

NEWS AND VIEWS

Royal Society Medallists

HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been graciously pleased to approve the recommendations made by the Council of the Royal Society for the award of the two Royal Medals for the current year, as follows :

Prof. E. A. Milne, Rouse Ball professor of mathematics in the University of Oxford, for his researches on the atmospheres of the earth and the sun, on the internal constitution of the stars, and on the theory of relativity ;

Prof. E. L. Kennaway, professor of experimental pathology in the University of London, and director of the Chester Beatty Research Institute, Royal Cancer Hospital (Free), for his investigations on production of cancer by synthetic substances.

The following awards of medals have been made by the President and Council of the Royal Society :

Copley Medal to Sir Thomas Lewis, physician-in-charge of the Department of Clinical Research, University College Hospital, London, for his experimental researches in the clinic and the laboratory, on the heart and the circulation, and their disorders.

Davy Medal to Dr. H. D. Dakin, director of the Research Laboratory, Merck Institute of Therapeutic Research, Scarborough-on-Hudson, New York, for his work as a pioneer in biochemical research and especially because of his fundamental contributions to the study of intermediate metabolism.

Hughes Medal to Prof. N. F. Mott, Melville Wills professor of theoretical physics in the University of Bristol, for his fertile application of the principles of quantum theory to many branches of physics, especially in the fields of nuclear and collision theory, in the theory of metals, and in the theory of photographic emulsions.

The Student Martyrs of Prague

NOVEMBER 17 was the second anniversary of the shooting by the Germans in Prague of ten Czechoslovak students, and was observed as an International Day of Students. On November 16 a commemoration meeting was held in the Caxton Hall, London, and was attended by students from more than twenty nations. The following stimulating declaration was made and has since been broadcast to students in all parts of the world : "We declare that November 17 shall always be for us not only the day on which free students everywhere shall pay tribute to their dead Czechoslovak fellows, and to those who are still in prison and concentration camps, but it shall also be the day when we will remember with fervent determination the ideals for which they suffered and are suffering. We free students give our solemn promise to do all that is in our power to crush this brutal Fascist violence, and to dedicate ourselves to preventing its renewal in any shape or form."

The persecution of students and intellectuals has

not been confined to the Czechoslovak peoples; neither is it ended. The Yugoslav Government in London has recently announced that ruthless atrocities against the civil population have taken place in Kragujevac, in Central Serbia. The Germans are stated to have shot in that town 2,300 civilians in the last two weeks as a reprisal for the killing of 26 German soldiers. A large number of intellectuals have been taken out of their homes and shot. The Germans, not being able to find enough hostages among the adult population, have arrested hundreds of students between the ages of sixteen and eighteen, and some of these have already been executed.

Men of Science and the National War Effort

IN view of the widespread feeling that our scientific and technical resources are not being used to the best advantage in the national effort, that much valuable knowledge and experience is being wasted through sufficient responsibility not being given to scientific workers, and that a number of scientific workers have grievances, caused by irregular conditions of working, which unnecessarily discourage them from putting out their maximum effort, the Association of Scientific Workers is calling a series of regional conferences at which men of science, engineers, technicians and laboratory assistants can discuss their problems and decide on appropriate action. Much of the responsibility for improvement of the situation must be borne by all classes of scientific workers. It is therefore to be hoped that the fullest co-operation of all concerned will be obtained.

At the first of these conferences, which will be held in Birmingham on December 6 from 2.30 until 5.30 p.m., at the Royal Society of Artists, New Street, Birmingham, the discussions will be opened by Mr. D. P. Riley, who will speak on "The Responsibilities of the Scientist to the Community"; Mr. J. A. Henley, on "The Position of the Scientist in Industry"; and Mr. E. D. Swann on "The Role of the Scientist in the National Effort". The meeting will be open to all scientific workers.

Committee on Producer Gas Fuel

THE Secretary for Mines has asked the committee which considered low-temperature carbonization processes last year to reassemble, and to examine the sources of fuel for producer gas vehicles, to estimate the quantities that could be made available at present and to report on the measures that would be required to increase the supplies if necessary. The committee will also inquire whether the development of the peat resources of Great Britain would make any useful contribution to the supplies of domestic fuel in the present coal situation. The constitution of the committee is : Lord Henley (chairman); Mr. Gordon Macdonald, M.P.; Dr. W. H. Mills, lately reader in