

NEWS and VIEWS

Mr. G. Shaw Scott and the Institute of Metals

THE first decade of the twentieth century produced a number of explorers keen to discover in the science of metals the most efficient and economic ways to adapt 'brass and iron' to the service of man. Papers published at the time were concerned with the micro-structures of metals and alloys, and the influence of the nature and distribution of micro-constituents on mechanical properties. Hence there arose a need for the results of such work to be published among manufacturers and users of metal, while scientific men required a fellowship for mutual help and criticism. The Institute of Metals was founded to meet these needs in September 1908, its temporary headquarters being the Department of Metallurgy of the University of Birmingham. The first secretary was Mr. Gilbert Shaw Scott, who is now retiring after thirty-two years of service.

In 1906, Mr. Shaw Scott graduated at the University of Birmingham as its first graduate in metallurgy, and was the first research student in the Department. In 1908 he read a paper on case hardening to the Iron and Steel Institute at its meeting in Vienna. From a large number of candidates, he was chosen to be the first secretary of the new Institute, and under his guidance it has grown from its original membership of 250 to a present world-wide membership of 2,500. Examples of scientific and technical progress with which he has been associated as secretary and editor to the Institute of Metals include the new knowledge of metallic crystals, equilibrium diagrams and micro-constituents of metals and alloys, the industrial use of microscope and pyrometer as instruments for the control of quantity and quality; the discovery and development of modern alloys of aluminium; the discovery of a copper alloy which can be hardened and tempered by heat treatment; the winning battle against corrosion, and bright annealing. Since 1908, his services to the members of the Institute of Metals have been to make available the new knowledge so necessary to the metallurgical industries. His friends will remember gratefully the prompt help and genial advice always received, and wish him on retirement many happy days.

Charles L. Mayer Prize of the U.S. National Science Fund : Dr. Alexander Lipschütz

DR. ALEXANDER LIPSCHÜTZ, director of the Department of Experimental Medicine of the Chilean National Health Service at Santiago, Chile, has been awarded the second 2,000 dollars prize given by Dr. Charles L. Mayer and administered by the National Science Fund of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. The award was offered for an outstanding contribution made in 1943 to present-day knowledge of factors affecting the growth of animal cells with particular reference to human cancer. Dr. Lipschütz was born in Riga, where he received his early education. He occupied various positions in medicine and physiology at institutions in Switzerland and Germany before going to Chile about fifteen years ago to work at the Catholic University at Concepcion. Since 1938 he has been director of the Department of Experimental Medicine of the National Health Service at Santiago, Chile. Throughout the past six years Dr. Lipschütz, with Chilean collaborators, has studied the fibromyomas of the uterus

which can be induced in guinea pigs by the injection of certain sex hormones of the female. The growths closely resemble the fibromyomas ('fibroids') which occur in women during the childbearing period, and Dr. Lipschütz has shown that, like these, they dwindle and vanish when the stimulation of the sex hormones is withdrawn, as happens after the menopause in women. He and his associates have sought means to prevent the occurrence and enlargement of the growths while the hormones are still acting, and recently they have found that some other hormones have this effect, as do also certain synthetic substances. The molecular configurations responsible for the influence of the antifibromatogenic agents are now under investigation; a progress report by Dr. Lipschütz was published in *NATURE* of February 26, 1944, p. 260.

Award for Production of Magnesium and Calcium

MR. G. D. BAGLEY, leader of the experimental engineering group of the Union Carbide and Carbon Research Division, has been awarded the Jacob F. Schoellkopf Medal for 1944 by the Western New York Section of the American Chemical Society, for "outstanding and highly significant work, particularly in the fields of the commercialization of very active metals". Largely through his chemical and engineering skill, a process has been developed which produces magnesium in high-temperature vacuum furnaces with capacities which were formerly thought to be impossible. Previously, the dolomite-ferrosilicon reaction for making metallic magnesium had always been considered a laboratory curiosity. Mr. Bagley's production methods are being carried out at the Electro Metallurgical Company's plant at Spokane, Washington, with a rated capacity of 24,000 tons a year. Mr. Bagley has also developed a method for the production of metallic calcium. Before the War, calcium came almost exclusively from France and was made in small cells at a high production cost. When this source was cut off, Mr. Bagley designed large automatic cells, which are now producing a purer product at a considerably reduced cost. Mr. Bagley, who has been with the Union Carbide and Carbon Research Laboratories since 1918, has also been wholly or partially responsible for many other highly important chemical and chemical engineering developments.

Federation of British Industries :

Industrial Research Committee

THE Federation of British Industries has decided to strengthen its organization on the research side by making its Industrial Research Committee a permanent standing committee of the Federation, with its own secretariat. By its terms of reference this Committee will seek to stimulate national interest in research for industry and foster it in all appropriate ways. Thus it will encourage industrialists to devote a more adequate part of their resources to the promotion of research and its application to existing products and to the development of new products. It will provide money for the creation and maintenance of adequate facilities for postgraduate research; and encourage the education of the necessary research and development staff of universities, technical colleges and industrial establishments. The