

been adopted as recommended practice by the three societies responsible for it and by *British Chemical Abstracts*. Copies of the report may be obtained by non-members at 6d. per copy or 7s. 6d per 25 copies, post paid, from the Assistant Secretary, Chemical Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

#### Biological Station in Memory of Pavlov

THE biological station being built at Pavlovo (formerly Koltushi) in memory of the late Prof. I. P. Pavlov is almost completed (Soviet Union Year Book Press Service). The department of evolutionary physiology of the Leningrad Branch of the All-Union Institute of Experimental Medicine is being transferred to Pavlovo, where it will be housed in a newly built laboratory, equipped with the most up-to-date appliances for research, and under the directorship of L. A. Orbeli. The reconstruction of Pavlov's own laboratory is now finished, as are also the new kennels and stables and administrative offices.

#### Richard Watson (1737-1816)

IN an article on the bicentenary of Richard Watson, professor of chemistry at Cambridge and afterwards Bishop of Llandaff, Prof. J. R. Partington (*Chemistry and Industry*, 56, 819; 1937) directs attention to his important experimental work, particularly on the freezing points of solutions of salts, and to the valuable information on contemporary chemical industries contained in Watson's "Chemical Essays". He gives reasons for concluding that some of the unfavourable criticisms of Watson are unjustified. Although Watson was ignorant of chemistry on his appointment to the professorship, he quickly made himself proficient in the subject and carried out original work of considerable merit, whilst his knowledge of pure and applied chemistry was certainly very extensive. Mr. J. P. de Castro (*ibid.*, p. 846) also directs attention to a portrait of Watson apparently engaged in lecturing on chemistry.

#### Science, Invention and Society

IN a paper entitled "Science, Invention and Society" at the second Congress on Industrial Physics, Pittsburgh, U.S.A., on May 22 (*J. Applied Physics*, 8, 449; 1937), W. Kaempffert, reviewing some of the technical aspects of society as well as the economic aspects of mass production, stresses the need for government to rely not on politicians but on experts. More organization and control are required. Social invention must become as systematic and as well organized as mechanical invention and scientific discovery if it is to keep pace with the laboratory. We can no longer make the utmost use of scientific and mechanical innovations without social adjustments and social invention. We do not yet know what form of government will be evolved to meet the social needs which have come with science and the machine. At present the tendency appears to be towards a collectivism in which private profit will be severely limited or abolished entirely. This in itself demands more expert control, and whatever form future democratic government may take, it

must be a government by technicians or experts. If democracy itself is to survive the increasing strain to which machine methods and scientific progress subject it, its own character must inevitably be immensely changed from that of eighteenth century egalitarianism.

#### Eighth International Conference of Genetics

WE are informed by Prof. O. L. Mohr, of Oslo, chairman of the International Committee of Genetics Congresses, that the question as to the place for the next International Congress of Genetics has now been considered and voted upon by the International Committee, which has by a large majority resolved to invite the British geneticists to arrange the next congress in Great Britain in 1939. The committee of the British Genetical Society has passed a resolution welcoming the invitation. British geneticists will shortly appoint an organization committee, after which further information concerning the date and place of the congress will be published.

#### Announcements

IT will be remembered that the late Lord Rutherford had consented to preside over the jubilee meeting of the Indian Science Congress Association to be held in Calcutta next January, which will be attended by a representative British scientific delegation organized by the British Association (see *NATURE*, October 9, p. 609). We are glad to announce that Sir James Jeans has consented to fill the vacancy caused by the lamented death of Lord Rutherford.

THE Society of Glass Technology will hold its twenty-first anniversary meeting on November 9-10, under the presidency of Prof. W. E. S. Turner, at Sheffield, where the inaugural meeting was held in 1916. On November 9, the Society will attend the laying of the foundation block for the new building at Elmfield for the University Department of Glass Technology, towards which the Society has already raised more than £1,500. The Wood Memorial Library will also be opened at Elmfield by Sir Frank Heath on the same day.

DR. H. LOWERY, principal of the North-Western Polytechnic, London, and honorary secretary of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Institute of Physics, has been appointed principal of the new South-West Essex Technical College at Walthamstow as from April 1938.

WE have received from British Drug Houses, Ltd., a priced catalogue of B.D.H. laboratory chemicals. This is a volume of more than two hundred pages, with thumb indexes, and includes indicators, reagents, microscopical stains, minerals and laboratory sundries. It is very gratifying to note what a wide range of chemicals of high quality of British manufacture are now available. The items include both inorganic and organic chemicals, and the prices are quoted for quantities based on the metric system. The address of the firm is Graham Street, City Road, London, N.1.