

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

stereo-chemistry in the University of Cambridge; Mr. F. B. Richards, chairman of Woodall-Duckham Company; Mr. J. Shearman, road motor engineer, L.M.S. Railway; Mr. T. E. B. Young, general manager, Bolsover Colliery Company; Mr. W. A. Macfarlane (secretary); and Dr. F. S. Sinnatt, director of fuel research (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research), and Mr. J. A. Brook, Mines Department, assessors.

Bibliography of the British Fauna and Flora

ONE of the difficulties facing anyone wishing to study a group of British animals or plants is that of obtaining reliable information on books and papers that will be helpful in their identification. The Association for the Study of Systematics in Relation to General Biology, one of the aims of which is to encourage wider and more serious studies in systematics, therefore decided to compile a bibliography on the subject. This laborious task has been accomplished with the help of various experts, mainly of the British Museum (Natural History) and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the book is expected to appear shortly. It contains systematically classified lists of books and papers which may be consulted when studying any given group of British animals or plants. Brief notes on the character and contents of each book and paper are given, so that an idea can be formed as to whether it answers any particular requirements. The whole forms a most useful guide for systematic studies and is certain to achieve its purpose of stimulating scientific interest in the British fauna and flora. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the Society at the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, South Kensington, London, S.W.7.

American Foreign Policy

UNDER the title "American Foreign Policy" Prof. D. W. Brogan has given (Oxford Pamphlets on World Affairs, No. 50. 4d. net) a brilliant and concise interpretation of the traditional outlook of the United States on world affairs, the policy which she has followed in recent years and the machinery by which that policy is carried out. The pamphlet should make a valuable contribution to that mutual understanding by the two peoples upon which alone effective collaboration can be based. What Prof. Brogan has to say about the United States as a missionary of freedom and of American sympathy with democracy, no less than his explanation of the machinery of American foreign policy and of the real meaning of the Monroe doctrine, should go far to remove some of the difficulties which the ordinary citizen of Great Britain experiences in understanding, and still more in reconciling, the high moral line taken in foreign affairs by American public opinion, and the much more realistic attitude of the Administration. In this lucid account, written with admirable detachment, particular attention is given to the development of policy since 1918, including the "Good-Neighbour" policy, the reactions of the rise of Nazism and the collapse of France on the Monroe doctrine

and its application or interpretation and the influence of the war debts on American opinion. Prof. Brogan has rendered real service to Anglo-American collaboration and all that it involves by this admirable exposition of the 'neutrality legislation' and the factors weakening extreme isolationism and bringing the two democracies to such a declaration of common policy as that contained in the Atlantic Charter.

The Genetical Society of Great Britain

DURING the first year of the War the British Genetical Society, which has a membership of 146, held only its annual meeting. From the summer of 1941 it may be said, however, to have resumed its normal activities. Two meetings have been held, at the Rothamsted Experimental Station and at Oxford. On each occasion papers were read and members demonstrated a considerable series of exhibits. Although winter meetings are still impossible, it is hoped to commence a full programme next year with a meeting in the early spring. The present officers of the Society are: *President*, Prof. R. A. Fisher; *Vice-Presidents*, Dr. C. D. Darlington, Prof. Julian Huxley, Dr. R. N. Salaman; *Treasurer*, E. R. Saunders; *Secretaries*, Dr. K. Mather, Dr. E. B. Ford.

Announcements

ACCORDING to a Dutch correspondent of *The Times*, the German authorities in Holland have closed the University of Leyden. After November 20 no examinations are being held there, but the students will be allowed to sit for examinations at other Netherlands universities, and will be admitted to German ones. Lectures at Leyden were discontinued a long time ago (see NATURE of February 8, p. 161).

THE following appointments in the Colonial Service have recently been made: E. D. Bumpus, agricultural superintendent, Nigeria; A. E. Kerr, assistant Government chemist, Trinidad; J. E. Cousens, assistant conservator of forests, Malaya; A. P. D. Jones, assistant conservator of forests, Nigeria; J. J. Laurie, assistant conservator of forests, Gold Coast; G. H. Thompson, assistant conservator of forests, Gold Coast; R. J. Osborne, surveyor, Uganda; D. Westwood, agricultural officer, Gold Coast; Dr. A. W. R. Joachim (agricultural chemist), divisional and research staff officer, Ceylon.

A CENTRAL sales branch has been organized for all work connected with subscriptions, sales and distribution of the journals and other publications of the majority of the Imperial Agricultural Bureau; its offices are at the Agricultural Research Building, Penglais, Aberystwyth. The only publications not dealt with by the central sales branch are those of the Imperial Institute of Entomology (Assistant Director, Imperial Institute of Entomology, 41, Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7) and the Imperial Mycological Institute (Director, Imperial Mycological Institute, Ferry Lane, Kew, Surrey), and *Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews* (Secretary, Imperial Bureau of Animal Nutrition, Rowett Institute, Bucksburn, Aberdeen).