

## NEWS and VIEWS

## Scientific Research and Development in Northern Ireland

In accordance with its policy of encouraging the increased application of the results of scientific and industrial research by industry in Northern Ireland, the Ministry of Commerce has formed a Council of Scientific Research and Development. The work of this Council, which will be closely linked with that of the Directorate of Scientific Development of the Ministry of Commerce, will be carried out under the following terms of reference: (1) to advise the Ministry of Commerce on all scientific questions connected with the utilization and development of the natural resources of Northern Ireland; (2) to promote the increased application by industry in Northern Ireland of the latest discoveries and developments in the fields of pure and applied science with the object of improving present industrial methods and processes, creating new industries and expanding existing ones; (3) to arrange, through the Director of Scientific Development, for such investigations and research work as the Council may consider desirable in the best interests of Northern Ireland; (4) to promote the wider dissemination of scientific knowledge throughout Northern Ireland.

The composition of the Council is as follows: Sir David Lindsay Keir, president and vice-chancellor of the Queen's University, Belfast (*chairman*); Mr. D. H. Alexander, Belfast College of Technology; Prof. R. G. Baskett, professor of agricultural chemistry, Queen's University; Mr. O. F. Brown, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Mr. H. Bryson (Spence Bryson and Co., Ltd.); Prof. J. K. Charlesworth, professor of geology, Queen's University; Mr. M. Eitel (Stevenson and Son, Ltd.); Prof. K. G. E. Emeléus, professor of experimental physics, Queen's University; Prof. D. C. Harrison, professor of biochemistry, Queen's University; Mr. A. J. Howard, Ministry of Commerce; Prof. K. S. Isles, professor of commerce, Queen's University; Mr. B. M. Cance (Kirkpatrick Bros., Ltd.); Prof. A. H. Naylor, professor of civil engineering, Queen's University; Mr. D. Rebbeck (Harland and Wolff, Ltd.); Dr. A. J. Turner, Linen Industry Research Association; Mr. R. C. Wilson (Newforge, Ltd.); Mr. D. E. Wiseman (Short and Harland, Ltd.); and Prof. A. R. Ubbelohde, professor of chemistry, Queen's University. All inquiries in connexion with the activities of the Council should be addressed to the Director of Scientific Development, Ministry of Commerce, 20 College Gardens, Belfast.

## Generation of Electricity from Wind Power

THE work of the Section on Rural Electrification of the British Electrical and Allied Industries Research Association has already included research on the small-scale generation of electricity, principally by wind power. Recent shortages of power and fuel have aroused interest in the possibility of utilizing wind power on a large scale for the generation of electricity in Great Britain. Following earlier discussions with the relevant Ministries and other interested parties, the Association has established a new Section on Power Generation with the following terms of reference: "To study the technical and economic problem of large-scale aerodynamic generation in Great Britain; including the collection of all available information and evidence, the principles of

the selection of sites and the wind energy derivable therefrom, the co-ordination of wind-driven generators with supply systems, the essential design features of wind-driven generators and the design problems which remain to be solved". The chairman of the new Sectional Committee is to be Mr. T. G. N. Haldane of Messrs. Merz and McLellan. The Committee is expected to comprise representatives from electricity supply, electrical manufacturers, consulting engineers, the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the Lord President's Office, the Meteorological Office, the Ministry of Fuel and Power and the Ministry of Supply. Representatives of the aircraft industry will also be invited, as may seem desirable. The research officer for the new Section will be Mr. E. W. Golding, who is in charge of the Association's work on rural electrification and its field station at Shinfield Green, near Reading.

## Medical Research in South Africa

THE annual report of the South African Institute for Medical Research for 1946 records activities so various that a short note cannot mention them all. Mr. G. H. Beatty, chairman of the Board of Management since 1939, retired in 1946 and was succeeded by Mr. E. H. A. Lawrence. The Institute's close co-operation with the University of the Witwatersrand continues. Increased attention is being given to the problem of the universal donor of blood for transfusion, and studies of the Rhesus factors have been continued. Work on the vole tubercle bacillus has included a continuation of immunization experiments previously carried out to include *Cercopithecus* monkeys and rodents. Two species of gerbils have proved equally susceptible to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and the vole bacillus, so that they cannot be used for cross-immunization work. Work on leprosy included treatment of lepers with 'Promin', a new sulphone; but blood examinations showed no significant change over a period of four months. Considerable work has been done on diphtheria, dysentery, tetanus, gas gangrene, relapsing fever, typhus fever and other diseases; a plague-like epizootic occurring among gerbils in the Johannesburg area was, after investigation, ascribed to *Listeria monocytogenes*, and further study of this organism, which influences the wild rodent population and is also present in domestic rats, gave interesting results which are outlined in this report. Entomologists will be interested in the list of vectors of yellow fever, which records thirty-four species of mosquito new to northern Bechuanaland, also in the work on the physiology of *Cimex lectularius* and the larvæ of *Aedes aegypti*. Standard bed bugs are being reared for the biological assay of insecticides. Work has also been done on nutrition, venoms and antivenenes, and allergy, and a considerable volume of routine work accomplished.

## Evolution: An International Journal of Organic Evolution

WORKERS in various fields such as taxonomy, palæontology, cytology, genetics, comparative anatomy, etc., besides the problems inherent in their own fields, often have to take into account and make contribution to the wider field of thought covered by the term 'evolution'. The interest in this major subject has increased noticeably in recent years, and it was with the object of facilitating this modern synthesis that a Society for the Study of Evolution