

material has to be purchased abroad the cost of production will rise accordingly.

This seems a very good opportunity for State assistance, since at present it is to the interest of no individual manufacturer to assist in the development of the new type of ware. It is therefore pleasing to learn that the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has made a substantial grant towards the capital outlay for an experimental factory where the conditions necessary for the successful manufacture of hard porcelain can be studied on a large enough scale to reproduce manufacturing conditions. Once the necessary conditions have been established, the manufacture of hard porcelain will probably interest a great many potters, and this idea has probably led the Pottery Manufacturers' Association to bear a proportionate part of the estimated cost of maintenance. Instead of working slavishly on Continental lines it will probably be far more rational to introduce as few radical changes as possible, so that the supreme skill and traditional experience of our craftsmen may be utilised to its maximum. In this way it is quite likely that a new kind of hard porcelain will be evolved, which will unite the good qualities of the Continental with those of the British porcelain.

B. M.

J. W. M.

THE COMMONWEALTH INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

THE scheme for the establishment of a Commonwealth Institute of Science and Industry, of which we gave an account in our issue of March 9, is described by Prof. Orme Masson in an interesting article in the *Melbourne Argus* of January 22. Prof. Masson points out that, just as Lord Roberts pleaded in vain the military necessities of the nation, so the warnings of men like Sir Henry Roscoe, Sir William Ramsay, and Sir Norman Lockyer, as to the consequences of the neglect of science, were disregarded before the war. After the scheme for the development of scientific and industrial research, under a committee of the Privy Council, had been put forward about a year ago, Mr. Hughes, the Prime Minister of Australia, determined to do as much—and more—for the Commonwealth, with the view of making the country independent of German trade and manufacture when the war is over. Following the example of the British Science Guild ten years ago, he appointed a committee representing State scientific departments, universities, and industrial interests to prepare a scheme; and within a few days the committee had produced the draft already published in our columns.

The proposed Institute is to be governed by three directors, one of whom will be selected for proved ability in business, finance, and organisation; while the two others will be scientific men of similar high standing and reputation. This combination, devoted wholly to the work, should be able efficiently to conduct affairs and opera-

tions having for their object the union of science with industry. The directors are to be assisted by an advisory council composed of nine representatives of primary and secondary industries and of science; and these representatives are to seek information, advice, and assistance from specialists throughout Australia.

The first function of the Institute will be to ascertain what industrial problems are most pressing and most likely to yield to scientific experimental investigation; to seek out the most competent men to whom each such research may be entrusted; and to arrange for their having all necessary appliances and assistance. The Institute is also to build up a bureau of industrial scientific information, which shall be at the service of all concerned in the industries and manufactures of the Commonwealth. Its third main function will be to erect, staff, and control special research laboratories, the first of which will probably be a physical laboratory somewhat on the lines of our National Physical Laboratory.

The scheme cannot be brought into operation until it receives the sanction of the Commonwealth Parliament, after the return of Mr. Hughes from his visit to England. In the meantime, the Federal Government has appointed a temporary advisory council and provided the money necessary to enable it to make a beginning with the organisation of industrial scientific research and the collection and dissemination of scientific information bearing on Australian industries. According to Press reports, Mr. Hughes said, before leaving Australia, that the Government is prepared to spend up to 500,000*l.* upon the establishment of the scheme; and if the matter is taken up in this large-minded spirit the Commonwealth will have made the best possible provision for the industrial and commercial struggle which must come after the declaration of peace.

NOTES.

PROMOTERS of the proposal to put the hands of timepieces forward by an hour during certain months of the year are now advocating the adoption of this principle of "Daylight Saving" by deception on the grounds of national economy in fuel and light. The scheme has been before the public for many years, and has been rejected by Parliament on more than one occasion. It has not received the approval of a single scientific society of any importance, and only one or two scientific men have given it any support. Yet Lord Salvesen made the astounding assertion, in the *Times* of March 31, that the Daylight Saving Bill "is supported by substantially the whole intelligent opinion of the country." He evidently believes that "intelligent opinion" upon time-standards is not to be found in the views of experts, but in the resolutions of town councils, district councils, chambers of commerce, and like bodies, who want to pretend that during a prescribed period every year the hour of seven o'clock is really eight, and so for other hours. It is usually understood that people cannot be made sober by Act of Parliament, yet it is seriously suggested that they should be made to rise earlier by a legalised plan of national deception. We have condemned this ridiculous measure whenever it has been