Accessions in the Department of Geology include a collection of nearly 200 fossil fruits and seeds from the Cromer forest bed, all described and figured by Mrs. E. M. Reid and her late husband Dr. Clement Reid, and now generously presented by Mrs. Reid. The Trustees approved the purchase for the Department of Minerals of a nugget of well-crystallized iridosmine (osmiridium), weighing nearly an ounce, from Adamsfield near the source of the Derwent in Tasmania. There is a larger nugget already in the collection weighing nearly two ounces and reputed to be the second largest nugget of pure iridosmine, but it is less well crystallized than the specimen now acquired. Other important purchases are a slice weighing 1,387 grammes of a rare type of meteorite—a pallasite—from Springwater, Sascatchewan, a fine aurichalcite from Utah, and a fine group of laumontite and a large crystal of adularia from northern Italy.

Televisor, Telegraphy, Telephone

THE word 'Televisor' was coined by Mr. J. L Baird in 1925 to describe apparatus for television and was registered by him as a trade mark. On account, however, of the general adoption of the word in the United States and elsewhere to denote any kind of television apparatus, Baird Television, Ltd., has decided to abandon its registration as a trade mark, so that in future there will be no restriction upon the use of the word in connexion with television. 'Televisor' may thus be used in future as freely as 'telegraph' and 'telephone'. The word telegraph was first applied by Chappe in France, in 1792, to his invention of the semaphore system of transmitting messages to a distance; and the word telephone was used by Sudré in 1828 for a system of signalling by musical sounds. It was employed in 1844 to describe a powerful wind instrument to convey signals at sea during foggy weather. Philipp Reis, in 1861, called his ingenious instrument a telephone, so that he may be regarded as the inventor of the name of the modern instrument. Alexander Graham Bell adopted the word in 1876 for his "Electrical Speaking Telephone".

The Earl's Court Exhibition Centre

THE new Earl's Court Exhibition building, erected on the site of its predecessor, is approaching completion. It will be the largest permanent exhibition and sports centre in the British Isles. The site covers approximately twenty acres, the new buildings enclosing nine acres. The main arena is unique, as it is the largest concrete building in the country. There are no less than six electric railway tracks running underneath the site of this exhibition. These tracks were covered in by tunnels or bridged without interrupting the railway services. The main hall itself is 250 feet by 350 feet without columns, and has seating accommodation for about 25,000 people. A swimming pool having a capacity of 2¼ million gallons of water is provided. An account is given in the *Electrical Times* of July 1 of the problems connected with the heating and lighting of the exhibition. Complete designs and estimates were got out for all reasonable methods of doing this. The first step taken was to prepare designs and costs for a complete generating power station for the Exhibition and alternatively to use boiler-house plant for heating purposes. This was compared with possible tariffs obtained from the Fulham Power Station for an electric service for lighting power and complete heating of the building by electric thermal storage. The estimates were considered by the Company and its consultants, the conclusion being that electricity for all purposes was the best scheme. The Fulham Borough Council has undertaken to carry out the complete installation of all the electrical plant and services required up to the point of low-tension distribution together with the electric thermal storage plant, and the work is now on the point of completion. A permanent form of fire-fighting equipment is installed at every substation. The heating of the whole of the building is carried out by an electric thermal storage hot water plant which is much the largest plant of this kind in the British Isles.

History of Alchemy

THERE are welcome signs of an awakening interest in the history of science, the study of which has until recently received surprisingly little recognition among the increasing body of scientific workers in Great Britain. The appearance last year of *Annals of Science*, a quarterly journal devoted to the history of post-Renaissance science in general, has been quickly followed by another publication entitled *Ambix*, which is to deal with the specialized study of alchemy and early chemistry. *Ambix* is, indeed, the official journal of the newly founded Society for the Study of Alchemy and Early Chemistry. The first issue is dated May 1937; the second number will appear in November 1937; and thereafter it will be published as a quarterly. At first sight, the subject may appear too restricted to afford material for a quarterly periodical, but this impression is corrected by supplementary glances at Sir Robert Mond's introduction and the later contents of this issue. "Alchemy," writes Sir Robert, "records not only Man's groping for the truth and for the enrichment of his experiences, but at the same time the widening of the Human Mind and the accompanying evolution of thought."

ANOTHER point of view is presented by Prof. J. Ruska in his contribution on "Methods of Research in the History of Chemistry". Here he states that "we continually need new texts, we need summaries of contents, translations and commentaries . . . we need also the application of the keenest critical methods." *Ambix* has already begun to supply material of this kind. Thus, Prof. J. R. Partington contributes a fully documented article entitled "Albertus Magnus on Alchemy"; Dr. F. Sherwood Taylor, the editor, writes upon "The Origins of Greek Alchemy"; Mr. Gerard Heym opens a useful "Introduction to the Bibliography of Alchemy", and also discusses the "*Aurea Catena Homeri*". There are,