

### Industrial Reconstruction in Italy

ANTONIO REVESSI has an article on this subject in *Ricerca Scientifica e Ricostruzione* (Rome), December 1945, which deals with some of the chief points essential to the reconstruction of industries in Italy since the evils which have followed the Fascist regime. A comparison of the industrial life in other countries—in particular in Switzerland—with that of Italy shows the inherent weakness in the system of the latter. The necessity of scientific-experimental research applied to industrial reconstruction is urgent if the maximum efficiency and output are to be realized, and there must be collaboration between the technical expert and the manufacturer. Although there may be various objections on the grounds of expense, difficulty of training technicians, etc., Revessi waives these aside, and advocates a slow but sure development, never losing sight of the ultimate goal, which is vital if Italy is to recover her position—the export of her products. There must be no delusions about an immediate recovery of the export trade which Italy enjoyed before the Fascists destroyed it; nevertheless, by rationalization of industry and by proper organisation, it is possible for her to secure a high position in the industrial world.

### Astronomical Observations in Spain

THE greater portion of the Bulletin issued by the Observatory of Madrid (*Bol. Ast. Observ. Madrid*, 3, Part 1, 1946) is taken up with statistics relating to sunspots seen from the Observatories of Madrid, Valencia and also Cartuja (Granada), and a résumé of the results is given on pp. 18–25. Much interesting information is provided on the observations of Mars during the 1941 opposition, the work being carried out with the 41-cm. Grubb equatorial, focal length 5 metres, which was specially suitable for this type of work. This portion is illustrated by diagrams and also by a number of photographs of the planet taken between September 15 and November 1, 1941. The results of the occultations of thirty stars observed by M. Martín Lorón in 1945 are also reported.

### Archæology in Africa

MR. THURSTON SPAW, until recently an officer in the Gold Coast Educational Service, has written a very useful article (Mem. xxi, International African Institute, Oxford Univ. Press. 2s. net) on the study of Africa's past. The idea of the article is to help the average person in Africa who has had no special training in archæology to know what to look for and what to do, so that useful information can be obtained. Of its kind the work is one of the most serviceable that has been produced.

### Leicester Museum's Schools Service

OF the departmental reports in the forty-first annual report (April 1, 1944–March 31, 1945) recently issued by the Leicester City Museum and Art Gallery, that of the Schools Service is of particular and general interest. During the period under review, classes were instructed in the main museum as well as in the branch museums; special visits were arranged for blind and deaf children, and the loan collections (which include museum specimens, models, dioramas, charts, etc., covering most school subjects) were extended to evacuated schools. Army units in the area made use of the same collections in the development of Forces educational schemes, and a

collection of picture reproductions was extensively used in courses on the appreciation of art. In conjunction with Dr. Boley, of the Psychology Department of the Leicester Education Committee, two members of the staff instructed special classes in the use and construction of puppets for puppet shows. The children themselves took part in these proceedings, but the exact intent of, or the conclusions drawn from, the results of these activities are not reported. The Museum school service at Leicester has been active and progressive for many years and most, if not all, subsequent and similar schemes elsewhere have been based upon it. That the Leicester methods and results are of interest to outside educational institutions and other bodies is shown by the reference to visitors from London, Nottingham, Glasgow, and the research department of the National Association of Local Government Officers. Further, inspectors from the Board of Education went to observe them, and this fact, especially, points to the possibility of future developments in this work, not only in Leicester, but also wherever suitable museum collections exist.

### Announcements

DR. T. F. DIXON has been appointed professor of biochemistry in the Royal Medical College, Baghdad.

AS from November 1, Dr. N. Hamilton Fairley, who takes up his appointment as Wellcome professor of tropical medicine in the University of London, will cease to be director of the Wellcome Laboratories of Tropical Medicine, but will become consultant in tropical medicine to the Wellcome Foundation. Brigadier John S. K. Boyd, at present director of the pathology, War Office, will become director of the Wellcome Laboratories of Tropical Medicine.

MISS MARION GOSSET, chief cataloguer at the Science Library, South Kensington, has been appointed librarian of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell, near Didcot. Miss Gosset takes up her new appointment on September 18.

THE following appointments, promotions and transfers in the Colonial Services have recently been made: M. A. Blane, to be agricultural officer, Gold Coast; J. A. R. Maclean, to be chemist, West Africa Cocoa Research Institute, Gold Coast; G. Paton, to be agricultural officer, Nyasaland; G. B. Rattray, to be agricultural officer, Kenya; R. B. Reid, to be agricultural officer, Northern Rhodesia; E. A. Anderson, to be assistant conservator of forests, Gold Coast; S. J. Mayo, to be geologist, Tanganyika; P. R. Wilkinson, to be entomologist (tsetse), Uganda; W. E. Freeman (botanist, Nigeria), to be senior botanist, Nigeria; E. J. Gregory (agricultural officer, Uganda), to be senior agricultural officer, Uganda; R. H. Le Pelley (entomologist, Kenya), to be senior entomologist, Kenya; T. T. Brand (senior assistant conservator of forests, Nigeria), to be conservator of forests, Nigeria; G. S. Cansdale (assistant conservator of forests, Gold Coast), to be senior assistant conservator of forests, Gold Coast; A. J. Cox (senior assistant conservator of forests, Gold Coast), to be conservator of forests, Gold Coast; F. G. Harper (assistant conservator of forests, Gold Coast), to be senior assistant conservator of forests, Gold Coast; D. Kinloch (assistant conservator of forests, Gold Coast), to be senior assistant conservator of forests, Gold Coast.