

arrays which is in the vanguard of thought on this subject.

Otto Böhm was a liberally educated man, versed in the German poets and philosophers, and as ready to talk on the more obscure works of Thomas Mann as he was to exercise his specialized science. Courteous and gentle by nature, and warm in friendship, he would make real personal sacrifices to help any colleague in adversity. As a great teacher, he had an uncanny power for presenting difficult ideas in original and simple ways. It was a pleasure to watch him surrounded by four or five bright young scientists

expounding some new idea, and to see him change his approach, or modify his argument, until he was quite sure all had understood. His face would then light up and the years seemed to fall away from him. Those enriched by these experiences, and all who sought him throughout the years, will feel the impact of Hilaire Belloc's lovely lines:

"He does not die that can bequeath
Some influence to the land he knows"—

for Otto Böhm loved England, and has bequeathed his influence abundantly. J. CRONEY

NEWS and VIEWS

Extraction Metallurgy at the Imperial College : Prof. F. D. Richardson

THE establishment of a second chair of metallurgy in the University of London emphasizes the growing, if tardy, recognition of the importance of this subject, and it is fitting that a chair of extraction metallurgy should be located in the Royal School of Mines, where this branch of the subject has always received considerable attention. Dr. F. D. Richardson, who has been appointed to this chair, graduated in chemistry at University College, London, in 1933. After completing his postgraduate studies for the Ph.D. degree, he spent two years at the University of Princeton as a Commonwealth Fund fellow. At the outbreak of war in 1939, he was commissioned in the R.N.V.R. and his work on star shells during this period of service won for him an award from the Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors. Dr. Richardson's special interest in metallurgy commenced in 1946 when he was appointed superintendent chemist to the British Iron and Steel Research Association. During the next four years, while building up the Chemistry Department of that Association, he carried out theoretical and experimental investigations into the applications of thermodynamics to iron and steel making, work that has greatly increased our understanding of silicate melts and of the objects of slag control. As the result of these studies, the Sir George Beilby Memorial Award was conferred upon him in 1956, in recognition of his work on the thermodynamic properties of high-temperature systems, with special reference to iron smelting and steelmaking.

On the establishment, through a generous grant from the Nuffield Foundation, of a Nuffield Research Fellowship in extraction metallurgy at the Royal School of Mines, Dr. Richardson was appointed as the first Nuffield Research fellow in 1950. In that capacity, and with valuable additional support from the metallurgical industry, he has been enabled to form the Nuffield Research Group which is engaged in the extension of thermodynamic studies into the field of non-ferrous pyrometallurgy. Now that Dr. Richardson has been appointed to this new chair, it is to be expected that the investigations under his direction will be extended into the hydrometallurgical field that is of such growing importance. The eventual expansion of the metallurgy department, under the expansion scheme at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, should enable the Royal School of Mines to increase the supply of extraction metallurgists familiar with the modern trends in

their profession and so enhance its reputation as the premier school in this branch of study.

International Geophysical Year : Awards of the Polar Medal

THE following have been awarded the Polar Medal for good services as members of the advance party of the Royal Society Antarctic Expedition for the International Geophysical Year: *Clasp to the Polar Medal*, Surgeon Lieut.-Comdr. D. G. Dagliesh, R.N. (Sidecup), leader and medical officer; K. E. C. Powell (West Ewell), senior diesel mechanic; *Polar Medal*, A. R. F. Dagliesh (Sidecup), general duties; Dr. S. Evans (Stockport), scientist; Sgt. C. F. Le Feuvre, Royal Corps of Signals (Titton, Staffs), wireless operator; D. W. S. Limbert (Finchley), meteorologist; Lieut. G. R. Lush, R.N. (Cosham, Portsmouth), general mechanical engineer; D. R. O. Prior (Norwood), carpenter; J. E. Raymond (West Norwood), senior carpenter; Major G. E. Watson, R.E.M.E. (Bromley, Kent), chief scientist.

The party were south of latitude 60° S. from about December 28, 1955, to February 1, 1957. The efforts of the expedition resulted in a notable acquisition of new knowledge of the meteorological conditions in that region, and, among other subjects, of the aurora australis and the habits of the Emperor Penguin.

University of Reading

Two publications, recently issued, show some aspects of the way the University of Reading is likely to develop. The first describes activities in the Museum of Rural Life during 1956 (Pp. 16. Reading: The University, 1957. 1s.) and contains details, not only of the exhibits, but also of three interesting exhibitions which were arranged at the Museum during the year. One of these was concerned with gardening in the eighteenth century, another with Welsh woodware and textiles, and the last with specialized forms of netting, lining and trapping used on the River Severn. The second publication (*A History of Whiteknights*. By Dr. Ernest Smith. Pp. iii+32 (4 plates). Reading: The University, 1957. 5s. 6d.) is a fine historical account of the origins and development of Whiteknights Park until its purchase by the University in 1947. With increasing pressure on land in this small island, this imaginative act may well lead to the University of Reading becoming one of the foremost residential universities in Great Britain. Both publications have been designed and produced with exquisite care and taste.