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The Listener: Twenty-fifth Anniversary

LAST week *The Listener* celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of its first publication, on January 16, 1929, with a party at the Dorchester Hotel, London, attended by many prominent figures in the broadcasting and literary worlds and some scientists. It was a timely celebration, coming soon after Sir Edward Appleton's mild castigation of the British Association for its neglect of the manner in which it presents its communications to the world at large. Sir Edward went so far as to suggest that they "addressed themselves seriously to the question of what is called in both the B.B.C., and the theatre, production". *The Listener* is the embodiment of produced talk. In British periodical literature it is unique in that it is "the spoken word" made visible and permanent. Enshrined in its pages are a quarter of a century of examples of an art-form largely created by the B.B.C.—the broadcast talk—and, as Sir Edward has pointed out, what has appeared in *The Listener* over the years has been produced. This unique journal may therefore be looked at for reasons other than the pleasure it may give or the information its reprinted talks may convey. That scientists have much to say and cannot say it may be an out-moded half-truth, but the great contrast between Sir Edward's own success as a broadcaster and the failure of some other scientists who have attempted to describe recent developments on the radio shows that there is much in what he says.

For those venturing into this field we might paraphrase some comments by Sir Harold Nicolson, who writes in the twenty-fifth birthday number of *The Listener*: "Write your broadcast scripts in a style different from that in which you write a talk or article. Allow repetition, interrupted phrases, or colloquial terms; avoid too close a sequence of argument, long words, with cadences that, although pleasant when half heard in reading, are irritating when wholly heard through the spoken voice. Do not write broadcast scripts carelessly or indolently; write them in a different sort of style". To our contemporary and its editor we offer our congratulations for having attained so much during the past quarter of a century.

Paul Ehrlich Institute, Frankfurt am Main

DURING March 14–16 the hundredth anniversary of the birthday of Paul Ehrlich, the 'father of chemotherapy', and of Emil von Behring will be celebrated in a commemoration ceremony to be held in Frankfurt am Main under the auspices of the Paul Ehrlich Institute and the Universities of Marburg and of Frankfurt. During the celebrations the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize, which is awarded by the Institute for notable achievements in the field of science to which Ehrlich made prominent contributions, will be presented to Prof. E. B. Chain, who will deliver a lecture on "The Development of Antibiotic Chemotherapy". Prof. Chain, who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1945 (jointly with Sir Alexander Fleming and Sir Howard Florey) for his work on penicillin, was formerly University demonstrator in chemical pathology in the University of Oxford before his appointment to his present post as scientific director of the International Research Centre for Chemical Microbiology, Rome.

Geological Society: Awards for 1954

THE Council of the Geological Society has made the following awards for 1954: *Wollaston Medal*, to Prof. L. J. Wills for his notable researches on the Pleistocene history of the Midlands and eastern Wales and his stimulating work on the palaeogeography of Britain. *Murchison Medal*, to Dr. K. A. Davies for his contributions to the geology of East Africa, particularly on the older sedimentary rocks and erosion surfaces, and on the volcanic and sedimentary rocks of Mount Elgon. *Lyell Medal*, to Dr. J. B. Simpson for his outstanding contributions on the geology of Ayrshire and the Western Highlands, on the economic deposits of Scotland, and for his work on Tertiary pollen. *Prestwich Medal*, to Prof. F. W. Shotton for his contributions to stratigraphy and particularly to knowledge of the Pleistocene geology of the Midlands. *Wollaston Fund*, to Dr. Vernon Wilson in recognition of his contributions to knowledge of the Jurassic rocks of Yorkshire and on the Midland Ironstone Field. *Murchison Fund*, to Dr. Nancy Kirk for her researches on the succession and structures within the "Brecon Anticlinal". A moiety of the *Lyell Fund* jointly to Dr. J. Sutton and Dr. J. Watson for their researches on the rocks of the Scottish Highlands; another moiety of the *Lyell Fund* to Dr. M. K. Wells for his petrological work in Ardnamurchan, West Africa and elsewhere, and for his contributions to the teaching of petrology.

Overseas Fellowships and Bursaries for British Scientists

THE first appointments to United States (F.O.A.) Research Fellowships have been made by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, on the nomination of the Royal Society, as follows: Dr. G. N. Lance, of Dorking, employed by Hawker Aircraft, Ltd., to work on problems in unsteady supersonic aerodynamics at the University of California under Prof. John Miles; Mr. S. H. Parker, of University College, Leicester, to carry out research in physical-organic chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology under Prof. Gardner Swain. The fellowships were instituted in 1953 (see *Nature*, September 26, p. 569) with funds provided by the United States Government, through its Foreign Operations Administration. They are intended to enable a number of outstanding young scientists from Europe to work in the United States for up to two years in order to study and gain experience in American research institutions. Funds will be available for the scheme until 1955; applications from British scientists should be sent to the Assistant Secretary, Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1, preferably as soon as possible, though the latest dates are March 31 and August 31 according to the proposed period of study.

A scheme for bursaries for research in Commonwealth countries was initiated last year by the Royal Society and the Nuffield Foundation (see *Nature*, August 1, p. 185). The object of the scheme is to provide facilities for increasing the efficiency of scientists of proved ability by enabling them to pursue research, learn techniques or follow other forms of study where either or both the physical and personal environment overseas in a Commonwealth country is peculiarly favourable. The main differences from the ordinary research fellowship are not merely duration of tenure but also of emphasis, as the bursaries will aim not so much at obtaining the