

particular candidate and ruled that the Crown had established no *prima facie* case; he directed the jury to bring in a formal verdict of acquittal. While common sense will applaud this result and there is reason for satisfaction that no further shackle has been placed on comment or expression of opinion, even when prejudiced, at a time of general election, the need for vigilance remains. The action has demonstrated two things. The meaning, or at least the interpretation of this section of the Representation of the People Act, 1949, relating to the incurring of election expenses is not precise. Mr. Justice McNair's decision has safeguarded the wider public interest of free comment for the present. But the action has also shown that there are parties to whom this vital national interest of free expression of opinion and comment counts for nothing against the interests of a section or a political party; the real significance of the action may well lie in its fresh warning of the need for unceasing vigilance. Powers created for the rightful purpose of preventing bribery can only too easily be used to limit debate and the free exchange of information and comment, upon which the vitality of democratic institutions depends.

Careers in Agricultural Research

A USEFUL pamphlet entitled "Careers in Agricultural Research: Training Grants, Studentships and Fellowships awarded by the Agricultural Research Council, 1952" has recently been issued by the Council (Cunard Building, 15 Regent Street, London, S.W.1). There are openings for research workers in many of the twenty-two agricultural research institutes financed by the State. In addition, certain appointments in universities and other research institutions are financed by the Council; many of these are temporary in character, but are particularly attractive to the young worker who wishes to work under the personal guidance of a distinguished scientist. The pamphlet also gives useful information about the scientific staffs of the Council and of the State-aided agricultural research institutes and about the advisory services.

This year the Council is again offering a limited number of junior agricultural research fellowships to research workers of outstanding ability. Each fellowship will be tenable for three years, at home or abroad, and has a stipend of £600 a year. Following this, if the Fellow wishes to seek an appointment with the Council, he will, if accepted, be appointed to the grade of senior scientific officer. Moreover, it is proposed to offer to graduates this year training grants and research studentships in agricultural and veterinary science. Applications must reach the Secretary of the Council by March 21. Further information and a copy of the pamphlet can be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Agricultural Research Council, Cunard Building, 15 Regent Street, London, S.W.1.

Louis Rapkine Memorial Fund

A BRITISH Working Committee, formed in 1950, has now launched an appeal for funds for the foundation of a memorial to Louis Rapkine (1904-1948), the French-Canadian biochemist. The appeal is sponsored by many distinguished men of science. Though a Canadian citizen, Rapkine did much work in connexion with hospitality in France for refugees from totalitarian countries during 1934-39. During the Second World War he organized the escape of many individuals from France and the setting up of

centres in the United States and Great Britain where French scientific workers could take part in the Allied war effort. In 1946 he returned to research in cell chemistry at the Pasteur Institute; but he died two years later. A similar fund is being established in France under a French Working Committee. It is considered that the best form which the memorial could take would be an occasional lecture to be given by a young Frenchman invited by the British Committee. It is proposed that the funds raised should also be used for covering the short-term visits of young French scientists, in particular biochemists and biologists, to Britain to learn a specific experimental technique, to take part in symposia, or other similar purposes. It is understood that some of the funds of the French Committee will similarly be available for young British scientists in France. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Barbara Holmes, 32 Fulbrooke Road, Cambridge.

Scientific Film Association

THE Scientific Film Association (164 Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.C.2) is organizing a conference on "Films can help Industry", which will be held in the Adelphi Hotel, St. Leonards-on-Sea, during April 4-6. Three films will be shown, and there will be a number of discussions, both among the conference members as a whole and in more specialized discussion groups. The fee for the conference is one guinea, and accommodation can be reserved at the Adelphi Hotel. Further information can be obtained from the conference secretary, Mr. J. Le Harivel, at the Association. The Association is also showing a number of scientific and technological films at 7.45 p.m. on March 20 and March 22 at the cinema of the French Institute, Queensberry Place, London, S.W.7. Sixteen films will be shown, nine on the first night and seven on the second, and they are drawn from the following eleven countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Netherlands, New Zealand, United States and the U.S.S.R. Tickets of admission, 2s. 6d. each session or 4s. 6d. for both (2s. and 3s. 6d. to members of the Association) are obtainable from the Association.

International Congress on Analytical Chemistry at Oxford

AN International Congress on Analytical Chemistry, to be held under the patronage of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, will take place at Oxford during September 4-9; meetings of the board and commissions of Section 5, the Analytical Chemistry Section, of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, will probably be held on September 3 and 10. The president of the Congress will be Sir Robert Robinson, with Sir Wallace Akers as vice-president. The Congress will be divided into nine sections, based broadly on techniques as follows: microchemical, biological, electrical, optical, radiochemical, organic complexes, reporting of results, adsorption and partition methods, and miscellaneous techniques. Papers will be issued in preprint form, and authors will give only a brief introduction so as to allow most of the time for discussion, thirty minutes being the maximum time allowable for each paper. The official language of the Congress will be English; it is permissible to submit a paper in French or German, but in this case summaries must be given in each of the other two languages. During the Congress three main lectures