

who assisted us in obtaining the necessary experimental material and certain data required for this investigation. The work was carried out on behalf of the Director of Scientific Research, Ministry of Home Security, and is published with the approval of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Ministry of Home Security.

¹ Crosby, Fiske, Forster, "Handbook of Fire Protection", 253, 9th edit. (1941). (National Fire Protection Association, Boston, Mass.)

² Phillips, E. W. J., unpublished information (1943).

³ Phillips, E. W. J., *et al.*, unpublished information (1944).

⁴ Waksman, S. A., *J. Bact.*, 7, 605 (1922).

OBITUARIES

Lord Dawson of Penn, P.C., G.C.V.O., K.C.B.,
K.C.M.G.

THE death on March 7 of Lord Dawson at the age of seventy-nine has removed from the ranks of the medical profession one of its most eminent members. Lord Dawson symbolized in his own person the many different services the profession can render to the community. He had been physician to several members of the Royal Family. He was the perfect consultant combining hospital appointments with private practice, always at the service of his patients at whatever inconvenience to himself. To the House of Lords, to which he was elevated in 1920, he brought fine qualities of statesmanship and oratory, and he did invaluable work there in presenting to the public the medical point of view. His scientific eminence was reflected in the many honours conferred on him by universities and medical societies all over the world.

Lord Dawson was a prolific writer and lecturer on a wide variety of medical subjects. He took a prominent part in the organization of the medical services and the famous Dawson Report, produced under his

chairmanship by the Consultative Council on Medical and Allied Services appointed at the time of the creation of the Ministry of Health in 1919, is a milestone in the history of medical services. If the Government had acted upon the advice offered in that Report we might have been saved many of the problems the profession is facing to-day. Lord Dawson's wisdom in guiding the domestic affairs of his profession was recognized by his election to the presidency of the Royal College of Physicians during 1931-38 and to the presidency of the British Medical Association in its centenary year in 1932. He was recalled to the presidency of the British Medical Association in 1943 to lead the profession in the present critical stage of the development of the medical services of Great Britain.

To all his work Lord Dawson brought a rare vigour and wisdom and sympathy. He saw the practice of medicine as a means of making people healthy and happy. His charm and courtesy endeared him to all with whom he came in contact, both professionally and socially, and his pervasive influence will be sorely missed by the medical profession and the scientific world.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Sir Charles Bell, K.C.I.E., C.M.G., an authority on Tibet, aged seventy-four.

Sir George Humphreys, K.B.E., formerly chief engineer to the London County Council, president in 1930 of the Institution of Civil Engineers, on March 9, aged eighty-one.

Sir Hanns Vischer, C.M.G., C.B.E., honorary secretary-general of the International Institute of African Languages, on February 19, aged sixty-eight.

Prof. H. H. Whetzel, professor of plant pathology in Cornell University, on November 30, aged sixty-seven.

NEWS and VIEWS

Helium for the Royal Society Mond Laboratory

THE National Research Council of Canada has recently made a gift of 2,000 cubic feet of helium gas to the Royal Society Mond Laboratory at Cambridge. This amount of gas will enable the Laboratory to recommence research on very low temperature problems and on a scale which will allow the full resources of the Laboratory to be employed. In the whole field of physics, the temperature region close to the absolute zero remains one of the most fruitful for investigation. The low-temperature problems which received most attention before the War were those of superconductivity, magnetic cooling and the properties of liquid helium itself. These are, however, only the more prominent aspects of a wider field of investigation. Many mechanical, electrical, magnetic and optical phenomena, which are either partially or completely obscured by thermal agitation at room temperature, stand out clearly and undisturbed in the quiet region from 5° absolute down to 0.01° absolute which is attainable with liquid helium.

Grants for Scientific Investigations and Publication

THE Royal Society has now been informed that the Treasury has made provision in the estimates for the fiscal year 1945-46 for the following grants which are

administered by the Royal Society: for scientific investigations, £14,000; for scientific publication, £7,000; for scientific congresses, £1,600. In view of the greater amounts to be available if these estimates are accepted by Parliament, and of present changing conditions, the Royal Society has decided that more frequent allocation is desirable. The last dates, therefore, in 1945, for receiving applications for grants from the Parliamentary Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Investigations will be March 31, July 31 and November 30, and the last dates for receiving applications for grants from the Parliamentary Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Publication will be June 15 and November 15.

Cosmic Ray Studies in the Pamirs

A GROUP of scientific workers from the Lebedev Institute of Physics, Moscow, has left for the Pamirs to study the composition of cosmic rays at high altitudes. The expedition is under the direction of Prof. Skobeltsyn, of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, and will continue studies that have been carried on for several years on Mt. Elbrus by workers from the Atomic Nucleus Laboratory. The main object of the expedition is to determine the part played by heavy particles and secondary mesons first discovered in the study of cosmic radiations in 1937. Cosmic