its full width. The rebuilding of the north-west corner has allowed of an extension to the main library, in addition to extensions to the rooms on the other floors, and advantage is being taken of this extension to house, at the west end of the main library, the original collection of books, etc., presented by Thomas Telford to the Institution in 1820, which formed the nucleus of the existing library, now containing more than 62,000 volumes.

Television Exhibition

PARTLY with the view of demonstrating that television has now emerged from the experimental stage, partly to illustrate the general principles which underlie the modern technique, and partly to foster the widest possible appreciation of television as a home entertainment, a special exhibition has been organized by the Science Museum, South Kensington, in co-operation with the British Broadcasting Corporation and the leading manufacturers. The exhibition will be opened by Lord Selsdon, chairman of the Television Advisory Committee, on June 10. The exhibition incorporates a historic section dealing briefly with early proposals for television, and a number of exhibits describe the developments of the past ten years. There is a working demonstration of the low-definition television which was broadcast by the Baird process a few years ago, there are demonstrations on modern cathode ray receivers supplied by the various manufacturers, and a demonstration of large-screen television by a mechanical-optical process. In order that these demonstrations can be given when there is no B.B.C. transmission available, a local transmitter has been installed which will provide programmes from cinema films. In connexion with the exhibition a handbook has been compiled by Mr. G. R. M. Garratt, assisted by members of the Exhibition Committee. Copies will be on sale at the Science Museum, or may be obtained from the publishers, H.M. Stationery Office, price 6*d*. (by post 7*d*.).

The Royal Society of Arts

FEW societies have done more to stimulate the arts and industries of the British Empire than the Royal Society of Arts, which during the last few days has had on exhibition, for the benefit of overseas visitors, a series of documents and objects illustrating its achievements since its foundation in 1754. Before the modern practice of holding frequent meetings to hear papers and lectures, the Society instituted awards for improvements in science, art and manufacture; and many of the objects exhibited illustrate the work of some of the Society's medalists. Hanging on one side of the room in which the exhibition was arranged was the first geological map of Great Britain prepared by William Smith. The map was published in 1815, Smith being assisted by a grant of £50. On the other side of the room were a model of Abraham Darly's iron bridge of 1788 (happily still standing); a model of Greathead's lifeboat and Bell's lifeline-throwing mortar for ships, for which medals were awarded. On another stand were samples of coco-nut oil, cinnamon, silk, tea, nutmegs, cloves, mace, wool and indigo from the Colonies, all representing products the cultivation of which has been stimulated by the Society. In addition to these and similar objects, were many books, prints and letters recalling the history of the Society and its never-ceasing activity.

Institute of Physics

THE annual report for the year 1936 of the Institute of Physics presented at the annual general meeting held on May 26 shows that the total membership has continued to increase in a very satisfactory way. The membership at the end of the year was 902. An informal discussion on the training of industrial physicists was held on February 11, 1936, at which appointed representatives of nearly every university and college in Great Britain and Ireland, of firms employing physicists and of research associations and Government establishments were present. As a direct result of this discussion, a scheme was inaugurated whereby registered students of the Institute are enabled to gain first-hand experience of industrial research and development work in physics during their vacations. The report records that in its first year this scheme proved most successful. The fifth conference of Australian physicists and astronomers was convened by the Australian Branch of the Institute and was held in Sydney on May 25–28, 1936. A London and Home Counties Branch of the Institute was founded in November. The general improvement in industry is reflected by the report of a great increase in the activities of the appointments register and panel of consulting physicists maintained by the Institute. The following officers have been elected to take office on October 1: *President*, Mr. C. C. Paterson; *Vice-President*, Prof. W. Makower; *Honorary Treasurer*, Major C. E. S. Phillips; *Honorary Secretary*, Prof. J. A. Crowther; *New Members of the Board*, Prof. J. Chadwick and Mr. D. C. Gall.

Maynard Ganga Ram Prizes

IN 1925, the late Sir Ganga Ram, presented to the Punjab Government a sum of Rs. 25,000 for the endowment of a prize of the value of Rs. 3,000 to be called the Maynard Ganga Ram prize and to be awarded every three years, for a discovery, invention, or a new practical method which will tend to increase agricultural production in the Punjab on a paying basis. The competition is open to all. The first award, due in 1929, was made in 1931 to Dr. C. A. Barber, late Imperial sugar expert, for his fundamental discoveries which resulted in the production of Coimbatore sugar-cane. During the last five years, no further awards have been made owing to lack of suitable entries. The 1932 award has now been made to T. A. Miller Brownlie, lately agricultural engineer to the Government of Punjab, for his invention of a slip strainer suitable for water augmentation supplies derived from bores sunk in open wells. This strainer has the particular merit that it is not affected by alkaline sub-soil water—a defect from which many of the earlier metal strainers