

NEWS AND VIEWS

H. E. Armstrong Lecture

ALTHOUGH H. E. Armstrong did not take an active part in the formation of the Society of Chemical Industry, he was nevertheless one of the original members, and the Society has founded a Lecture in his memory. The task of delivering the first of what will no doubt be a series of distinguished lectures, was a difficult one, and the Society could not have selected a better man than the son of 'H. E. A.' Dr. E. F. Armstrong and his father had many interests in common; they followed the same profession, they took holidays together, and, Dr. Armstrong says, he was "closest to him over nearly sixty years", being in almost daily contact with him by letter even when separated geographically. Now Dr. Armstrong has given an intimate account of his father's life and work in the form of the first Armstrong Lecture, which was delivered on February 3. The complete Lecture has been published in *Chemistry and Industry* (Feb. 8). Some of the ground covered, particularly that relating to chemical work, was dealt with by "W. P. W." in the obituary notice which appeared in *NATURE* of July 24, 1937. The last part of Dr. Armstrong's lecture, however, reflected more of the personal and human aspects of the 'H. E. A.' known to the present generation of men of science, and it seemed appropriate that this portion, supplementing in some ways the obituary notice, should appear in *NATURE* (see p. 373), where many of Armstrong's stimulating and often provocative contributions were published.

Scientific Co-operation between Great Britain and the United States

ON March 20, the president and council of the Royal Society entertained fellows of the Society and a number of friends at a buffet luncheon at Burlington House to meet Dr. J. B. Conant, the president of Harvard University. Sir Henry Dale and Dr. Conant received the guests, who numbered more than a hundred and fifty, among whom were Sir John Anderson, Lord Hankey, the High Commissioners for Australia, Canada and South Africa, and five of Dr. Conant's colleagues in his mission, namely Dr. K. T. Bainbridge, Dr. F. L. Hovde, Dr. E. J. Poitras, Dr. Warren Weaver and Dr. Carroll L. Wilson. At the conclusion of the luncheon, in the Society's meeting room, Dr. Conant gave a brief talk. He expressed his great pleasure at meeting such a representative body of British men of science, and hoped that his visit to this country would further the co-operation between scientific workers on both sides of the Atlantic, particularly in the direction of an interchange of ideas and experiences bearing on problems arising out of the War.

Emergency Scientific Research Bureau in Eire

THE Government of Eire has set up a small advisory body, to be known as the Emergency Scientific Research Bureau, to deal primarily with

the technical problems involved in the provision of substitute processes and materials during the period of the emergency. This body, which will be attached to the Department of the Taoiseach, has the following terms of reference: (1) To give technical advice to the Government on such special problems relating to industrial processes and the use of substitute materials as may be referred to them. (2) To advise the Government generally on the use of native or other materials to meet deficiencies caused by the restriction of imported raw materials and commodities. (3) To direct or conduct special researches and inquiries connected with the above.

The following have been appointed to be members of the Bureau: Prof. J. J. Dowling (chairman), professor of technical physics, University College, Dublin; Dr. J. J. Drumm; Prof. M. A. Hogan, professor of mechanical engineering, University College, Dublin; Prof. J. H. J. Poole, professor of geophysics and experimental physics, Trinity College, Dublin; Dr. T. S. Wheeler, State chemist. The secretary to the Industrial Research Council, Dr. J. J. Lennon, will act as secretary to the Bureau. The Bureau will utilize the premises of the Industrial Research Council, 45 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin.

University College, Cardiff: Air Raid Damage

UNIVERSITY College, Cardiff, has suffered to some extent in recent air raids, the most extensive damage being at the Students' Union building. The refectory of the Union, which was erected with money collected by students as a memorial to those students who lost their lives in the War of 1914-18, has been wrecked, and will probably have to be rebuilt, while the rest of the Union premises have also been badly shaken. Fortunately the new gymnasium, recently completed at a cost of £17,000, escaped almost untouched. The Cathays Park buildings of the College suffered from blast, many windows and almost all the roof lights being destroyed. The Tatem Laboratories were the most affected, and blast caused a considerable amount of damage internally to fittings and apparatus in both the Physics and the Chemistry Departments, though not enough to put these Departments out of commission for more than a few days. A fire was started in the Drapers' Library but was quickly extinguished by the fire watchers. Fire watchers at the Union luckily escaped serious injury, but one of the watchers in the College buildings has unhappily died of injuries received in the course of his duties. A young assistant on the staff of one of the visiting institutions which are at present working in University College, Cardiff, was also killed at his lodgings in the town. These casualties have caused deep regret.

Cost of Living for Working-Class Families

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