

Preliminary Training for the Flying Services

THE Secretary of State for Air has announced that it is proposed to establish an Air Training Corps to provide preliminary training for men desiring to enter the Flying Services. The scheme will be divided into three parts: units will be formed at the universities, at secondary schools, and locally. At the universities, the Air Ministry is arranging a six months course for potential pilots and navigators; candidates will join the university air squadrons for instruction in service subjects, and at the same time they will attend courses given by university lecturers on mathematics and mechanics, and on either electricity and magnetism, engineering, meteorology or navigation. They will be full members of the university, and will live in colleges and hostels so far as possible. All expenses, apart from certain personal items, will be paid for by the Air Ministry. Candidates must be between 17 years and 18 years 8 months on February 15 and will be selected on nomination by headmasters; the first course begins on April 15.

Local units, for which the organization of the Air Defence Cadet Corps will be used, will be formed, and the Air Ministry is providing for lectures arranged by local authorities on mathematics and English. For the schools scheme, boys should be between 16 and 18 years of age, and they will carry out a syllabus approximating to that of an initial training wing of the R.A.F., the principal subjects being navigation, mathematics, signals and the theory of flight. Financial assistance will be provided by the State.

Sir Henry Head's Bequest to the Royal Society

UNDER the terms of the will of the late Sir Henry Head, the Royal Society is named as residuary legatee, and it is believed that a substantial sum of money will go to the Society in due course. The broad terms of direction in the will are that the money "shall be applied for the purpose of the advancement in England of the science of medicine in the widest sense"; for this purpose a committee of not less than three or more than five is to be appointed to administer the fund. Without imposing any obligation on this committee, the will suggests that the fund, or part of it, might be used to establish professorships or similar posts or research scholarships in a branch of medical science at medical or other educational institutions. Sir Henry Head, who died on October 8 last, had been a fellow of the Royal Society since 1899, and was awarded a Royal Medal of the Society in 1908.

Reading Machine for Microfilm

THE Committee on Scientific Aids to Learning, which reports to the U.S. National Research Council, is promoting, among other things, the use of microfilm, and, as a result of its efforts, a reading machine is being manufactured which will be sold at a retail price of 32 dollars. A grant from the Committee has made it possible for *Mathematical Reviews* to obtain a limited number of these machines, which will be available to those who have paid their subscriptions, at the appropriate rate, to *Mathematical*

Reviews, in advance for three years beginning this month. The history of the 'reader', known as the Students Microfilm Reader, goes back to the autumn of 1939. At that time an advisory group on microphotography to the Committee on Scientific Aids to Learning, composed of Mr. Keyes D. Metcalf, director of the Harvard University Library (chairman), Profs. Ralph D. Bennett and Ernest I. Huntress of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Vernon D. Tate of the National Archives, and Dr. Irvin Stewart, director of the Committee on Scientific Aids to Learning (*ex officio*), was requested to consider the possibilities of designing and making available a simple, inexpensive microfilm reading machine for the use of the individual student.

Eventually the Spencer Lens Company was authorized to build a model, and the Committee on Scientific Aids to Learning has now signed a contract for a number of these machines; in addition, they will be placed on the market by the Spencer Lens Company. Emphasis has been placed throughout on suitability for the purpose for which the reader was designed, simplicity and low cost. No claims are made for extreme convenience, beauty, ready portability, or universality. The Students Microfilm Reader is not intended to compete with existing reader equipment, which is generally more suited for commercial and library use. It was developed specifically to permit the individual student to utilize in his own study or laboratory microphotographic copies which he may have made personally or procured from one of the existing sources of supply. The address of *Mathematical Reviews* is American Mathematical Society, Brown University, Providence, R.I.

Developments in B.B.C. Services

New programmes for France and Luxembourg and an additional bulletin in Polish are included in recent developments made in the B.B.C.'s European Service (*Practical Wireless*, Feb. 1941). A Sunday programme for French listeners entitled "Une demi heure du Dimanche" which is now broadcast during 3-3.30 p.m. B.S.T., includes a review of the week's events and talks on general interest and religious subjects. It is transmitted on the wave-lengths 49.59 metres and 25.29 metres. The new programme for Luxembourg is broadcast on the last day of the month between 8.0 and 8.15 p.m. B.S.T. in the period entitled "Radio Belgique". The wave-lengths on which this transmission may be received are 285.7 metres, 261.1 metres, 49.59 metres and 30.96 metres. A third news bulletin in Polish was recently added to the B.B.C.'s broadcasts in Europe and can be heard during 4.15-4.30 p.m. B.S.T. each day on 49.59 metres and 25.29 metres.

Mr. R. C. McCall, who has been appointed to the B.B.C. staff to organize the new Pacific transmission of the B.B.C.'s Overseas Service, has recently arrived in Great Britain. This provides a further example of the close co-operation between Dominion broadcasting organizations and the B.B.C. Another similar case has been the appointment of Mr. E. L. Bushnell, controller of programmes for the Canadian Broad-