reasons the Kapitza liquefier which had rendered such excellent service for many years was abandoned in 1949, when Ashmead built a larger liquefier, working on the more conventional cascade principle, but yielding 3·7 litres per hour instead of the previous 1·8. This gain in yield was achieved by making use of the full capacity of the hydrogen and helium compressors of the Laboratory, and particular attention was paid in the design of the liquefier to ease of servicing. At present, as many as six or seven separate 'helium runs' can be carried on simultaneously on each of the two 'helium days' every week, and it is hoped that the flexibility of experimenting will be still further improved soon, when a large liquid-helium storage vessel is brought into use, so that it will be possible for liquid helium to be used at any time.

In such a brief account as this of twenty years work, it has been scarcely possible to do more than point out the main trends; and inevitably some of the individual researches—such as the experiments on paramagnetism before the War by H. M. Barkla and E. S. Shire, J. Ashmead and J. Reekie and more recently by C. G. B. Garrett—have found no mention. In its main lines of research, on superconductivity and liquid helium, the work of the Laboratory has helped in clarifying many tangled questions; but though in some ways it is now clearer what it is that has to be explained, the underlying fundamental theories are still far from developed. This is an attractive situation for the experimenter in the challenge it offers, and it is hoped that the Laboratory will play a part in the future in reaching the deeper understanding which is still lacking.

NEWS and VIEWS

Wool Textile Engineering at Leeds: Dr. Alfred H. Nissan

An interesting development in the Department of Textile Industries of the University of Leeds is the recent appointment of Dr. A. H. Nissan as the first holder of the research chair of wool textile engineering, which was endowed in 1947 by the Wool Industry Surplus Cloth Corporation and the National Wool Textile Export Corporation with donations amounting to £52,500. Dr. Nissan is a graduate in chemical engineering of the University of Birmingham; he was awarded the Sir John Cadman Medal and the Burgess Medal and Prize of the Institute of Petroleum. After carrying out research for the degree of Ph.D., he was appointed to the staff as lecturer in petroleum production engineering in 1939 and proceeded to the degree of D.Sc. in 1943. During the War he worked under the direction of Prof. F. H. Garner on flame-thrower problems, including the hydrodynamics of flow of complex visco-elastic systems and chemical engineering problems connected with the development of a novel flame-thrower fuel. In association with L. Grunberg, he also devised an interesting method of making sea-water potable by removing the chlorine ion with silver oxide and the sodium ion with uranium oxide. After the War, Dr. Nissan's attention was turned to combustion processes in diesel engines and the properties of detergent oils as lubricants, until he was appointed head of the Central Research Laboratories of the Bowater Paper Corporation, Ltd., in 1947. There he has had the interesting and satisfying experience of developing a strong and successful research team from the smallest beginnings; he should find equal opportunities in the work of the new chair to which he has been appointed.

Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture: Dr. G. A. C. Herklots

Dr. G. A. C. Herklots, who is succeeding Mr. H. J. Page as principal of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture (see *Nature*, 170, 564; 1952), studied at Leeds and Cambridge under J. H. Priestley, Walter Garstang and F. F. Blackman. In 1928 he went to Hong Kong University to take charge of the new Department of Biology. His first interest in natural history found expression in the ten volumes of the "Hong Kong Naturalist" and in books on trees, orchids, natural history and birds. His interest then extended to economic products; and the *Journal* of the Hong Kong Fisheries Research Station, a book on food fishes, and another on vegetable cultivation, were the practical outcome. The problem of nutrition appealed to him, and he was fortunate in being seconded to Dr. B. S. Platt's nutrition survey unit in Nyasaland for six months in 1939. On his return to Hong Kong his services were lent to the Government, first in connexion with fire-wood supplies; later, as scientific adviser to the Food Controller, he helped in the establishment of a siege reserve for 1,800,000 people. Following forty-three months internment by the Japanese, when he had practical experience of poverty and malnutrition, he was entrusted with the task of re-organizing the fishing industry and organizing vegetable production on a large scale in Hong Kong. (Hong Kong now sells wholesale 30,000 tons of fish and more than 40,000 tons of locally produced vegetables annually.) As secretary for development he was responsible for the creation of a Department of Agriculture and for the administration of departments of gardens, forestry and of the fish and vegetable marketing organizations. Since 1948 he has been secretary for Colonial agricultural research at the Colonial Office—an appointment which has enabled him to visit most of the Colonies of the British Empire.

Instruments and Accessories for Use with Radioactive Isotopes

The second edition has been published of "Instruments and Accessories for Radio-Isotope Applications", a useful brochure for the potential users of radioactive isotopes, edited by Dr. Denis Taylor and A. G. Peacock (pp. 20. London: Scientific Instrument Manufacturers' Research Association, 1952; free). Without detailed knowledge, the selection of suitable electronic equipment may be very difficult, and the details given of the various detector elements and associated equipment used for radioactive assay and radiation monitoring, together with the names and addresses of manufacturers, will therefore be of considerable assistance. The brochure is divided into sections, dealing with assay instruments, including Geiger, proportional, and scintillation counters, and ionization chambers; monitoring instruments; geological survey prospecting equipment; special instruments, including material-thicknesses gauges, pulse-amplitude analysers, D.C. amplifiers and oscilloscopes; and accessory equipment, covering isotope containers and handling equipment, laboratory