

Institute (see *Nature*, 173, 119; 1954) is now occupied, and thus once more, after an interval of fourteen years, the whole work of the Department of Chemistry is housed in a single building, which—with a floor space of about 170,000 sq. ft.—is probably the largest chemistry building in Britain; including staff and students, the total population of the Department is well over a thousand.

#### University of Leeds

THE following gifts have recently been received by the University of Leeds: a grant not exceeding £10,000 from the Wellcome Trust to the Department of Pharmacology for the reconstruction and re-equipping of laboratories; £20,000 from Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., to the Department of Textile Industries towards the cost of equipping the new man-made fibres building.

Dr. H. E. Nursten has been appointed a lecturer in the Department of Leather Industries of the University.

#### Christmas Lectures for Young Persons

A NUMBER of organizations are holding lectures for young persons during the Christmas school holidays. Among them, the Royal Institution's "course of six lectures adapted to a juvenile auditory" is perhaps the most famous, certainly the most long-standing, and this year the one hundred and twenty-fifth such course will be by Sir Frank Whittle on "The Story of Petroleum"—its uses; geology; exploration, production and transportation; engines and their fuel; refining; and the gas turbine. The lectures will be given at 3 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays during December 28–January 8 at the Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, London, W.1, the fee being, juveniles (10–17 years) £1, adults (non-members) £2. For the first time the Plastics Institute is holding this year a Christmas lecture for young persons, which will be given at 2.30 p.m. on December 30 in the auditorium of the Wellcome Research Institution, 183–193 Euston Road, London, N.W.1, by Dr. J. C. Swallow, chairman of the Plastics Division, Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., whose talk, on "The Wonder of Plastics", will be illustrated by a film and supported by practical demonstrations; applications for tickets should be made to the Secretary to the Council, Plastics Institute, Adam Street, London, W.C.2. A Christmas lecture, for persons between twelve and eighteen years old, which the Manchester Federation of Scientific Societies organizes will be given this year by Dr. H. A. Thomas, of Courtaulds, Ltd., his subject being "How Science helps to clothe us"; the lecture will be given in the Chemistry Lecture Theatre of the University of Manchester at 3 p.m. on January 5 and will be repeated the next day. Applications for tickets should be made through one of the Federation's participating societies.

#### Announcements

WE regret to announce the death of Prof. E. Fermi, For.Mem.R.S., of the Institute for Nuclear Studies, University of Chicago, on November 28, aged fifty-three.

THE title of emeritus professor in The Queen's University of Belfast has been conferred on Prof. James Small, professor of botany during 1920–54, and on Prof. J. K. Charlesworth, professor of geology during 1921–54.

THE title of professor of biochemistry in the University of London has been conferred on Dr. Henry Mellwain in respect of the post held by him at the Institute of Psychiatry. The title of reader in physiology in the University of London has been conferred on Dr. M. Grace Eggleton in respect of the post held by her at University College.

PROF. JOHN WALTON, regius professor of botany in the University of Glasgow, has been elected a corresponding member of the Botanical Society of America.

PROF. F. E. KING, Sir Jesse Boot professor of chemistry in the University of Nottingham, has been elected to the board of British Celanese, Ltd. Prof. King will assume a full-time appointment with the company as director in charge of research in September next.

THE new Cavendish professor of experimental physics in the University of Cambridge, Prof. N. F. Mott, has invited Prof. H. Bethe, of Cornell University, to spend the academic year 1955–56 in the Cavendish Laboratory as an adviser on the development of nuclear physics in the Laboratory. Prof. Bethe's acceptance of the invitation should prove exceedingly valuable for the future of nuclear physics at Cambridge, since he is particularly well informed about American developments in this field.

DR. GEORGE PORTER, until recently assistant director of research in the Physical Chemistry Department, University of Cambridge, has joined the British Rayon Research Association as assistant director and is in charge of fundamental research there. Dr. Porter's research work has been concerned with reaction kinetics and, by means of flash photolysis, with the investigation of the very short-lived intermediates which are to a large extent responsible for chemical change. At the Association he will be continuing his recent work on the absorption of light by aromatic molecules and dyestuffs.

THE Massachusetts Institute of Technology is offering a small number of scholarships to university graduates in science, technology and architecture to enable them to work at the Institute during the summer session, June 6–September 24, 1955. Candidates must be British citizens, less than thirty-two years of age, with at least two years experience in postgraduate research, either academic or industrial. Application forms (to be returned by January 3) can be obtained from the Cultural Affairs Officer of the United States Embassy, Room 302, 41 Grosvenor Square, London, W.1.

UNDER the provisions of the Fulbright Programme, travel grants are available to citizens of the United Kingdom and British Colonies to go to the United States for an academic or educational purpose, provided that they have the financial support in dollars for the visit and have been accepted by an American institution of higher learning. The grants cover the cost of direct travel between a candidate's home and America and return, and are available during June 1, 1955–February 1, 1956. Applications must be submitted by March 15, 1955 (for those travelling between June 1 and July 31), or June 1 (for those travelling after August 1). Application forms and further information can be obtained from the United States Educational Commission in the United Kingdom, 55 Upper Brook Street, London, W.1.