

NEWS and VIEWS

British Association

Conference on Science and the Citizen

THE British Association, through its Division for the Social and International Relations of Science, is arranging a conference on Science and the Citizen: the Public Understanding of Science, to be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 20 and 21, at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London, W.1, by kind permission of the Managers. The Conference will be opened by Sir Richard Gregory, president of the Association, and there will be four sessions, the subjects of which will be the exposition of science, radio and cinema, science as a humanity, and science and the Press. The chair will be taken, at the successive sessions, by Sir Henry Dale, president of the Royal Society and director of the Royal Institution, Sir Allan Powell, chairman of the governors of the B.B.C., Prof. J. L. Myres, and Sir Richard Gregory. It is hoped that an exhibition of films of scientific interest will follow the session on radio and cinema. A list of speakers and other particulars will be issued in due course, and these and tickets of admission will be obtainable from the British Association, Burlington House, London, W.1. The Association, in arranging this conference, is continuing its policy of dealing, by this and other methods, with subjects of especial importance in relation to post-war reconstruction, which were touched upon in the course of the conference on "Science and World Order" held in September, 1941.

Dr. Godfrey Rotter, C.B., C.B.E.

DR. GODFREY ROTTER has recently retired from the post of director of explosives research, Woolwich, after about forty years in Government service. Having graduated from the University College of North Wales, Bangor, he entered the then Experimental Establishment of the War Office in 1903; for the last twenty-one years he has been the head of the Directorate of Explosives Research. Before the War of 1914-18 he had proved his capacity for design, and he received an award for his part in the design of the 106 Fuze, of which nearly a hundred million were made. As a chemist, he showed his skill in devising apparatus for the study of the properties of explosives, of which that for the determination of their sensitiveness is the standard instrument to-day. During 1914-18 he took his full part in the invention and development of new high explosives and propellants, so that when Sir Robert Robertson left in 1921 he succeeded him as director. Of his achievements during the last twenty years it is impossible at this time to speak, but it may be said that he has been associated with notable advances. Of an engaging disposition, and giving an example of an extraordinary capacity for hard work, in an endeavour to keep abreast of ever-increasing activities, he retained the affection and respect of all his staff. He is succeeded by Prof. S. Sugden, of University College, London, who was a member of the Department during the War of 1914-18.

Prof. S. Sugden, F.R.S.

PROF. SAMUEL SUGDEN, who has been appointed superintendent of explosives research, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, for the duration of the War, has been

since 1937 university professor of chemistry, University College, London. Prof. Sugden's massive achievements in research cover a wide field. His native inspiration led to the discovery of a property related to the molecular volume and known as Sugden's parachor. This inspired chemical investigations all over the world, and supplied much valuable information regarding the constitution of chemical compounds and the nature of valency linkages. In his book "The Parachor and Valency", published in 1929, he gave a masterly account of the subject. He has made notable contributions to magnetochemistry. For example, when Pauling concluded from wave mechanics that bivalent nickel, palladium and platinum, unlike the non-transitional elements, can form 4-covalent compounds of plane type which can further be distinguished by their smaller paramagnetic moments, Sugden supplied the first experimental evidence to support this view. It is significant of his keen interest in this field of investigation that he has selected magnetochemistry as the subject for the ninth Liversidge Lecture which the Chemical Society has invited him to deliver. Further evidence of the great fertility of Sugden's researches is found in his investigations on dipole moments, induced radioactivity and the rare earths. He was elected a fellow of the Royal Society in 1934. His powers as a thinker and investigator allied with a flair for exposition have earned him distinction as a scientific writer and teacher.

Institution of Electrical Engineers Awards

THE council of the Institution of Electrical Engineers has elected the Right Hon. Lord Hankey to be an honorary member of the Institution. This distinction has been conferred upon Lord Hankey in appreciation of the valuable services rendered by him as chairman of the Scientific and Engineering Advisory Committees of the War Cabinet, and more recently as chairman of the Technical Personnel Committee. In the latter capacity he has dealt with many problems which have arisen in meeting the demand for engineering personnel for the Forces, the supply establishments and for industry, and has been instrumental in establishing special schemes, notably the intensive training scheme, State bursaries and the engineering cadet scheme, for the training of engineers to meet the needs for future personnel.

The Faraday Medal of the Institution has been awarded to Sir Archibald Page, honorary member and past president of the Institution, in recognition of the outstanding services rendered by him in the sphere of electricity supply, and especially for the prominent part he has taken in the planning, construction and operation of the national grid system in Great Britain, the establishment of which has proved of such inestimable value in the prosecution of the war effort. The Faraday Medal is awarded by the Council of the Institution not more frequently than once a year, either for notable scientific or industrial achievement in electrical engineering or for conspicuous service rendered to the advancement of electrical science, without restriction as regards nationality, country of residence, or membership of the Institution.

Chemists in Great Britain

A MEMORANDUM to which are attached the signatures of many of the leading chemists, pure and applied, of Great Britain, has recently been circulated.