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Presentation of Medal and other Awards

At the same meeting, the following medal and other awards were presented:

Daniel Giraud Elliot Gold Medal and Certificate (awarded annually to the author of an outstanding paper, essay or other work on some branch of zoology or palaeontology), to Prof. Malcolm R. Irwin of the University of Wisconsin, for his work "Immunogenetic Studies of Species Relationships in Columbidae" (*J. Gen.*) (for 1938); Prof. John H. Northrop, Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Princeton, New Jersey, for his work "Crystalline Enzymes: the Chemistry of Pepsin, Trypsin and Bacteriophage" (Jessup Lectures, Columbia University Press) (for 1939); Prof. William B. Scott of Princeton University, for his work "The Mammalian Fauna of the White River Oligocene. Part IV. Artiodactylia" (*Trans. Amer. Phil. Soc.*) (for 1940).

Mary Clark Thompson Gold Medal (awarded annually for the most important services during the period in geology and palaeontology), to Prof. Edward W. Berry of Johns Hopkins University, for outstanding contributions to knowledge of the Mesozoic and Cenozoic floras of North, Central and South America, and the Antilles, in their relations to stratigraphy, the ecology and geographic distribution of past floras, and the evolution of the different groups of flowering plants (for 1942); Dr. George G. Simpson of the American Museum of Natural History, for his outstanding contributions in the field of vertebrate palaeontology, including a study of the Mesozoic mammals, and distinction as a field collector, systematic palaeontologist and original thinker on broad problems of evolution (for 1943); Dr. William J. Arkell, formerly of New College, Oxford, now with the Ministry of Transport, for his outstanding contributions to palaeontology and geology, including intensive studies of stratigraphic units of different geologic age in widely separate regions, British Jurassic faunas, the history of the region of Great Britain in Jurassic times, palaeoecology, the late Neogene history of the Nile region, and other services, all leading to important publications.

Ordnance Distinguished Service Award of the Ordnance Department, United States Army. This was presented to the National Academy of Sciences "in recognition of outstanding and meritorious scientific services, in war and peace, for the development, manufacture and maintenance of Ordnance material". The award was authorized on July 20, 1944, and was presented by Major-General G. M. Barnes, chief of the Research and Development Service Ordnance Department.

Textile Industries at the University of Leeds

THE steady expansion of the wool textile industry of Great Britain up to 1914 was based on the lead given by early textile inventors, aided by the unique skill acquired by successive generations of craftsmen. A great structure had been erected on a foundation of simple empiricism; but the industrialist was still applying imperfectly understood processes to a material of unknown composition and properties. As the training of textile technologists was in the hands of craftsmen with neither scientific training nor research experience, there could be no hope of breaking the vicious circle of empiricism until scientific

workers were persuaded to make a study of textile materials and processes. A first step in this direction was taken by the Department of Textile Industries of the University of Leeds in 1919, when a lecturer in textile chemistry was appointed. From this small beginning it was hoped in time to build up such a body of knowledge that textile technology would be transformed into an applied science. This, in turn, was intended to provide the Department with a staff of technologists having scientific as well as technical qualifications; to create a bond between science and the industry by giving its recruits a combined training in science and technology; and to provide industrial research laboratories with scientific men trained in the methods of research on textile materials and processes.

All these aims have now been achieved, owing to the rapid expansion of the research section of the Department since 1928, when the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers made a grant of £3,000 a year for research purposes. The grant made it possible to appoint a lecturer (now reader) in textile physics (Dr. W. T. Astbury) and two research assistants, besides providing a number of scholarships and fellowships for research workers drawn from the science departments of the universities. Dr. Astbury's work has since been supported by the Rockefeller Trustees, and that of the Textile Chemistry Section by a number of organizations and firms. Both the Textile Physics and Textile Chemistry Sections have been responsible for important advances in pure and applied science, and, excluding staff, there are now twenty-seven research workers in the Department. Its interests cover the whole field of high polymers, from cellulose and the proteins to plastics and synthetic fibres, from biology to technology. A craft has been carried to the forefront of the applied sciences in a single generation.

Needless to say, such rapid expansion has brought difficulties in its train. In a Department which was originally non-scientific, the difficulty of providing accommodation for research workers was always acute, and is now intensified by the needs of the technological staff. Every spare room has been converted into a laboratory, an army hut has been brought into service, and temporary accommodation has been provided in one of the laboratories of the sister Department of Colour Chemistry and Dyeing. The time has now come to consolidate the position, to collect together scattered groups of research workers and to provide research facilities for the technological staff. Two schemes of reorganization are proposed at a total cost of £22,000, towards which Messrs. Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., Dyestuffs Division, and the Tootal Broadhurst Lee Co., Ltd., have each made donations of £2,500.

