

patents and inventions arising out of researches conducted in research institutions financed out of public funds and, where feasible in the public interest, of patented inventions from individuals also. The Corporation has an authorized capital of Rs. 1 crore, and the late Sir Shanti Bhatnagar was an original member of its board of seven directors, of whom S. K. Lalbhai is chairman. Its first annual report (pp. 17; from the Corporation, New Delhi), to which are appended the statement of accounts and the objects of the Corporation as set forth in the articles of association, covers the period ended March 31, 1955, a period in which 177 inventions from twenty-four institutions and eight private individuals were reported for development. Trials have been arranged of a process for the manufacture of paper from wattle-wood, and negotiations were in progress for trials of processes for the manufacture of newsprint and cheap printing-paper from bamboo and for the de-ionization of cane-sugar; licences have also been negotiated for ten other processes. Processes for the manufacture of writing and printing paper from bagasse, for the recovery of nickel and fat from spent hydrogenation catalyst of vanaspati (vegetable oil) factories and for myrobalan extract in the myrobing of East Indian tannage of skins and kips have been made available to industry without any conditions regarding payment of royalties, and 62 processes are under critical examination. Normally the Corporation proposes to take 30 per cent of the gross earnings from premiums and royalties and pay 70 per cent to the research institutions.

Technical Education in Britain

IN reply to questions in the House of Commons on March 20, the Secretary of State for Scotland said that in central institutions in Scotland there are about five hundred full-time and a thousand part-time teachers of technical subjects, of whom some three hundred full-time and twenty part-time teachers are doing work of approximately university level; and in other institutions of further education there are 650 full-time and 5,100 part-time teachers of technical subjects. Education authority projects in preparation include local technical colleges at Aberdeen, Dundee, Kilmarnock, Clydebank, Inverness, Motherwell and Bathgate, and three at Edinburgh; a schedule of accommodation has been approved for local technical colleges at Ayr and Falkirk, and projects which have been started include a local technical college at Paisley, Lauder Technical College, Dunfermline, Stow College of Printing, Glasgow, and Lees Castle College, Ross and Cromarty. Projects at central technical institutions expected to start in the next two years include internal adaptations and new premises for the School of Navigation at the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, and extensions to Paisley Technical College, to the Pharmacy Department of Heriot-Watt College, Edinburgh, and to Robert Gordon's Technical College, Aberdeen.

Society for Analytical Chemistry

THE eighty-second annual general meeting of the Society for Analytical Chemistry was held in London on February 29, when the financial statement and the report of the Council for the past year were submitted and approved. The membership of the Society was reported as 1,842, an increase of 43 since last year. During the year the Society organized six ordinary meetings in London (three of which were organized by the Society's subject groups), and

the first joint meeting with the Association of Public Analysts was held in Cardiff; in addition, the Society's Sections and Groups held thirty-seven meetings. A special meeting was held in London on November 29, when Prof. J. Heyrovský, an honorary member of the Society, gave a lecture entitled "The Development of Polarographic Analysis". The following officers and members of Council were elected for the forthcoming year: *President*, K. A. Williams; *Past Presidents serving on the Council*, Lewis Eynon, D. W. Kent-Jones, J. R. Nicholls and George Taylor; *Vice-Presidents*, D. C. Garratt, J. Haslam and H. M. N. H. Irving; *Honorary Treasurer*, J. H. Hamence; *Honorary Secretary*, N. L. Allport; *Honorary Assistant Secretary*, R. E. Stuckey; *Other Members of Council*, S. G. Burgess, R. C. Chirnside, C. H. R. Gentry, W. C. Johnson, D. D. Moir, T. McLachlan, R. F. Milton, Miss Mamie Olliver, F. C. J. Poulton, S. A. Price, A. A. Smales and A. F. Williams; *Ex-officio Members*, J. R. Walmsley (chairman, North of England Section), F. J. Elliott (chairman, Scottish Section), P. J. C. Haywood (chairman, Western Section), J. R. Leech (chairman, Midlands Section), G. F. Hodsman (chairman, Microchemistry Group), J. E. Page (chairman, Physical Methods Group) and K. L. Smith (chairman, Biological Methods Group).

The Relation of Pure to Applied Research in Agriculture

THE annual general meeting on February 29 of the Society for Analytical Chemistry was followed by the Bernard Dyer Memorial Lecture, which this year was given by Sir William Slater, secretary of the Agricultural Research Council, his subject being entitled "The Evolution of Agricultural Research". Sir William stressed that agriculture is an industry and that consequently a worker in agricultural research has to combine the qualifications of a scientist with an understanding of farmers and their problems. The growth of research institutes in which pure investigations are possible as well as the development of practical applications, and the academic prestige attached to pure research, have led to a growing tendency for universities to encourage graduates to look to pure rather than to applied research for a career. Since the Second World War the difficulty of recruiting workers to applied research has been augmented by the increasing complexity and cost of the apparatus required for such research. In agriculture there is also the problem of providing facilities for work on farm animals. Nevertheless, pure research has brought about great changes in agricultural practice, and Sir William cited the example of the modern use of hormone weedkillers. New techniques such as the use of radioactive tracers offer possibilities for taking the work further. Sir William pointed out that it is necessary to have an intermediary who can explain to the farmer what the pure research worker has discovered in the laboratory and help in the application of the knowledge on the farm, and for this the National Agricultural Advisory Service has its specialist advisory officers, who work together with the district and county officers. But such men are all too few, and there is a need for a body of similar workers based on the research institutes. Looking into the future, Sir William sees two groups working together in the agricultural research institutes: one going ever deeper into specialized investigations in the laboratory, and the other devoting itself to the immediate solution of the