

The journal promised to give an account of the voyage of the ship from the Clyde to the Thames, and added to its article some notes from a "Scientific Correspondent" who had visited the ship. "Everyone admits," he wrote, "that she is a very handsome vessel; and perhaps the greatest proof of her symmetry is that as she reposes her Leviathan bulk on the level shore, she does not appear so enormous as she really is. . . . It was only when I gained the deck of the *British Queen* that I became thoroughly impressed with the truth of her enormous size. The deck is a long promenade, and the distance from stern to stem is a good rifle shot; her breadth on deck being some sixty feet. Descending to the engine room . . . looking up you perceive the men who guide the whole machinery and regulate and direct the combined strength and simultaneous energy of 500 horses, with greater success than the tyrant Philopater and his galley of 3,000 slave power, and feel that you are in the presence of one of the noblest of human creations. . . ."

The *British Queen* was built on the Thames at Limehouse by Cunliffe and Young for the British and American Steam Navigation Company. This company had been founded through the efforts of the American lawyer and business man Junius Smith (1780–1853), who had been greatly assisted by Macgregor Laird (1808–61), the African explorer. She was 275 ft. long from figure-head to taffrail, 40 ft. 6 in. wide between the paddle boxes, and of 1,863 tons, being the largest steamship afloat. She had a two-cylinder side-lever engine, with cylinders 77½ in. in diameter and 7 ft. stroke, driving paddle wheels 31 ft. in diameter.

University Events

BELFAST.—The Senate of Queen's University has decided to confer the following honorary degrees, among others: D.Sc. on Dr. J. H. Smith, until recently head of the Department of Engineering in the Belfast College of Technology; Doctor of Laws on Prof. F. H. Hummel, until recently professor of Civil Engineering in the University; F. W. Ogilvie, formerly vice-chancellor of the University and now director general of the British Broadcasting Corporation.

CAMBRIDGE.—W. Campbell Smith, keeper of minerals in the British Museum (Natural History), has been approved for the degree of Sc.D.

GLASGOW.—The King has been pleased, on the recommendation of the Secretary of State for Scotland, to approve the appointment of Prof. J. W. Cook, professor of chemistry in the University of London (Royal Cancer Hospital), to be regius professor of chemistry in succession to the late Prof. George Barger.

HULL.—The following appointments and promotions, to date from October 1, have recently been made: P. G. Espinasse, to be lecturer (grade A) in the Department of Zoology; Dr. W. B. Orr, to be lecturer (grade A) in the Department of Chemistry; Dr. J. Bronowski, to be lecturer (grade B) in the Department of Mathematics; Dr. G. Tatham, to be lecturer (grade B) in the Department of Geography.

LONDON.—G. W. Pickering has been appointed, as from October 1, to the University chair of medicine

tenable at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School. Since 1930 he has worked at University College Hospital, being appointed as assistant in the Department of Clinical Research and, in 1936, as lecturer in cardiovascular pathology. In 1931 he was appointed a member of the permanent scientific staff of the Medical Research Council.

OXFORD.—The appointment of the first twelve fellows of Nuffield College, following on the appointment last year of its warden, Dr. H. B. Butler, marks the beginning of its corporate existence. The six faculty fellows, all of whom are fellows of existing Oxford colleges, are Mr. R. C. K. Ensor, Mr. J. Fulton and Miss Margery Perham, representing the political side, and Mr. G. D. H. Cole, Mr. R. L. Hall and Mr. R. F. Harrod, representing the economic. The six visiting fellows, whose task is "to assist those engaged in the University in research by giving them the fruits of their experience in practical affairs", are Lord Hailey, Lord Cadman, Sir Walter Citrine, Sir George Etherton, Mr. Claude Vickers and Mr. A. P. Young. In two years' time it is hoped that the buildings will be up and its gates open to the kind of persons for whom the College was intended. Apart from the fellows and the distinguished visitors for whom accommodation in the College will be provided, there will be forty students, all of whom will be reading for the degrees of D.Phil., B.Litt., or B.Sc., or engaged in some approved piece of research. These, if men, will be accommodated also in the College. It is expected that after 1941, Nuffield College will become the centre in Oxford for all those who are concerned with the practical or theoretical treatment of social, economic and political problems.

Societies and Academies

London

Royal Society (*Proc.*, A, 171, No. 945, 137–280, May 19, 1939).

SIR C. V. RAMAN and K. S. VENKATA RAMAN: Determination of the adiabatic piezo-optic coefficient of liquids.

R. G. W. NORRISH and E. F. BROOKMAN: The mechanism of polymerization reactions. (1) The polymerization of styrene and methyl methacrylate.

E. V. APPLETON and K. WEEKES: On lunar tides in the upper atmosphere.

K. G. BUDDEN, J. A. RATCLIFFE and M. V. WILKES: Further investigations of very long waves reflected from the ionosphere.

P. S. H. HENRY: Diffusion in absorbing media.

J. F. ALLEN and E. GANZ: Influence of pressure on the thermal conductivity of liquid He II.

G. P. KANE: Influence of nitrogen peroxide on the two-stage ignition of hydrocarbons.

H. FRÖHLICH, W. HEITLER and B. KAHN: Deviations from the Coulomb law for the proton.

Edinburgh

Royal Society of Edinburgh, May 1.

P. M. S. BLACKETT (Bruce-Preller address): The mesotron: the new unstable cosmic ray particle. Recent work both theoretical and experimental has