

Chemical Society : Annual General Meeting

THE annual general meeting of the Chemical Society was held in London on April 19, the president, Prof. W. N. Haworth, in the chair. During the business portion of the meeting, Prof. Haworth referred to a letter he had received from N. Derzhavin, conveying greetings from men of science in Latvia and directing attention to the crimes committed by the German invaders on the Latvian people, and his proposed reply was read and endorsed. Prof. Haworth also agreed to convey the deep sympathy of the Council to the American Chemical Society on the loss of their great national leader, and also greetings to the Belgian, French and Russian Chemical Societies, expressing joy at the liberation of their countries from the foreign invader. In presenting the Report of Council for 1944, reference was made to the retirement of the general secretary and to the following resolution passed by the Council: "The Council has received with profound regret the news of the coming retirement of Mr. S. E. Carr from the office of General Secretary. It desires to place on record its deep feeling of gratitude for the great services he has rendered to the Society over a period of forty-two years." It was declared that Prof. H. V. A. Briscoe had been elected honorary secretary, and the following as new members of Council: as *Vice-Presidents*, Prof. A. J. Allmand, Prof. J. W. Cook and Prof. I. M. Heilbron; as *Elected Ordinary Members of Council*, Prof. Wilson Baker, Mr. R. P. Bell, Prof. H. T. S. Britton, Dr. D. H. Hey, Dr. B. Jones, Dr. R. J. W. Le Fèvre, Prof. J. M. Robertson, Dr. F. S. Spring, Dr. M. Stacey and Prof. A. R. Todd.

Philosophical Magazine

THE *Philosophical Magazine* is now within two years of celebrating the hundred and fiftieth anniversary of its first publication. The outlook of physical science has changed in the intervening years almost beyond recognition, and it has seemed desirable to the proprietors of the journal to alter the title, while retaining the familiar name of the *Philosophical Magazine*, in such a way as to indicate more clearly the scope of the journal. The old read "The London, Edinburgh and Dublin Philosophical Magazine and Journal of Science, being a continuation of Tulloch's 'Philosophical Magazine'; Nicholson's 'Journal' and Thomson's 'Annals of Philosophy'!" The new title, which appears for the first time in the current number, is "The Philosophical Magazine, a Journal of Theoretical, Experimental and Applied Physics". The journal has had a long and distinguished career and has numbered among its editors some of the most eminent physicists of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In its pages have appeared many papers of fundamental importance; during the present century, for example, classic papers by J. J. Thomson, Moseley, Bohr and Rutherford have been published in the journal which, despite a marked increase in the number and publications of the learned societies, still holds an honoured place among its contemporaries.

New Theory of the Origin of the Planets

A BRIEF reference is made in the *Observatory* of December to a new theory of the origin of the planets, which, according to the *Moscow News*, was communicated to the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. on June 1, by O. J. Schmidt, of Arctic fame—a celebrated mathematician and geophysicist. The theory is based

on the rotation of the galaxy, as a result of which two stars sometimes approach so closely that the capture of one by the other occurs, a stable system—a binary—being formed. A star—our sun, for example—passing through one of the meteorite clouds in the Milky Way captures part of the meteorites, and this capture leads to the formation of planets revolving round the sun. It is stated that Schmidt's theory leads to mathematical formulæ which agree with astronomical observation; but it is necessary to suspend judgment until the original paper is available.

Isovol Map of the South Wales Coalfield

AN important contribution to our knowledge of the coals of South Wales has been issued by the Fuel Research Organisation of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in the form of an isovol map (1s. 3d.) and an explanatory booklet (6d.) which describes how the map was compiled, its implications and uses (*Fuel Research Survey Paper* No. 56). Both are published by H.M. Stationery Office, 1944. The 'isovols' plotted on the map are lines of equal volatile content and show graphically the results of the determinations of volatile matter in samples of all the seams so far examined. Further editions will be issued as the survey proceeds. Since volatile matter constitutes, especially in South Wales, a valuable index of the physical and chemical nature of the coal, the map summarizes much of the work of the coal survey in this area up to date, and shows, simply and accurately, where each of the widely differing types of coal occurs. The booklet describes methods of analysis and contains a useful discussion of the relationships between volatile percentages, carbon percentages, calorific value and caking properties—all important factors in assessing the value of the coals.

British Simuliidæ

THE Simuliidæ or 'black flies' are represented in Britain by nineteen species. Their larvæ and pupæ are always aquatic, and the adult females are active blood-suckers. In the British Isles the attacks of the adult insects on man are seldom more than a nuisance; but to horses and cattle they cause much irritation and the animals are often compelled to seek shelter at times when they should be feeding or resting. In such circumstances they will not thrive or put on weight as they should do in normal circumstances. A useful guide to these insects entitled "The British Simuliidæ" by Dr. John Smart has recently come to hand. It is published by the Freshwater Biological Association, Wray Castle, Ambleside, from which it can be purchased, price 2s. 6d. The pamphlet is well printed and admirably illustrated with numerous original figures. By its aid it should be possible to identify not only the adults but also the larvæ and pupæ of these insects. ■

University Electoral Registers

IN view of the impending general election in Britain, Mr. D. Veale, registration officer, University of Oxford, writing on behalf of all university registration officers, urges every voter for a university constituency who has changed his address since registering as an elector and who has not notified the electoral registration officer of his university of such change, to do so as soon as possible. Prompt response to this appeal would not only save many last-minute applications