

approach through the various special sciences to the philosophy of science". It is hoped to arrange meetings in the various university centres in the north of England, and discussion and research will be encouraged. At the inaugural meeting Prof. L. Rosenfeld, professor of theoretical physics, University of Manchester, will deliver a lecture on "Rationalism in Antiquity". Further information can be obtained from Dr. W. Mays, Department of Philosophy, University, Manchester 13.

#### Physical Society's Annual Exhibition

THE thirty-eighth annual exhibition of scientific instruments and apparatus arranged by the Physical Society will be held during April 8-13 in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, Imperial Institute Road, London, S.W.7. The exhibition, which will be slightly smaller than those of previous years, will be wholly located in the Physics and Chemistry Departments of the College, and this should be of great convenience to visitors. As in previous years, a comprehensive handbook giving details of the exhibits will be available at the exhibition, and copies can be obtained on application to the Secretary-Editor of the Society (price 6s., or 7s. 3d. by post). Arrangements for issuing tickets for the exhibition have been greatly simplified, and applications for tickets should be made to the Secretary-Editor, Physical Society, 1, Lowther Gardens, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7, from whom further details can be obtained.

#### Defects in Crystalline Solids: Conference in Bristol

THE H. H. Wills Physical Laboratory of the University of Bristol, in co-operation with the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics (in particular, its Commission for the Physics of the Solid State) and with the Institute of Physics, is organizing a conference on "Defects in Crystalline Solids", to be held in Bristol during July 13-17, 1954, immediately after the General Assembly of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics. Though other topics will not necessarily be excluded, particular attention will be paid at the conference to defects such as dissolved atoms, vacancies and *F*-centres, to microwave resonance methods of investigating their properties, and to the way in which they react with dislocations. Thus, dislocations will be discussed in their chemical aspects, as influencing diffusion and precipitation in the solid state, rather than in relation to plastic flow. The conference is open to anyone interested in this field. Accommodation is available in a student hall of residence. Further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, H. H. Wills Physical Laboratory, Royal Fort, Bristol 8, or from the Secretary, Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1. Those wishing to attend the conference should apply to the former, marking the envelope "1954 Conference".

Complementary to the Bristol conference, the Department of Metallurgy of the University of Birmingham is organizing a conference on "Mechanical Effects of Dislocations in Crystals", to be held in Birmingham during July 19-20. Although other topics will not be excluded, it is expected that discussion will be centred on effects due to moving dislocations in both metals and non-metals. Particular attention will be given to the nucleation and dynamics of slip in metals. The conference is open to all those interested in this field, subject to limitation of seating accommodation. Further particulars

can be obtained from the Secretary, 1954 Conference, Metallurgy Department, University, Edgbaston, Birmingham 15.

#### An Electric Soldering Iron

A SMALL electric soldering iron weighing 2½ oz. and 8½ in. in length has been produced by Kenroy, Ltd. (152 and 297 Upper Street, London, N.1). Designed for mains voltage, it has a consumption of 40 W. and its bit, which is 3/16 in. in diameter, obviously makes it useful for light electrical work, etc., in the laboratory. A small asbestos pad that is clipped on makes it possible to lay down the iron directly on a surface without burning it. The aluminized finish is elegant when new, but soon scratches. The price of the iron is 19s. 6d. with replacements costs of 6s. 6d. and 2s. for a new heating element and bit, respectively.

#### Announcements

PROF. H. C. LONGUET-HIGGINS, professor of theoretical physics, King's College, University of London (see *Nature*, 169, 735; 1952), has been elected to the John Humphrey Plummer chair of theoretical chemistry in the University of Cambridge. The date of his taking up the appointment is not yet decided. His predecessor in the chair was Sir John Lennard-Jones, now principal of the University College of North Staffordshire.

DR. WILDER PENFIELD, professor of neurology and neuro-surgery in McGill University and director of the Montreal Neurological Institute, has been elected a member of the Athenæum under the provisions of Rule II of the Club, which empowers the annual election of a certain number of persons of distinguished eminence in science, literature or the arts or for their public services.

PROF. MAXIMILIAN PFLÜCKE, chief editor of the *Chemisches Zentralblatt*, celebrates this month his fortieth anniversary on the editorial staff. The occasion also marks the beginning of the 125th year of the journal's existence.

A SYMPOSIUM on molecular structure and spectroscopy on the lines of those of previous years will be held in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Ohio State University, during June 14-18. The interpretation of molecular spectroscopic data as well as methods for obtaining such data will be discussed, and, in addition, there will be sessions devoted to aspects of spectroscopy which are of current interest. Further information can be obtained from Prof. H. H. Nielsen, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio.

THE Institution of Mining and Metallurgy is offering a limited number of travelling fellowships to members of the teaching staff of universities and approved schools of mines and metallurgy in the United Kingdom, to enable them to visit important mining and metallurgical centres and research establishments during the long vacation this year. Applicants should be thirty years of age or over, and should be engaged in the teaching of mining engineering, extraction metallurgy or economic geology. Both the tenure and value of the awards will be variable, the maxima being three months and £500, respectively. Application forms (to be returned not later than March 1) and further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, Salisbury House, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C.2.