

in the second progress report of the Institute of Welding. Further evidence is given of the increased applications by the issue of official regulations and specifications for welded steelwork by national bodies in many countries. Some manufacturers think that the welding industry may ultimately employ as much capital and labour as the steel industry now does. Such considerations apply equally to shipyards, and remembering the inherent water, oil and gas tightness of welded vessels, the rate of advance in the use of welding in shipyards will doubtless advance more rapidly in the future. The progressive widening of applications is producing fresh problems. Large-scale operations indicate the desirability of carrying out as much as possible of the actual welding in specially devised workshops rather than at the ship-building berth. This requirement will sometimes entail the re-design of component sections to render them more transportable and also the provision of suitable and adequate manipulative and adequate lifting equipment.

Johannesburg Municipal Bus and Tram Sheds

THE all-welded structure of the new municipal bus and tram sheds at Johannesburg is claimed to cover an area greater than that of any other welded structure in South Africa. In *Electric Welding* of August, it is stated that, excluding an office block of reinforced concrete, the building has a frontage of 465 feet and an area of approximately 186,000 square feet. The outer walls are of concrete but all the interior walls are steel-framed. The floor is of concrete throughout. To give unobstructed floor space, the number of columns was cut down to a minimum. The largest of the girders span 90 feet and are 12 feet deep. They were dispatched by road from the company's workshops at Benoni, where all the steelwork was fabricated. To allow of transportation through Johannesburg, they were split into halves, the halves being welded together at the site and the girders lifted in one piece. A striking feature of the design is the absence of gusset plates and the lightness of all the sections employed. The entire framework is welded, including even the site connexions. The saw-toothed type of roof employed produces excellent internal lighting. The percentage of windows to floor space is about thirty. The lamps provided are of the mercury vapour type. Between 500 and 600 tons of steel were used in the erection of the sheds, the greater portion of this steelwork being produced in South Africa.

Electric Lighting in a Modern Store

IN Welwyn Garden City, Herts, an entirely new building now houses the Welwyn Stores; a description of the building is given in the *Electrical Review* of October 13. The Welwyn Electricity Supply Co. built and equipped a new sub-station near the site to meet the required demand. The G.E.C. Co., Ltd., installed the whole of the lighting and fittings for 336 combined tungsten and Osira lamps. The outside illumination consists of four large neon signs. The shop fronts have artificial

stone piers, marble risers and a painted wooden fascia and cornice in which is set a line of fluorescent tubing running round three sides of the building. About 900 feet of 'Clora' coated tubing has been used for this purpose. The store itself comprises ground floor and part of the first floor. Under an artificial daylight effect achieved by 'T.O.T.' units, the natural wax-polished oak counters, stock fittings and panelling show up well. During the daytime, the daylight entering the ground floor through 'glass-crete' roof-lights from the staircase blends with the artificial illumination, all strong contrasts being eliminated. Each lighting unit consists of one 80-watt 'Osira' fluorescent type discharge lamp and three 150-watt tungsten lamps enclosed in opal sphere pendants 18-in. in diameter. All the main selling floors have this type of lighting. The food hall is a separate section on the ground floor. There are 1,400 feet of fluorescent tubing, arranged round the ceiling in three parallel rows—one red tube and two blue—and the effect of this diffused brilliance is enhanced by the green and white chequered flooring, the tiled walls and counter fronts, and other modern fittings. Light signalling by pre-arranged combinations of four different colours is used throughout the store for attracting the attention of managers or other persons.

Soil Science at Adelaide

THE Winter School in Soil Science held during August 14–23 at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, Adelaide, was a signal success. It was sponsored by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the University of Adelaide and met under the chairmanship of Prof. J. A. Prescott. Sixty members attended, all directly engaged in work on soils, and representative of universities, State departments of agriculture and of forestry, water supply commissions, Government chemical laboratories and other interests. Papers were presented on classification, physical composition, colour, water relations, acidity and lime requirement of soils; methods of soil surveying and utilization of soil maps and data; spectrochemical and polarographic methods of analysis; methods for determination of soil carbon, soil reaction and soluble salts; the erosion problem in pastoral areas; and other topics. Numerous demonstrations were arranged. As a result of the School, soil investigators throughout the Commonwealth will in future be working in more intimate association and along more uniform lines.