The International Setting of Reconstruction

UNDER the general title "Looking Forward", the Royal Institute of International Affairs is publishing a series of pamphlets on the international aspects of reconstruction, which are intended to stimulate thought and discussion, and to aim at presenting problems rather than to solve them. In the first of these, "Britain and the World" (Pp. 60. 1s. net), the Hon. H. A. Wyndham gives an outline of reconstruction problems; the general background in Europe and the Middle East, and such factors as freedom of trade and migration in the nineteenth century and up to 1939 are discussed in the first part, and Britain's position in the post-war world is considered in the

second part. Some home problems, such as industry and its organization and control, demobilization, exports, social insurance, housing and agriculture, health and educational services are briefly indicated in the third. The second chapter indicates some of the implications of the Atlantic Charter in such matters as relief and rehabilitation in Europe and the Middle East, the significance of the Hot Springs Conference, the potentialities of the Middle East Supply Centre, the problem of Germany and the special problems of the British Empire, such as the co-ordination of foreign policy and defence and trends in colonial welfare and development. Although necessarily sketchy, the pamphlet succeeds in indicating the relation of particular problems to the larger issues, and the problems of home and international policy, on the solution of which Britain's economic stability, social security and future prosperity depend.

Typhus in Guatemala

THE July issue of the *Boletín de la Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana* contains an account of an outbreak of typhus by Dr. Julio Roberto Herrera, head of the Section of Epidemiology of the General Health Office of Guatemala. He stated that he received on April 3, 1944, a notification of 198 cases of an infectious disease, which turned out to be typhus, in a home for the insane, a general hospital and a penitentiary. There were altogether 198 cases with 63 deaths. The case fatality for the home for the insane was 26.10 per cent. Preventive measures included quarantine of the foci, restriction of visits, disinfection and disinsectization of the hospitals, barracks, etc., verification of definite and suspected cases by public health laboratories, visiting of all contacts, immunization of exposed staff, examination of autopsy specimens, organization of a national disinfection station, education of the public by the Press, radio, etc., isolation of cases and supervision of hospitals and welfare stations.

British Dragonfly Records

MISS CYNTHIA LONGFIELD, British Museum (Nat. Hist.), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7, writes: "As I shall be revising for publication, in the very near future, the records on distribution of all the British dragonflies, I shall be most grateful if all collectors, who have not done so already, will send me their lists of localities, including approximate status, of dragonflies identified up to the end of 1944. Observations on habitats, definite proof of breeding and methods of oviposition will be most valuable. All help will be gratefully acknowledged."

Royal Institution: Graduate Memberships

THE first three of the graduate memberships recently established by the Managers of the Royal Institution for recent graduates, of either sex, of any university in the British Empire who have obtained first- or second-class honours in any scientific subject, have just been awarded. The recipients are: Miss June M. Broomhead, who gained a major scholarship in 1941 and a research scholarship in 1944 at Newnham College, Cambridge, and was placed in Class II (1) in the Natural Sciences Tripos in physics, 1944; Mr. Robert B. Morrison, who took first-class honours in physics in the University of London, 1944, and is now University demonstrator at King's College; and Mr. Anthony P. Waterson, who took a first class in Part I of the Natural Sciences

Tripos, Cambridge, 1943, and in Part II (biochemistry), in 1944. He is studying medicine at the London Hospital.

Royal Aeronautical Society: British Empire Lecture

THE Council of the Royal Aeronautical Society has recently completed arrangements for the founding of a British Empire Lecture. The Lecture, on any aeronautical subject approved by the Council, will be delivered annually in September in London, by a lecturer chosen in alternate years from the British Dominions and Colonies and Great Britain. The Society, by founding the Lecture, is anxious to encourage new ideas and new points of view from all parts of the British Empire, and to make the lecture second in importance only to the Wilbur Wright Memorial Lecture. The British Empire Lecture will have a premium of £50 attached to it, and in the case of lecturers coming from the Dominions and Colonies an allowance up to £100 will be paid towards the lecturer's expenses. It is proposed to hold the first lecture in September 1945, and suggestions for lecturers should be received by May 31, 1945, at the latest.

University of London Appointments

DR. L. S. PENROSE has been appointed to the Galton chair of eugenics tenable at University College. Since 1939 he has been attached to the Provincial Department of Health, Ontario, Canada, and in addition is a physician at the Ontario Hospital, lecturer in psychiatry in the University of Western Ontario, and medical statistician for the Province.

Dr. C. Rimington, who has been on the staff of the National Institute for Medical Research since 1937, has been appointed as from May 1 to the University chair of chemical pathology tenable at University College Hospital Medical School.

Announcements

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

The Earl of Balfour, P.C., chairman of the Cambridge committee of the Commission on the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, on January 14, aged ninety-one.

Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., K.C.V.O., F.R.S., president in 1910-15 of the Royal College of Physicians, on January 12, aged ninety-nine.

THE Committee of the Athenæum has elected the following, under the provisions of Rule II of the Club, which empowers the annual election by the Committee of a certain number of persons of distinguished eminence in science, literature or the arts, or for their public services: the Right Hon. Lord Catto of Cairncross, governor of the Bank of England; Sir Bennett Melvill Jones, Francis Mond professor of aeronautical engineering, University of Cambridge; the Hon. John Gilbert Winant, ambassador of the United States to the Court of St. James's.

DR. DELLEPIANE RAWSON, an eminent plastic surgeon in the Argentine, has arrived in Britain for a six months visit arranged by the British Council. Dr. Rawson, who is head of the special ward for plastic and restorative surgery at the Hospital Rawson, Buenos Aires, and associate teacher at the Faculty of Medicine, will be working with Sir Harold Gillies in the Emergency Medical Service Plastic Surgery Unit at Park Prewett Hospital, Basingstoke.