity.

Tracks for Cyclists

THE recent Ministry of Transport accident inquiry proves that, notwithstanding the increase in the number of motor-cars, the casualties among motorists are decreasing. On the other hand, casualties to cyclists are increasing at an even greater rate than we might expect from the growth of the cycling habit. According to a paper read at the National Safety Congress, fatal accidents to pedal cyclists during the seven years 1928-34 had increased no less than 122 per cent. In *Roads and Road Construction* for January 1, it is suggested that the best way to check increase of these accidents would be to copy some of our Continental neighbours and increase largely the number of special cycle tracks available. In Germany there are already about 1,100 miles of track, about two thirds of which is State maintained. According to a recent statement, the decrease which has occurred in recent years in cycling fatalities in Germany can be attributed directly to the making of these tracks. The German authorities are aiming at the provision of no less than 24,000 miles of track. The opposition that cyclists' touring clubs make to special tracks seems to arise from a fear lest these tracks be made not wide enough, so that they will have to travel at the most two abreast, instead of as at present three or four or even more abreast. In the interest of the general safety, it is probable that the privilege of riding three or more abreast will soon be curtailed by law. In many places cycle tracks, like public foot-paths, could be built without fences, and probably a large mileage of existing 'green roads' could be utilized. If a number of special tracks were constructed every year, the annual cost need not be large. They would add safety, health and enjoyment to the weekly tours of many cyclists who at present have to pass through main roads crowded by rapidly moving vehicles and sometimes in an atmosphere full of noxious vapours.

Road Lighting in the United States

IN *World Power* of November some interesting statistics are given, relating to road accidents, which illustrate the responsibility of bad or non-existent lighting for road deaths and injuries. On the Mount Vernon Highway, near Washington, there were 2.87 accidents per million vehicles per mile, between July 1 and December 1, 1932. When lighting was suspended during the depression, the number of accidents increased to 7.02 over the same period per million vehicles per mile—an increase of 250 per cent.