

News and Views

Scientific Associations of the Royal Academy

AMONG the portraits of men of science and others known in scientific circles in this year's Royal Academy Exhibition, that of Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins (196), by Meredith Frampton, a reproduction of which appears on this page, has led to considerable discussion as to extent to which a portrait should

dominate its background. Other portraits to which reference may be made in these columns are: Sir David Milne-Watson, Bt., governor of the Gas Light and Coke Company (166), by Harold Knight; Sir Joseph Barcroft (263), by R. G. Eves; Lord Wakefield (371), by I. M. Cohen; Sir Frederick Moore (600), by Dermot O'Brien; and Havelock Ellis (1094), by Robin Guthrie. There is a sculptured head of Sir Michael Sadler (1571), by Loris Rey; and a head of Kelvin (1564), by Norman Tyrrell. Among the medals are that of the Institute of Metals (1471), by Harold Stabler; and the Hele Shaw Medal of the Institution of

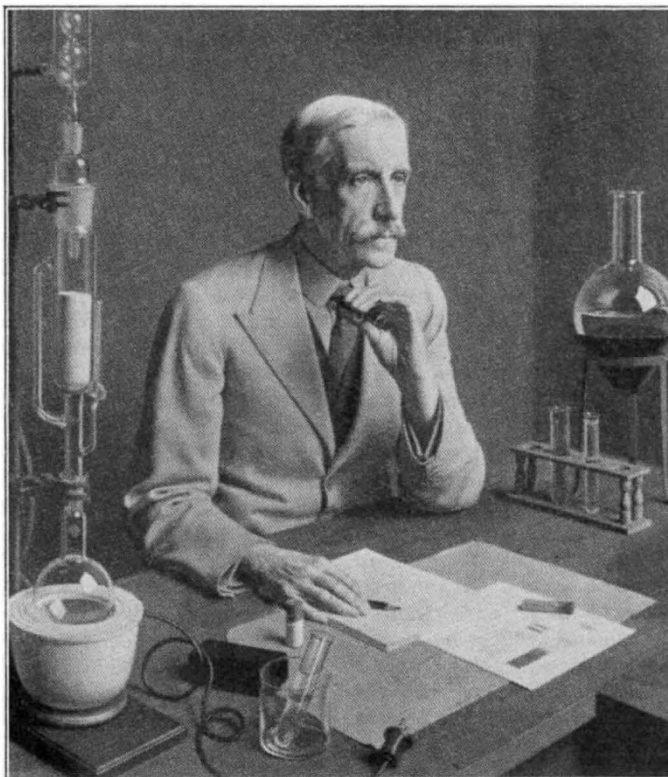
Mechanical Engineers (1485), by H. Paget. The architectural drawings include the National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill (1260), by Maxwell Ayrton; Beaumont Street extension of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford (1277), by Stanley Hall and Easton and Robertson; the completed scheme of the house of the British Medical Association (1317), by Douglas and J. D. Wood; and the Palaces of Engineering (1360) and Industry (1366) of the Empire Exhibition, Scotland, 1938, by Thomas S. Tait.

Dr. W. F. K. Wynne-Jones

DR. W. F. K. WYNNE-JONES, whose election to the chair of chemistry in University College, Dundee, in succession to Prof. A. McKenzie is announced on p. 843, was educated at Monkton Combe School, Bath, whence he proceeded to the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, and to Balliol College,

Oxford. Later, as research assistant to Prof. J. W. McBain at the University of Bristol, he carried out experimental work on the Gibbs adsorption equation. In 1927-28, during the tenure of a Rockefeller fellowship, Dr. Wynne-Jones undertook a research on the problem of acids and bases under the direction of Prof. J. N. Bronsted in the University of Copen-

hagen. In 1933, he was awarded a Leverhulme fellowship which he held at Princeton University; where, in the laboratory of Prof. H. S. Taylor, he worked on the extent of the electrolytic dissociation of heavy water and the comparative rates of ionization of hydrogen and deuterium. In 1935 he published, in collaboration with Prof. H. Eyring, an important paper on the absolute rate of reactions in condensed phases. His recent work has furnished new information on the mechanism of ionic reactions. Since 1928, Dr. Wynne-Jones has held a lectureship in physical chemistry at the University of Reading.



SIR FREDERICK GOWLAND HOPKINS, O.M., F.R.S.
BY MEREDITH FRAMPTON, A.R.A.

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Coal and Smokeless Fuel

THE Coal Measures of Great Britain, for all the depression in the coal industry, are still a great national asset. The article on "Oil from Coal" on p. 812 of this issue brings up once again the question of their proper utilization. It is common knowledge that it is technically possible to produce motor-spirit from coal: the difficulty is to find a reasonably satisfactory method. It appears, however, that we are now reaching a stage when it is legitimate to regard our seams of coal in the light of a series of oil-bearing deposits, since 'crudeable' products can now readily be produced from them. If the estimates of production costs given by Mr. Strevens and Mr. Cross are correct, and the coal-oil distillation process is the cheapest available, then, on the basis of this process, the Coal Measures of Great Britain are comparable with good medium-grade oil sands or shales.