

John Innes Horticultural Institution with Dr. C. D. Darlington. He also spent one year in the California Institute of Technology, as Rockefeller Fellow, under Prof. T. H. Morgan. Before the Second World War he was closely associated with Prof. H. J. Muller in an investigation of the cytological effects of ionizing radiations on normal and malignant cells, and was later engaged in research on the effects of mustard gas, lewisite and similar substances for the Committee on Chemical Warfare. Dr. Koller was appointed to the Royal Cancer Hospital in 1944, and to the Chester Beatty Research Institute in 1946, where he has carried out a special investigation of the chromosomal and other abnormalities induced by chemical and physical carcinogens. He is the author of numerous papers in the scientific literature, including a specially notable series on the genetical and mechanical properties of the sex chromosomes in a variety of animal species.

George Newport, F.R.S. (1803–54)

GEORGE NEWPORT, who died a century ago on April 7, 1854, is an impressive example of a man who raised himself from a humble origin to scientific eminence and who, despite his lack of early training, made a number of original and enduring contributions to natural history. Born on July 4, 1803, at Canterbury, the son of a wheelwright, he was from early boyhood fond of reading and drawing and was an ardent collector of insects. Deciding on a medical career, he entered the University of London (University College) in 1832, and three years later became a member of the College of Surgeons. He took up surgical practice in London, but was far too interested in microscopical studies to earn his living. Fortunately he had many influential friends, and in 1847 Sir James Clarke secured for him a pension from the Civil List of £100 a year. A patient, accurate observer and a facile dissector, Newport published several important papers (*Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc.*), and his communication in 1851 entitled "On the Impregnation of the Ovum in the Amphibia", in which he demonstrated that impregnation by spermatozoa is the result of penetration and not of mere contact, won him one of the Royal Society's Royal Medals. Many honours came his way in his short life: he was elected an honorary member of the College of Physicians in 1843, a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1846, and a Fellow of the Linnæan Society in the following year, and served as president of the Entomological Society during 1844–45. He died at the early age of fifty-one of a "fever of a typhoid character".

The Scottish Economic Society

THE Scottish Economic Society is the new name of the Scottish Society of Economists, which was founded in Edinburgh in 1897, and was for a long time associated with the name of Prof. Shield Nicholson, its first president. Its revised constitution, with its new name, was ratified at a meeting held in the University of Edinburgh on March 16. The Society's chief aims are to advance the study of economic and social problems on the widest basis, in accordance with the Scottish tradition of political economy inspired by Adam Smith, and to encourage the discussion of Scottish economic and social problems. In furtherance of these aims, it published on March 16 the first issue of its new journal, the *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, to appear three times a year. Some part of each issue will be devoted

to Scottish affairs, either in articles, or in editorial notes, statistical notes on recent social and economic trends, or reviews or review-articles dealing with recent books or official papers relative to Scotland. But there is no intention to limit the contents of the *Journal* either to Scottish contributors or to Scottish problems. The subject-matter of political economy will be interpreted widely, in the tradition of Adam Smith, and articles on economic theory, economic history, sociology, demography and administration, as well as economic theory, will be considered. It is designed to appeal to a wide audience—not exclusively one of professional economists, but including, for example, historians, business men, bankers, accountants, actuaries, Civil servants, trade unionists, and all serious students of Scottish affairs. Members of the Scottish Economic Society, whose annual subscription is one guinea, will receive the *Journal* without additional charge.

The first president of the new Society is Lord Bilsland, banker and industrialist, and chairman of the Scottish Council (Development and Industry). The vice-presidents are Sir Alexander Gray and Dr. M. T. Rankin, who was a senior office-bearer of the old Society. The editor of the *Journal* is Prof. A. K. Cairncross, of the chair of applied economics in the University of Glasgow, who is assisted by an editorial board consisting of the professors of political economy in the four Scottish Universities and the secretary of the Society, Mr. T. A. F. Noble, lecturer in political economy, King's College, University of Aberdeen. The other members of Council are widely representative of business, banking and professional interests in each University region of Scotland. The treasurer of the Society, to whom applications for membership should be sent, is Mr. David Flint, of Mann, Judd, Gordon and Co., 142 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, C.2.

Imperial College of Science and Technology, London: Report for the Year 1952–53

THE Government announced, on January 29, 1953, that it intends to provide for the major expansion of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and commenting on this the governing body of the College, in its forty-sixth annual report for the year ended July 31, 1953 (pp. 55; 1953), points out that two aspects have to be considered: first, to decide what is academically most desirable; and secondly, to devise an architectural plan designed to provide the necessary academic facilities, largely by building on land at present used by other institutions for other purposes, without the knowledge when the land will be available to the College builders. The governing body emphasizes its satisfaction at the Government's decision, and in the meantime records the building of a further extension to the Department of Metallurgy, improvements to the John Farmer (botany) building for the Department of Plant Physiology, and the purchase of a further 93 acres of land for the Field Station at Silwood Park, Sunninghill, and of the vacant site at 184 Queen's Gate, London, S.W.7. In view of the success of the lunch-time functions organized to encourage general studies in the College, the experiment is being continued for a further year, as is the joint experiment with the London School of Economics in arranging joint postgraduate studies in technology, economics and administration. Of the 1,653 full-time students (only 47 women), 114 came from foreign countries, 198 from Commonwealth countries outside the