

observatory and to restart the many series of observations of international importance that have been thus forcibly interrupted. Nothing much has been reported about another famous Jesuit geophysical observatory, that at Zi-Ka-wei, close to Shanghai, with its astronomical sub-station at Zô-Sè, some forty miles away. They, too, have lain in a ravaged war zone, but their latest publication from Zô-Sè ("Perturbations générales par Jupiter et Saturne sur 40 petites planètes", par le P. E. de la Villemarqué, *S.J.*) received less than a week ago, suggests that the astronomers have been allowed to carry on unmolested.

Royal Institution

THE annual meeting of the Royal Institution was held on Monday, May 2. In the unavoidable absence of the president, the chair was taken by Sir Robert Robertson, treasurer and vice-president. The customary report of the Committee of Visitors and statement of accounts were presented at the meeting. It was stated that the vacancy in the professorship of natural philosophy caused by the death of Lord Rutherford has not yet been filled; Sir James Jeans has been re-elected professor of astronomy and Sir Frederick Keeble has succeeded Sir Edward Mellanby as Fullerian professor of physiology. An important addition has been made to the equipment of the lecture theatre by the installation of a talking cinematograph projector, which it is expected will be of increasing value as talking films and films with sound effects come more generally into use for lecture illustrations. Early last year, a fire at No. 19 Albemarle Street, which is partly occupied by the Institution, was fortunately discovered and extinguished before it had become extensive; the damaged books and other effects have now been restored, and the loss was fully covered by insurance. The treasurer's report showed that the legacy of the late Mr. Harry Brown, now completed, has resulted in an addition to the funds of the Institution of no less than £30,987 3s. 2d. Important subsidies for the researches in progress include £500 per annum for a further period of three years from the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, £500 per annum for five years from the Leverhulme Trustees, and a Coronation gift of £2,000 from Sir Robert Mond.

"MEMBERS are less familiar with, because they see less of, that important part of the Institution's activities, the research work which is carried on under Sir William Bragg's direction," say the Visitors in speaking generally of the Royal Institution's work. The wide range and great interest of the researches may be gathered from the report of the Davy Faraday Laboratory, printed as a supplement to the Visitors' report. Researches quoted include those on the X-ray structure analysis of nickel phthalocyanine and stilbene; on the dielectric polarization of long-chain ketones, and on the X-ray study of metals, beginning with the elastic properties of single crystals of sodium. The optical work on methane and CH_3D has been further developed, and a new type of

absorption tube, using the Rowland grating, has been employed. It is recorded that the large X-ray generator has now been tested to its full capacity of 50 kilowatts; and a research programme in connexion with this generator, including high-dispersion measurements on metals, is spoken of. The following officers were elected at the meeting: *President*, Lord Eustace Percy; *Treasurer*, Sir Robert Robertson; *Secretary*, Major Charles E. S. Phillips; *New Managers*, Sir Frederick Berryman, Dr. F. H. Carr, Prof. F. L. Hopwood, Mr. P. V. Hunter, Sir Richard Paget, Dr. A. O. Rankine, Dr. R. Seligman, Prof. G. P. Thomson; *New Visitors*, Dr. W. R. Bisschop, Mr. E. R. Bolton, Dr. W. A. Caspari, Prof. C. D. Ellis, Dr. W. Hall, Prof. J. T. MacGregor-Morris, Dr. L. C. Martin, Mr. C. Rowntree.

Exhibition of Buddhist Paintings

IN the exhibition of Buddhist paintings now open in the Edward VII Gallery of the British Museum (Bloomsbury) the examples shown have been selected with the view of demonstrating the different types of religious painting which have been produced by Buddhist thought and belief in the varying environment of, so far as possible, the whole of mid- and farther Asia. It covers the manifestations of Buddhist religious art in China, Japan, Korea, Siam, Tibet and Turkestan. No equally comprehensive exhibition has ever been held previously in England. The opportunity for such a display has arisen through the acquisition of several important paintings from Korea and Siam with the Eumorfopoulos collection, which also includes the first two examples to reach the Museum of the wall paintings recovered from Turfan by A. von Le Coq. Tibetan painting is represented by a selection from a series of the sixteen Arhats and the four Lokapalas from a temple at Shigatse, deposited on loan by Mr. J. C. French. They are much earlier than those usually seen in Europe. Of great interest to the student of early Far Eastern painting are the Japanese reproductions in colotype of the famous eighth-century wall paintings from the Buddhist shrine at Hōryūji. The five shown are each twelve feet high. These paintings are especially remarkable, owing to the fact that they are examples of the fresco art of the T'ang period of China, which has vanished from her own soil. In an official account of the exhibits, it is justly pointed out that the key to the exhibition is the full selection from the paintings recovered by Sir Aurel Stein from the sealed chamber of the Caves of the Thousand Buddhas, near Tun-huang in Sinkiang. Some of the woodcuts from the same source are the earliest known in the world. To round off the demonstration, reproductions of the Ajanta frescoes are shown as an indication of the different kind of painting produced in the original home of Buddhism. The common bond in the religion which all these schools of painting served, indicates the extent to which these parts of Asia formed a cultural unity; while the examples themselves illustrate the richness and variety of religious painting in the East.