

of science. . . . A set of *Osiris* will thus contain fundamental information concerning the history of our discipline." Past readers of *Osiris*, libraries and members of the British Society for the History of Science, may thus like to be reminded of the resumption of this publication. Vol. 9 illustrates the range covered by the series, from Philip Yampolsky's "Origin of the Twenty-eight Lunar Mansions" and Naum Jasny's "Daily Bread of the Ancient Greeks and Romans", to Gloria McConnaughey's "Darwin and Social Darwinism" and the editor's "History of Science in the Carnegie Institution"; an outstanding paper is E. S. Merton's appraisal of "Sir Thomas Browne as Zoologist". Two items by British scholars in the issue are Joseph Schacht's biography of Max Meyerhof and H. W. Jones's "Mid-seventeenth Century Science: some Polemics".

An Unusual Ice Formation

DR. A. MORLEY DAVIES, of Arngrove, Amersham, Bucks, writes to say that he has observed a repetition of the phenomenon of an unusual ice formation which he reported twenty years ago (see *Nature*, 127, 340 and 603; 1931). "On the morning of February 7, after a frosty night followed by thaw, both the same receptacle as in 1931 and a smaller one of similar shape exhibited a vertical projection, in the form of a triangular prism, from the surface of the ice contained in them. I was only able to take hasty and rough measurements of the smaller one. It occupied an excentric position in a surface of diameter 8 in.; its ground-plan was an isosceles triangle (sides about 1 in., base $\frac{3}{4}$ in.) with a height of more than an inch. As I suspected in the earlier case, it was hollow, the walls being about $\frac{1}{4}$ in. thick. On lifting the whole mass (cake and prism), the hollow was seen to extend down from the top of the prism to the surface of the water below."

"Dielectric Constant and Refractive Index of Air and its Principal Constituents at 24,000 Mc./s."

DRS. L. ESSEN and K. D. Froome write: "In our recent article (*Nature*, March 31, p. 512) we assumed that the permeability of air could be taken as unity in the derivation of values of dielectric constant from measurements of refractive index. This is no longer permissible when the accuracy given approaches 1×10^{-7} , and the expression ϵ in the article should therefore be replaced by $\mu\epsilon$. In problems on wave propagation it is this quantity that is required; but in lumped circuit problems μ and ϵ are required separately. If the value of $(\mu-1)10^6$ is assumed to be 1.9 for oxygen and therefore 0.4 for air, the values of $(\epsilon-1)10^6$ at N.T.P. become 531.0 ± 0.4 and 576.0 ± 0.2 for oxygen and air respectively. The other results and the extrapolation formulæ are unaffected."

Society of Chemical Industry: Annual Meeting

THE seventieth annual meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry will be held at the Royal College of Science, South Kensington, London, S.W.7, during July 9-13. A special ceremony will take place at 10 a.m. on July 11 at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London, W.1, when the Society's Medal will be presented to Prof. E. C. Dodds, professor of biochemistry in the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London, and this will be followed by an address by Prof. Dodds on "The Decisive Influence of Chemical Industry in Medicine". The

theme of the meeting this year is "Water in Industry", and a number of lectures have been arranged on this topic. Application for tickets to the meeting should be made, not later than May 21, to E. L. Streatfield, London Section, Society of Chemical Industry, 56 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Royal Institute of Chemistry: Officers

AT the annual general meeting of the Royal Institute of Chemistry, held on April 27, the following officers were elected: *President*, Mr. H. W. Cremer; *Vice-Presidents*, Dr. G. M. Bennett, Prof. Harold Burton, Prof. J. W. Cook, Dr. W. M. Cumming, Dr. C. W. Herd, Prof. W. H. Linnell and Miss Mamie Olliver; *Hon. Treasurer*, Dr. D. W. Kent-Jones.

Announcements

THE Air Ministry announces that, with the up-grading of the post of director of educational services, Air Ministry, to air vice-marshal rank, Air Commodore A. H. Robson, the present director, has been promoted to the rank of air vice-marshal. Air Vice-Marshal Robson, who was born in 1892, was educated at Gateshead Grammar School, Armstrong (now King's) College, Newcastle upon Tyne, and King's College, University of London, graduating as B.Sc., M.Sc., and Ph.D. He has been associated with the R.A.F. educational service since 1923.

THE Melchett Medal for 1951 of the Institute of Fuel has been awarded to Prof. F. H. Garner, director of the Department of Chemical Engineering, and dean of the Faculty of Science in the University of Birmingham. Prof. Garner, who was formerly chief chemist of the Anglo-American Oil Co., is a past president of the Institute of Petroleum and honorary editor of the *Journal* of that Institute.

THE fourth award of the Oliver Memorial Fund (£50) will be made to a British subject for a notable contribution to the research, organization or donor aspect of blood transfusion. Applications and suggestions should be sent, before June 30, to the honorary treasurer, Mr. F. W. Mills, c/o National Provincial Bank, Ltd., Holborn Circus, London, E.C.1.

THE 1951 edition of "British Chemicals and their Manufacturers", issued by the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers, 166 Piccadilly, London, W.1, has been entirely revised, and, on application to the Association, copies are available free to persons or firms genuinely interested in the purchase of chemicals.

PROF. MANSON BENEDICT, who was recently made professor of chemical engineering in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has also been appointed scientific director of the National Research Corporation, 70 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, Mass. Prof. Benedict is an authority on hydrocarbon thermodynamics and separation processes, and during the Second World War he was in charge of process development for the Kellogg Corporation, where he made substantial contributions to the gaseous diffusion process for the concentration of uranium-235. As scientific director of the National Research Corporation he will devote himself initially to a petrochemical research programme which is being undertaken jointly with the Electric Bond and Share Co. and the United Gas Corporation.

ERRATUM. "Britain's Scientific Shrines", April 28, p. 666, col. 1, lines 15 and 16, for "Westminster Bridge" read "Blackfriars Bridge".