

sity of Birmingham with a John Watt Memorial Scholarship in 1942. He graduated with first-class honours in chemistry in 1944, and two years later obtained his Ph.D. In 1947 he went to the University Chemical Laboratory, Cambridge, becoming eventually assistant director of research in organic and inorganic chemistry. He qualified for the degree of D.Sc. (Birmingham) in 1955. Dr. Haszeldine was awarded the Meldola Medal by the Royal Institute of Chemistry in 1953. He is the author or joint author of a very large number of papers arising out of his research work and is joint author with Dr. A. G. Sharpe of "Fluorine and its Compounds" (1951). Outside the laboratory, he has interested himself in the applications of chemistry in industry and has invented several industrial processes.

Copper Pass Awards in Metallurgy

THE adjudicating committee for the Copper Pass awards, representing the Councils of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy and of the Institute of Metals, has made the following awards in respect of papers published in the *Transactions of the Institute of Mining and Metallurgy* and the *Journal of the Institute of Metals* for the year 1956: £120 to Dr. J. M. Fletcher, Dr. D. F. C. Morris and Mr. A. G. Wain for a paper on "Outline of a Solvent Extraction Process for the Purification of Niobium from Ores or from Ferro-Niobium"; fifty guineas to Mr. J. A. Grainger for a paper on "The Deep Drawing and Spinning of Sheet Metal, with Particular Reference to Non-Ferrous Materials"; fifty guineas to Mr. J. Fielding for a paper on "Rubber Pressing". These awards are made from a fund placed at the disposal of the Councils of the two Societies by the Directors of Copper Pass and Son, Ltd., for the encouragement of the publication of scientific and technical papers dealing with processes and plant used in extraction metallurgy and on the subject of assaying and of papers and processes used in all branches of the non-ferrous metal industry.

Collaboration between Britain and Norway in Atomic Energy Developments

THE United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority and the Norwegian Institute for Atomic Energy have recently signed an agreement for co-operation in connexion with the Norwegian Halden Reactor Project. This project is concerned with an experimental reactor, scheduled to start operation early in 1958, which is designed to produce process steam suitable for wood-pulp mills and other industrial uses. The United Kingdom Authority has undertaken to supply the initial charge of uranium fuel elements for the reactor. The Norwegian Institute and the Authority will also co-operate in a research programme with the view of developing suitable fuel elements for later charges for the reactor. The agreement provides for the Authority to have access to the reactor design and to the operating experience obtained from this important experiment.

The Meteorological Committee

THE Secretary of State for Air, Mr. George Ward, M.P., announced in the House of Commons on June 28 last that he had accepted a recommendation of the Brabazon Committee that the Meteorological Committee, which was formed in 1919 and included representatives of various departments with a user

interest in meteorology, should be replaced by an advisory committee all members of which should be outside the Government Service. The new Committee will keep under review the progress and efficiency of the Meteorological Office and the broad lines of its current and future policy. It is constituted as follows: Lord Hurcomb (*chairman*); Sir Austin Anderson; Sir David Brunt; Sir Charles Normand; Colonel N. V. Stopford Sackville.

Element 102

ELEMENT No. 102, for which the name 'nobellium' has been proposed, was recently synthesized by a joint Swedish, American and British team at the Nobel Institute for Physics in Stockholm (see *Nature*, July 20, p. 120). It has been announced that there will be a special meeting of Section B (Chemistry) of the British Association, on September 9 at 2.30 p.m., when Mr. H. A. C. McKay and Dr. J. Milsted, of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, the latter of whom was a member of the Swedish-American-British team of discoverers of the new element, will describe this work.

Oil Consumption in the United Kingdom

FIGURES recently published by the Petroleum Information Bureau (U.K. Petroleum Industry Statistics relating to Consumption and Refinery Production, 1955 and 1956. Pp. 10. London: Petroleum Information Bureau, 1957) show that, despite petrol rationing and restrictions during the October-December quarter due to the Suez crisis, the oil consumption in Britain for 1956 rose considerably to a total of 25,233,049 tons, representing an increase of 8.5 per cent over the 1955 figure. Fuel oil deliveries, chiefly for central heating and steam raising, showed an increase of nearly 16 per cent compared with the previous year. Gas/diesel oil consumption increased by 10.5 per cent. Motor spirit, at 6,323,654 tons, represents only a 1.3 per cent increase over 1955, and it is interesting to note that in the last quarter restrictions only accounted for a 1.2 per cent fall. The demand for burning oil increased by 20 per cent. All other petroleum products showed increases, with the exception of vaporizing oil which, at 574,175 tons, represented a fall of 16.7 per cent. Motor spirit produced by low-temperature carbonization amounted to 3,633 tons, which is a slight increase over the 1955 figure; motor and aviation spirit produced by hydrogenation, at 84,114 tons, represents a fall by comparison. Refined benzole, at 314,489 tons, is a substantial rise on the 1955 total.

Trade Fairs and Exhibitions

A BROADSHEET on "Trade Fairs and Exhibitions" (No. 411. Pp. 109-140. 3s. 6d. net), issued by Political and Economic Planning, is concerned with British sales and prestige abroad. After considering briefly in succession international exhibitions (especially the forthcoming Brussels Exhibition, April to October 1958, the total cost of which to Britain is expected to be £1-2 million, including up to £400,000 from the Exchequer), trade fairs and international trade fairs, the broadsheet discusses the problem of selling British goods overseas, before considering, finally, what future British policy should be. The great disadvantage of general fairs for highly industrialized countries is that the range of products is now so great that no general fair, however large, can