

istry, gas analysis, pathology and electronics, a medical library, conference rooms, service and fabrication shops.

Dr. Rushmer is a native of Ogden, Utah, where he was born in 1914. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1935 with a science degree and from Rush Medical College in 1939 with a medical degree. During 1940-42 he studied at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, with a fellowship in paediatrics. In 1941 Dr. Rushmer was appointed an assistant in aviation medicine at the Mayo Foundation, and he served as a research projects officer in the Department of Clinical Investigation, AAF School of Aviation at Randolph Field, Texas, during 1942-46 inclusive. After the War, Dr. Rushmer joined the medical faculty of the University of Southern California as an associate professor of aviation medicine, and in 1947 he took up a similar appointment in the University of Washington.

#### Royal Society of Edinburgh: Honorary Fellows

At a meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh held on July 2, the following were elected Honorary Fellows of the Society.

*British:* Sir Charles Harington, director of the National Institute for Medical Research; Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Astronomer Royal.

*Foreign:* Prof. George W. Corner, director of the Department of Embryology, Carnegie Embryological Laboratory, Baltimore; Prof. H. A. Kramers, director, Institute of Theoretical Physics, Leyden; Prof. Vincent du Vigneaud, professor of biochemistry, Cornell University Medical School, New York; Prof. Sewall Wright, professor of zoology, University of Chicago.

Prof. E. L. Hirst delivered the Bruce-Preller Lecture, his subject being "The Synthesis and Functions of Sugars in Plant Life". The Makdougall-Brisbane Prize (1948-50) was presented by the president to Prof. James Small, Queen's University, Belfast, for his papers dealing with quantitative evolution, two of which have been published in the *Proceedings* of the Society during the period of the award.

#### Development of Atomic Energy in Great Britain

IN the House of Lords on July 5, Lord Cherwell put forward a motion regretting "the slow progress made in this country in developing atomic energy for peaceful and for war-like purposes", and asking for the transfer of the work from the Ministry of Supply to a special organization "under the direct control of the head of the Government". He remarked that the matter had become more urgent in view of the impending retirement of Lord Portal, director of atomic energy, whose chief scientific adviser had already left the service. The Civil Service, he said, is unfitted for dealing with this kind of undertaking; and a more flexible organization is required. Many good engineers and scientific men are reluctant to join the Civil Service because their work would be regulated by the administrative side, which knows little about the subject. Lord Cherwell also referred to security measures, which he believes are inadequate as applied in this field. No other country, he said, has attempted to carry on research and development in atomic energy through a government department, and he asked for a change of organization as a matter of urgency.

The Government reply was by Viscount Alexander, chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. He remarked

that the Government is quite prepared to change its views on this important matter if it is convinced that progress is being held up in any way. In point of fact, however, the Sellafield development, he said, has been completed well within the time schedule. Any new organization would be faced with the same shortages and frustrations due to post-war difficulties which have hampered not only the Civil Service but also every part of industry in Great Britain. Further, he believed that a change of organization at the present time would cause considerable disturbance and set back the atomic energy project by months. He claimed that under the Ministry of Supply there has been no delay in decisions on policy, no lack of money and, until recently, no difficulty in recruiting a proper share of the country's scientific men. The Prime Minister had given instructions that the project was to have the highest priority, and it has been conducted on the largest scale possible in view of the country's resources. The present arrangements, Lord Alexander said, do not preclude a close degree of personal attention by the Prime Minister. Lord Cherwell's motion was carried by 52 votes to 31.

#### British Coal Utilization Research Association: Annual General Meeting

THE successful fusion in Great Britain of the research interests of the nationalized coal and electricity industries with those of the independent appliance manufacturers and coal consumers in an autonomous co-operative research association was referred to by Sir Charles Ellis during the course of his presidential address at the annual general meeting of the British Coal Utilization Research Association held on June 13 at Leatherhead. Introducing the annual report of the Association for 1950, Sir Charles, after commenting upon the success of the system of committees by which the affairs of the Association are conducted, and upon the satisfactory financial position, reviewed briefly a few of the more outstanding activities and achievements of the Association during the year. The investigation into the effect of coal characteristics upon the performance of shell boilers, for example, had provided quantitative data on the beneficial effect of using coal of the correct moisture content; studies of the performance of gas producers had revealed a promising new method of automatic control based on an instrumental link between coal feed and off-take gas temperature; a new study of the gasification of slurries had been commenced; work was progressing on the design of a cyclone furnace which should provide not only a power source for a gas turbine, but also a method for the economical combustion of coal intermediate in size between normal boiler fuel and pulverized fuel; and the work on domestic heating was being directed towards the achievement of smokeless combustion in open fires. Finally, Sir Charles Ellis announced the establishment of an annual Coal Science Lecture, believed to be the first ever inaugurated by a research association, and announced that Sir Alfred Egerton had been invited to be the first lecturer.

#### Regulations concerning Full-time Work in the Colonial Service

ONE of the constituent institutes of the Joint Council of Professional Scientists recently directed the Council's attention to the varying interpretations, in respect of men of science in the service of Colonial Governments, which are placed on paragraph 52 of Colonial Regulations (Colonial No. 88-1 of 1945),