

logy in Manchester University, and director of the public health laboratories of the university, which occurred on November 13 last, at the age of sixty-six years.

WE learn with regret of the death, which occurred recently, of TADEUSZ GODLEWSKI, professor of physics and formerly rector of the Technical High School, Lemberg (Lwów), Poland.

It is announced that MR. JOHN MACALISTER DODDS, fellow and formerly tutor of Peterhouse, Cambridge, died on November 13 at the age of sixty-three years.

WE regret to announce the death on Sunday, November 13, at the age of eighty-one years, of SIR C. DOUGLAS FOX, past-president of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

### Notes.

H.M. THE KING has approved of the following awards this year by the president and council of the Royal Society: A Royal medal to Sir Frank Dyson, Astronomer Royal, for his researches on the distribution and movement of the stars; and a Royal medal to Dr. F. F. Blackman, for his researches on the gaseous exchange in plants and on the operation of limiting factors. The following awards have also been made by the president and council: The Copley medal to Sir Joseph Larmor, for his researches in mathematical physics; the Davy medal to Prof. Philippe A. Guye, for his researches in physical chemistry; and the Hughes medal to Prof. Niels Bohr, for his researches in theoretical physics.

THE memorial tablet to the late Lord Rayleigh executed by Mr. Derwent Wood, R.A., is now complete, and is being placed in the position selected for it in the north transept of Westminster Abbey, between the memorials to Sir Humphrey Davy and Dr. Thomas Young. The Dean of Westminster has arranged for the unveiling ceremony to be held on Wednesday, November 30, the anniversary day of the Royal Society, at 2 p.m. Sir Joseph Thomson, as chairman of the memorial committee, will represent the University of Cambridge and the Royal Society.

THE Stockholm correspondent of the *Morning Post* announces that the Nobel prize for chemistry for 1920 has been awarded to Prof. Walter Nernst, of Berlin University. The prizes for chemistry and physics for 1921 have been reserved for next year.

IN a discussion in the House of Lords on November 10 the Marquess of Crewe voiced the complaint of teachers and students of science that the Safeguarding of Industries Act and the German Reparation (Recovery) Act had had the effect of hampering research and the teaching of science. The former act imposed high penalties on professors and education authorities generally who were forced to purchase materials abroad—materials which would never be produced in this country; the latter caused considerable delay in getting German books. It was a foolish policy, he urged, to discourage that research upon which the prosperity of the country so largely depended for the sake of the small amount of revenue extracted from underpaid professors and underfed students. Viscount Haldane suggested that a licence should be given by the Research Department or the Board of Education for getting the things required for

research. The excellence of German scientific goods was due to the workman's spirit and tradition, and British research could not wait while British workmen were imbued with these attributes. In reply Viscount Peel stated that the Government were prepared neither to issue licences nor to grant import exemptions to educational institutions. It might be possible, however, to remove from the schedule articles which could not be produced in this country. He undertook to place the whole subject before the Minister of Education. In a leader in the *Times* of November 14 it is pertinently remarked, as evidence of the aloofness of the State from science, that "the interpellations on this scientific question were addressed to the Minister of Transport," who undertook to refer it, not to the Royal Society—"at one time the natural adviser of the Government on scientific matters"—but to the Minister of Education.

THE annual council meeting of the National Union of Scientific Workers was held at the University of London Club on November 12. The retiring president, Prof. L. Bairstow, in his address, referred to the friendships formed with kindred organisations as an indication of the solid progress the union had made in its development as an element in the life of the scientific community. While the union's aims were in part economic with immediate objects, the consideration of effects to be produced by a higher idealism had claimed the greater share of attention. The Royal Commission on Awards to Inventors provided a striking example of the contrast in methods of treatment between the independent worker and the salaried worker. In the statement it presented to the Interdepartmental Committee on Patents the union had suggested that the latter method was the proper basis of treatment for all. The union should now make preparations for the collection of material ready for the next occasion on which revision of the patent law occurs. Prof. Bairstow quoted from the Press reports of the preliminary findings of the "Geddes" Committee on Economy, which indicate that the War Research Departments were threatened by the "axe." This was folly, for the greatest economies depend on research and education. Everything depended on the interpretation of the word "research"; much of the money allocated to research was actually expended on technical development. Most scientific workers regard the war period as a lean time for scientific research while agreeing that it was one of intense application of science. Prof. Bairstow concluded by expressing