

training is best for the scientific worker who wishes to enter industry, were summarized by Dr. Oplin, director of research at Kendall Mills, Boston. His summary has been taken up by Science Service, Washington, D.C., and circulated. His principal conclusions are: "Industries need physicists trained in the fields of optics, magnetism and acoustics", and "too little emphasis is placed on these fields in academic training" as "the best known scientists are working on the problems of cosmic rays, atomic disintegration and transmutation" and "students naturally look up to them for guidance". "Some training in engineering courses is advocated for future industrial physicists. Industry finds it better and easier to use a student trained adequately in physics and have him in the plant attain his additional engineering knowledge than to try to give the engineering student the additional knowledge of physics".

#### R.R.S. *Discovery II* Survey Party

CONSIDERABLE concern was caused by the announcement on January 18 from the commanding officer of the R.R.S. *Discovery II*, that a survey party which had been landed on King George Island, South Shetlands, was missing. Early on the following day, however, the reassuring message was received that the party had been located and had returned to the ship. The Discovery Committee states that the party consisted of: Lieut. R. Walker, R.N.R., chief officer; Dr. J. R. Strong, ship's surgeon; Dr. F. D. Ommanney, scientific officer; Mr. R. G. Gourlay, third engineer; Mr. J. Matheson, boatswain's mate; and Mr. J. Dobson, A.B.

#### Bureau of Human Heredity

ONE activity contemplated in setting up the Bureau for Human Heredity is the organization of information service for research workers in the subject. The value of such a plan has been demonstrated in the information service already established for workers on *Drosophila*, etc. Workers are requested to address to the Bureau a short paragraph describing the work on which they are engaged. These notices will be multiplied and circulated to all those co-operating. In the first instance, this bulletin will be issued every twelve months. Later supplementary bulletins will be issued more frequently. Those using this service are asked to subscribe 5s. Communications should be addressed to the Hon. General Secretary, Bureau of Human Heredity, 115 Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

#### Federal Council on Scientific Management

AN important step forward in the co-ordination of the varied activities of the many societies connected in some way or other with the several phases of scientific management was taken on January 12, when a British Management Council was formed. After the highly successful sixth International Congress for Scientific Management, held in London during July 1935, a committee was set up under the chairmanship of Dr. E. F. Armstrong both to take

all necessary action to ensure the proper representation of Great Britain at the next Congress, to take place in the United States in 1938, and to examine the factors involved in the formation of a national scientific management organization. A scheme of federation has been produced by this committee, and after discussion has met with provisional acceptance from the greater number of the associations concerned, numbering some thirty in all. The objects of the new Federal Council are: "To ascertain and represent both nationally and internationally the views of those bodies concerned in Management in Great Britain, and in particular as its immediate object to enter into relations and to co-operate with similar bodies in other countries, and to act as the representative of its Constituent Members in International Congresses and other activities concerned with Management." Lord Leverhulme has been elected as its first chairman, Dr. E. F. Armstrong as vice-chairman, Mr. G. R. Freeman as treasurer, and Mr. U. Baliol Scott as secretary. The new body is assured of the support and co-operation of the Federation of British Industries. It has an important function to fill and may be expected in time to exert a pronounced influence on the development of the functional management movement in Great Britain.

#### Botanical Society of America

AT its thirty-first annual meeting at Atlantic City, New Jersey on December 20-31, the Botanical Society of America elected the following botanists to be corresponding members: Dr. N. I. Vavilov, director of the State Institute for Experimental Agronomy, Leningrad; Dr. Agnes Arber, sometime fellow of Newnham College, Cambridge; and Dr. Lorenzo R. Parodi, professor of botany in the University of Buenos Aires. The following officers of the Society for 1937 were also elected: *President*, Prof. Edmund W. Sinnott, Barnard College, Columbia University, New York City; *Vice-President*, Prof. Loren C. Petry, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.; *Secretary*, Prof. George S. Avery, jun., Connecticut College, New London, Conn.; *Treasurer*, Dr. F. E. Denny, Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, Yonkers, N.Y. A new Section for Paleobotany was also organized with the following officers: *Chairman*, Prof. A. C. Noé, University of Chicago; *Secretary*, W. C. Darrah, Harvard University.

#### International Congress of Agriculture

THE seventeenth International Congress of Agriculture will be held at The Hague on June 16-23, 1937, under the patronage of the Queen of the Netherlands. The work of the Congress is divided among eight sections. Three are economic in character, and at The Hague will discuss the means which have been taken to deal with the depression in the agriculture of the Netherlands, the organization of the world butter market, the provision of credit to agriculture, the relation between State planning and agricultural co-operation, the effect on agriculture of the development of artificial wools, cottons and other products. Sections dealing with the technical and