

with fundamental definitions and standards in glass technology, and the other with physical methods for the control of the quality of glass during manufacture. Visits to the extensive new research laboratories of the Compagnie de St. Gobain and to the optical glassworks of Parra-Mantois at Le Vesinet followed the meeting.

#### Roland Eötvös Physical Society of Hungary

DURING May 27-29 the Roland Eötvös Physical Society of Hungary, with the support of the Hungarian Academy of Science, held its first local convention in Pécs. Thirty-two lectures were given on the quantum theory of fields, on the experimental methods of nuclear physics, and on the physics of solids. The opening lecture was delivered by Prof. L. Jánossy, who discussed an experiment of forty years ago by Prof. Paul Selényi, in which the interference of rays emitted by a light source in widely diverging directions was demonstrated for the first time (*Ann. d. Phys.*, 35, 444 (1911); *Z. Phys.*, 108, 401 (1938), and 111, 791 (1939); *Phys. Rev.*, 56, 477 (1939)). The lecture was followed by a demonstration of the experiment. At the conclusion of the meeting Prof. S. Kovács gave a report on the activities of the Central Physical Institute of the Academy of Science, under his direction, and on the progress of its new home, which is nearing completion.

#### Gramophone Driven by a Hot-air Engine

IN the December 1950 issue of the *Museums Journal*, Dr. Stuart M. K. Henderson describes a gramophone of unusual type recently acquired by the Museum at Glasgow. Apparently it is of normal, early twentieth-century construction; the horn, sound box, cabinet and turntable are typical of designs about 1908. The drive, however, is by means of a motor based on the principle of the hot-air engine. It seems clear that it has been constructed from standard gramophone parts with an air-engine inserted in place of the normal motor. The heat is obtained from a methylated spirit burner placed under a cylinder below a mica box. In his article Dr. Henderson gives full details of the construction. He is anxious to hear of any other examples.

#### Canadian Society of Microbiologists

SOME 175 microbiologists from eight provinces of Canada met at the University of Ottawa during June 7-8 and formed a Canadian Society of Microbiologists (*Société Canadienne des Microbiologistes*). Officers of the new Society are: *President*, Dr. R. G. E. Murray, Department of Bacteriology and Immunology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Western Ontario; *Vice-Presidents*, Dr. Maurice Panisset, Institut de Microbiologie et d'Hygiène, Université de Montreal, and Dr. A. G. Lochhead, Science Service, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa; and *Secretary-Treasurer*, Dr. N. E. Gibbons, Division of Applied Biology, National Research Council, Ottawa. A Council was also elected, the members representing as many fields of microbiology and regions of Canada as possible. Twenty-five papers dealing with general, agricultural, industrial and medical microbiology were presented at this inaugural meeting.

#### Freedom and Responsibility: Conference at Oxford

THE organization known as the Present Question Conference, which was founded in 1945, is an in-

dependent non-profit-making association of men and women in all walks of life which seeks to reaffirm the importance of human values and relationships amid the growing impersonalism and materialism that tend to characterize life to-day. The Conference works along three lines: small groups, which meet regularly throughout the year; major conferences; and publication of the journal *Question*. The conference this year, to be held at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, during August 4-11, will be on "Freedom and Responsibility". Each day of the conference will consist of lectures, study groups and discussion devoted to a particular aspect of the general theme, and on August 9 Sir John Cockcroft and Dr. J. Bronowski will be the two speakers, under the chairmanship of Prof. F. E. Simon, their subjects being "Pure Science" and "Applied Science", respectively. The fee for the conference is 21s. (students 15s.) and accommodation is available at Lady Margaret Hall. The journal *Question* is issued three times a year (7s. 6d. a volume, or 2s. 6d. each issue, plus postage). All inquiries relating to the Present Question Conference should be addressed to the secretariat at 37 Middleway, London, N.W.11.

#### Courses on Rural Studies

THE Association of Agriculture, in co-operation with a number of local bodies, is arranging several courses of study during the summer. The subjects covered include: rural sociology (at Barford, Warwick); man and the land (at Perth); the content and teaching of rural science (at Trinity College, Carmarthen); biology and agriculture (at Harper Adams Agricultural College, Shropshire); man and his food (at Shuttleworth College, Biggleswade); and biology and social studies (at the Cumberland and Westmorland Counties' Farm School, Penrith). Particulars can be obtained from the General Secretary, Association of Agriculture, 238-240 Abbey House, 2 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

#### University of Birmingham

PROF. P. B. MEDAWAR has resigned from the Mason chair of zoology in the University of Birmingham on being appointed Jodrell professor of zoology and comparative anatomy in University College, London. The following resignations from Birmingham have also been announced: H. McManus, lecturer in mathematical physics, on appointment as research officer at the Canadian Atomic Energy Project, Chalk River, Ontario; S. J. Green, lecturer in chemical engineering, on taking up a senior appointment with Glaxo Laboratories, Ltd.; F. E. Kras, lecturer in mechanical engineering; M. J. Wise, lecturer in geography, on appointment as lecturer in geography in the London School of Economics. The following appointments have recently been made in the University: B. Mills, lecturer in mechanical engineering; Dr. R. W. Cahm, lecturer in metallurgy; Dr. P. T. Matthews, Imperial Chemical Industries fellow in mathematical physics; Dr. K. F. Chackett, Imperial Chemical Industries fellow in physics. The second chair of physics in the University has been named the Oliver Lodge chair of physics, to commemorate the work in physics done by Sir Oliver Lodge, first principal of the University. An annual lectureship, to be called the S. J. Ellis Memorial Lectureship, has been endowed at the Department of Mechanical Engineering by funds subscribed by past and present members of the Department.