

is low in comparison with biscuit and glost firing. The enamel firing is also done electrically, but this is not a new development although the kiln used for the purpose is new.

#### Jean Nicolas Corvisart (1755-1821)

IN a recent paper (*Proc. Roy. Soc. Med.*, **34**, 239; 1941) on the life and times of Jean Nicolas Corvisart, after emphasizing the resemblance between the stirring events at the beginning of the nineteenth century and those at the present time, Dr. Halls Dally said that the genius of Laennec had almost eclipsed the glory of his teacher Corvisart, whom several biographers merely regarded as "First Physician to the Emperor Napoleon I". Corvisart, however, had greater claims to medical fame. He rescued the art of percussion invented by Auenbrugger from oblivion, perfected it, and was the father of cardiology. His great work on diseases of the heart and great vessels, which was published in 1806, marks the beginning of the clinical study of cardiology. His numerous distinguished pupils and successors included Bichat, the founder of biology, Bretonneau who discovered diphtheria, Bouillaud who first described the cardiac manifestations of rheumatic fever, Dupuytren who created the school of clinical surgery and Cruveilhier, the celebrated anatomist and pathologist.

#### Recent Earthquakes

A SEVERE earthquake just before noon G.M.T. on June 26 had its epicentre near the Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal, north-west of Sumatra. It is not yet known how many casualties or how much damage was caused, but only twelve of these British governed islands are inhabited. The amplitudes caused by the earthquake on the seismographs throughout the world were comparable to those caused by the Quetta and Turkish earthquakes.

Earthquakes on the same day were experienced in eastern Morocco causing considerable damage but few casualties.

The U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, in co-operation with Science Service and the Jesuit Seismological Association has calculated the provisional epicentres of the earthquakes of April 1, 3 and 7. The first was south of the Alaskan Peninsula near 56°0' N., 153°0' W., at 10h. 41.1m. G.M.T. The second was in Chile near 25° S., 69° W. at 15h. 21m. G.M.T. with a depth of focus near 200 km. The third was in the Caribbean Sea south of Jamaica near 17°6' N., 78°3' W. at 23h. 29.3m. G.M.T. All are in well-known seismic regions.

#### Institute of Fuel: Students' Medal

To encourage the preparation of papers by students of fuel technology, the Council of the Institute of Fuel has decided to make an annual award of a medal, together with a prize consisting of books and/or instruments to the value of £5, for a paper submitted by a student member of the Institute or by a student less than twenty-five years of age of any university or technical college in the United

Kingdom. The paper must deal with some subject relating to the preparation or utilization of fuel, or allied subjects. Papers must be submitted to the Secretary of the Institute under a *nom de plume*, the name and address of the author being enclosed in a sealed envelope and sent with the paper, and must be received by the Secretary on or before September 1 in any year. Further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, Institute of Fuel, 30 Bramham Gardens, London, S.W.5.

#### Announcements

THE Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. has awarded the Pavlov Prize for 1940 to Prof. Maria K. Petrowa, professor at the Pavlov Institute of Physiology.

THE Royal Swedish Academy of Science has elected Sir Thomas Lewis, physician-in-charge of the Department of Clinical Research at University College Hospital, London, a foreign member of the Faculty of Medical Research.

MISS JULIA BELL, honorary Galton research fellow of University College, London, and member of the scientific staff of the Medical Research Council, has been awarded the Weldon Memorial Prize for 1941 of the University of Oxford.

MR. GRIFFITH BREWER has been elected president of the Royal Aeronautical Society for the year October 1941-September 1942; Prof. L. Bairstow, Mr. W. C. Devereux and the Right Hon. J. T. C. Moore-Brabazon have been elected vice-presidents for the same period.

PROF. CARL NEUBERG, formerly professor in biochemistry in Berlin, Amsterdam and Jerusalem, has been appointed professor of biochemistry at the New York University College of Arts and Science.

THE title of honorary reader in organic chemistry in the University of Leeds has been conferred upon Dr. J. W. Baker, lecturer in the Department of Organic Chemistry. Mr. T. G. Bridgwood has been appointed lecturer in electrical engineering.

The Council has agreed, on the recommendation of the Senate, that in general all men students of the University of seventeen and above should be required to become (if not already) members of the Senior Training Corps or the Air Training Squadron, or alternatively to undertake some other form of national service approved for the purpose.

A RESEARCH scholarship of the value of £250 per annum and tenable for two years has been founded by the Wrought Light Alloys Development Association to encourage and facilitate research in the application of light alloys to ship construction. The scholarship will be administered by a committee of the Institution of Naval Architects and it is hoped to make the award in September 1941. Full particulars of entry, which closes on July 31, can be obtained from the Secretary, Institution of Naval Architects, 10 Upper Belgrave Street, London, S.W.1.