

States of America. His Majesty's Government have selected and sent Dr. Darwin, the director of the National Physical Laboratory, as director of a Central Scientific Office, working under the direction of the British Supply Council in North America. Dr. Darwin's duty will be to collaborate with United States research bodies, to act as a channel for the exchange with the appropriate United States authorities of technical and scientific information, and generally to co-ordinate scientific and technical inquiries to and from the United States authorities, except in those matters which are already dealt with through the Service attachés. In addition, Dr. Conant, the president of Harvard University, recently visited England as President Roosevelt's representative in order to establish a corresponding mission in this country."

#### Advisory Committee on Engineering in Warfare

THE Lord President of the Council, with the approval of the Prime Minister, has appointed an Engineering Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Lord Hankey to advise the Government upon engineering questions connected with the war effort and in particular: "To consider how the resources of the engineering profession can best be utilized in connexion with the war work of Government departments, and to nominate engineers who might suitably be invited to undertake particular tasks. To suggest means of improving or supplementing the methods adopted by Government departments for utilizing engineering science for war purposes. To advise on problems referred to them in connexion with the development of new engineering devices, and to advise on methods of bringing such devices speedily into production, and on means of meeting new war requirements in the engineering field. To examine new ideas or devices in engineering likely to assist the war effort, to test their technical validity, and to bring to the notice of the Government those which appear to merit further consideration by the department concerned."

The Committee will consist of Lord Hankey, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (*chairman*); Lord Falmouth (*vice-chairman*); Sir Henry Tizard, rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology. The rest have been selected after consultation with the presidents of the Institutions of Civil Mechanical and Electrical Engineers and are as follows: Mr. J. R. Beard, of Merz and McLellan, consulting engineers; Dr. A. P. M. Fleming, director of the Research and Education Departments, Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co. Ltd.; Mr. W. T. Halcrow, consulting engineer; Prof. B. W. Holman, assistant professor and University reader in mining in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London; Dr. C. C. Paterson, director of the Research Laboratories, General Electric Co. Ltd.; Mr. H. R. Ricardo, technical director of Ricardo and Co. Ltd., consulting engineers; Dr. A. Robertson, principal of the Merchant Venturers' Technical College, Bristol.

#### Post-War Problems for Chemical Industries

THERE has been an increasing tendency of late for presidential addresses to deal with topics that lie outside the scope of the scientific or technical society concerned. We have had physicists dilating upon metaphysics, chemists on agriculture, biologists on politics, and nearly all on education or economics. This practice is not to be summarily condemned, because it indicates that at least some scientific men are abandoning their old attitude of 'splendid isolation' from human affairs, though at times one is reminded of Bernard Shaw's dictum that no one ever learned to do one thing by doing something else. Mr. F. Heron Rogers, in his address to the nineteenth annual meeting of the Institution of Chemical Engineers, held on April 4 in London, proved no exception to this tendency. In his view, war is inevitable, and the 'fittest' who survive in life's struggles are those who are "strong in arms and in honour".

Probably the most serious after-war problem, says Mr. Rogers, will be that of finance, conjoined with the maintenance of our industries and finding work for all. In planning post-war industries, regard must be had for safety of buildings, etc., and this will be best attained by dispersion and by troglodytic working in caves. Great Britain must be made less dependent upon other countries for its necessities, such as mineral oils, timber and food. A calcium carbide industry is essential for producing acetylene and the numerous useful substances derivable from it, while further research on coal-tar products is needed to increase the number of useful aromatic compounds, like solvents, dyes and intermediates. Basic to our industrial life is research on the problem of eliminating sulphur, phosphorus and arsenic from carbonaceous materials, the solution of which would give an enormous impetus to the iron and steel industries and ease all our metallurgical operations. Research is also needed on the utilization of waste materials, which includes problems of extraction, dehydration, disintegration, pressure-filtering, and similar engineering processes. Given a period free of unwise governmental and political interference, and freedom from subsidized competition, great strides in chemical engineering would play its part could be made towards post-war safety and happiness.

#### Psychological Terms used in Head Injuries

THE Brain Injuries Committee of the Medical Research Council, in War Memorandum No. 4 (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 1d. net), has compiled a short glossary of psychological terms commonly used in cases of head injuries. The object of the glossary is to secure a greater measure of uniformity in the terminology used in case-notes of patients with head injuries. There is always some difficulty in defining within fixed limits psychological terms, a difficulty that is increased by the fact that many of the terms are also used in popular speech with somewhat vague reference, for example, confusion, hysteria. When a patient suffering from a psychological