he gave in his presidential address to the Institution a masterly summary of telegraphic and telephonic progress, and a list of unsolved problems which proved very useful in directing the ingenuity of inventors along promising lines.

Sir John Gavey served on many international committees, including some of the earliest on radio-communication. He was one of the first to appreciate the importance of Oliver Heaviside's theoretical investigations, and to use Duddell's oscillograph in everyday experimental work. He was very highly esteemed by every one who came in contact with him, and the work he did at the Post Office has proved of the greatest value.

Mr. A. H. Curtis.

By the death of Alfred Harper Curtis on January 10, after a few days' illness, the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau loses a very able and highly-esteemed member of its staff. Mr. Curtis was the second surviving son of the late Alfred Curtis, Town Clerk of Neath, Glamorganshire, and was born on July 12, 1863. Having chosen the profession of engineering, he early gave a practical bent to his studies. As a youth he spent three years with an engineering firm in the Swansea district, and during that time acquired a good knowledge of mining and metallurgical processes. He then proceeded to Owens College, Manchester, where he studied civil engineering and geology, after which he took up the study of mining, mine surveying, and other subjects at the Royal School of Mines, London, and graduated as B.A. at the University of London.

On leaving the Royal School of Mines, Mr. Curtis travelled widely in many parts of the British Dominions and foreign countries, spending long periods in New Zealand and Japan, investigating and developing mineral deposits. His paper on "Gold Quartz Reduction," read at the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1891–1892, gained for him the Telford premium. While in New Zealand, during the period 1896–1902, he was a member of the council and one of the honorary secretaries of the New Zealand Institute of Mining Engineers, to which, in 1898, he contributed a paper on "The Examination and Valuation of Mines."

During the war Mr. Curtis gave much time to the preparation of reports dealing with the mineral resources of the British Empire and foreign countries. In this capacity he worked for a short time at the Imperial Institute, and compiled the publication on "Manganese Ores" issued by the Institute. He later joined the staff of the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau, and took a prominent part in the compilation of the statistical and descriptive reports issued by the Bureau.

Mr. Curtis was an untiring and conscientious worker, and his death leaves a gap that it will be difficult to fill.

Current Topics and Events.

At the meeting of the Chemical Society held on Thursday, January 18, it was announced that the council had nominated Prof. W. P. Wynne to fill the office of president, which will be vacated by Sir James Walker on March 22.

The gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society has been awarded by the council to Prof. A. A. Michelson, for his application of the interferometer to astronomical measurements. It will be presented at the annual general meeting to be held on Friday, February 9.

Prof. R. A. Sampson, Astronomer Royal for Scotland, has been appointed General Secretary of the Royal Society of Edinburgh for the remainder of the current session, in succession to the late Dr. C. G. Knott.

Sir Edward Sharpey Schafer has accepted an invitation to deliver in London next autumn the first Victor Horsley memorial lecture. The lecture, which will be given triennially, is the outcome of the work of a committee formed in 1920 to commemorate the services of Sir Victor Horsley to science and the British Empire. The subscriptions received by the committee amounted to more than 1000*l*.

At the meeting of the Institution of Electrical Engineers to be held on Thursday, February 1, the president will present to Mr. J. W. Meares, late local honorary secretary of the Institution in India, and Electrical Adviser to the Indian Government, a salver and cigarette box subscribed for by his friends in India on the occasion of his retirement from the Indian Government Service, and as a token of his valuable services to the profession in India.

The Air Conference, to be held at the Guild Hall on February 6 and 7, will be opened by the Lord Mayor of London. During the Conference the following papers will be presented and discussed: "The Position of Air Transport To-day," by Maj.-General Sir W. S. Brancker; "A Self-supporting Airship Service," by Commdr. C. D. Burney; "The Progress of Research and Experiment," by Air Vice-Marshal Sir W. G. H. Salmond; "Gliders and their Value to Aeronautical Progress," by Col. A. Ogilvie; "Seaplanes," by Mr. C. R. Fairey.

On Tuesday next, January 30, at 3 o'clock, Mr. R. D. Oldham will begin a course of two lectures at the Royal Institution on the character and cause of earthquakes; and on Thursday, February 1, Prof. I. M. Heilbron will deliver the first of two lectures on the photosynthesis of plant products. The Friday evening discourse on February 2 will be delivered by Mr. C. F. Cross on fact and phantasy in industrial science, and on February 9, by Sir John Russell, on Rothamsted and agricultural science.

The Grocers' Company is offering a scholarship (one of three), of the yearly value of 300*l*., with an allowance for necessary expenses, the object being to encourage original research in sanitary science. The appointment will be for one year, but it may be