Rare Medical Books

ON the occasion of the seventieth birthday earlier this year of the late Prof. Harvey Cushing, Schuman's of New York brought out, under the title of "Seventy Noteworthy Medical Rarities", an illustrated and annotated catalogue to which are prefixed a portrait of Dr. Cushing, taken about forty years ago, and an appreciation of the eminent surgeon and bibliophile by Dr. Lawrence Reynolds. Among the notable works listed in the

catalogue may be mentioned a thirteenth century medical manuscript on vellum containing some of the works of Constantinus Africanus, Giles of Corbeil and others, the work of Bartholomaeus Anglicus entitled "De Proprietatibus Rerum" (1535), Ambroise Paré's "Dix Livres de la Chirurgie" (1564), Gasparo Aselli's book on the lacteals (1627), Robert Boyle's "Sceptical Chymist" (1661) and modern works by Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sir William Osler and S. Weir Mitchell.

The Science Library

THE Science Library, Science Museum, South Kensington, is remaining open. Books and periodicals are available for consultation in the reading room and for external loan to institutions engaged on research work. A relatively small number of the older books and periodicals have been removed and are not at present available. Although difficulty is anticipated, every endeavour will be made to maintain the collection of important current foreign scientific and technical literature up to the pre-war degree of completeness. The bibliographical and information service of the Library will be maintained so far as the reduced resources permit.

Royal Astronomical Society

THE meetings of the Royal Astronomical Society will continue to be held at Burlington House, London, but at an earlier hour. The *Monthly Notices* and also *Occasional Notes* will be published so far as possible, but the former will not necessarily appear each month. The library will be closed except on meeting days, as the assistant secretary and office have been transferred to Oxford. The Christmas lecture, soirées, etc., have been postponed indefinitely. Prof. H. H. Plaskett, the senior secretary, is serving in the Royal Artillery, and Prof. W. M. H. Greaves has been appointed acting secretary for the present.

British Astronomical Association

THE annual general meeting of the British Astronomical Association will be held as usual on October 25, in accordance with the articles of the Association, and no arrangement has been made at present to alter procedure in the matter of ordinary meetings. The president, two secretaries and treasurer have been empowered to conduct the business of the Association if war-time emergency should cause a discontinuance of the meetings. If this contingency arises, the *Journal* will still be published monthly, and it is hoped that papers will be contributed as usual by members. The library will be open only on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, but the librarian has power to refrain from opening in case of emergency.

Institute of Physics

THE offices of the Institute of Physics have been transferred to the University of Reading, where accommodation had been reserved for them, by the kindness of the Council of the University. It is

hoped to carry on so far as possible the normal work of the Institute, with such further activities as may be necessitated by emergency conditions. The Institute is in touch with Government departments and other employers, and has been collecting and collating such information as is available regarding the employment of physicists during war conditions. A considerable number of inquiries for advice on this and other emergency matters have received attention. It has been decided, unless unpredictable circumstances intervene, to continue the publication and distribution of the *Journal of Scientific Instruments* on the same terms as in the past, though it may be necessary to reduce to some extent the number of pages in each issue.

Announcements

DR. IAN GALLOWAY has been appointed scientific superintendent of research at the Pirbright Research Station of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Research Committee.

DR. S. C. HARLAND has been appointed director of the Institute of Cotton Technology of the National Agricultural Society of Peru.

SIR FREDERICK MENZIES has resigned his position as medical officer of health and school medical officer of the London County Council, and has been succeeded by Dr. William Allen Daley.

IN the hope of giving assistance to students in London who have been unable to follow their university colleges into the provinces in the present emergency, the managers of the Royal Institution have arranged for additional short courses of lectures to be given dealing in an introductory manner with certain subjects of modern physics and chemistry. Applications should be made to the Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, London, W.1.

It is hoped to arrange day and/or evening courses in electrical methods of chemical analysis, micro-chemical analysis, spectroscopy and bacteriology at the Sir John Cass Technical Institute. Those wishing to take classes in these subjects should write, stating possible days and hours of attendance, to Dr. E. de Barry Barnett, Sir John Cass Technical Institute, Jewry Street, London, E.C.3.

THE governing body of the British Medical Post-graduate School has decided to carry on post-graduate instruction for the present.

OWING to the war, the International League against Rheumatism will no longer be able to carry out its activities, and its bureau at Keizergracht 489, Amsterdam, will be closed.

EIGHTEEN cases of smallpox were notified in England in 1938, of which nine were variola major and nine variola minor, and there were three deaths. These are the first deaths from smallpox which have occurred in England since 1934.