

by the enforced war-time expansion of its industries, and the existence of a highly abnormal proportion of such newcomers in the population is regarded as aggravating the problems of war-time production; first, because the outward as well as the inward mobility of the immigrant tends to be higher than that of other workers; and secondly, because with a population largely recruited by the attraction of high earnings and composed of those ready to snatch advantage from slack management, Coventry was likely to show higher costs than some other centres would have done.

In the second paper, "The Economics and Dis-economics of Industrial Concentration: the War-time Experience of Coventry", analysis of such factors as the cost of labour turnover, absenteeism, higher earnings, transport and housing leads to the conclusion that the localization since 1939 of war industries in Coventry on the scale required by the Government's plans, and the immigration they involved, was scarcely justified. The fundamental weakness of the Government's original plans was that it did not envisage the economic conditions of total war. The story of Coventry is the story of a war plan framed not merely in, but also to fit, the conditions of peace; and it is by no means certain that it leaves the city fit to meet the conditions of peace to-day. Before the War, Coventry possessed industries which were prosperous and expanding and which, in spite of the seasonal variations of the making of motor-cars, were fairly diversified. Presumably aircraft production will be cut down, and Coventry will depend mainly on the motor-car industry. Unless all the labour imported since 1939 emigrates, Coventry will require a larger motor-car industry than in 1939, since its other pre-war industries may not have been restored. Moreover, at the end of the War, Coventry was specializing more narrowly than before on trades liable to cyclical as well as seasonal fluctuation. Prof. Sargent Florence and Mr. Shenfield conclude that plans should be prepared to guard against abnormally high unemployment. Diversification with industries not liable to cyclical fluctuation and likely to meet post-war demands for durable goods is required, using as a basis the expansion and fostering of offshoots from the electrical, engineering, metal-working and textile industries, so that Coventry approximates in character to its more balanced neighbours, Birmingham and Leicester.

### Chemotherapy

EVERYONE who is interested in chemotherapy should not fail to consult the *British Medical Bulletin*, No. 4, Vol. 4, 1946, the sub-title of which is "Background to Chemotherapy". Introduced by a sketch of the history of chemotherapy by Dr. E. M. Lourie, this issue of the bulletin contains an article on the steps leading to the therapeutic application of microbial antagonism by Sir Howard Florey, one on the analysis of antibacterial action by Dr. H. MacIlwain, and a valuable article on the nutrition of bacteria by Sir Paul Fildes. Dr. F. R. Selbie contributes an article on microbial resistance to chemotherapeutic drugs, Prof. L. P. Garrod deals with the principles and practice of local chemotherapy, and Prof. J. H. Gaddum writes on the principles of administration in chemotherapy. Dr. C. H. Andrewes and Dr. Harold King have written a valuable article on the chemotherapy of the rickettsial and virus diseases.

It is good to see that space is also given to the important chemotherapeutic work done in France, which is summarized in an article on the contribution of the Institut Pasteur, Paris, to recent advances in microbial and functional chemotherapy by four members of the staff of this famous institution, Jacques Tréfouël, Mme. Jacques Tréfouël, Daniel Bovet and Frédéric Nitti. An interesting article by Prof. F. G. Young, entitled "Claude Bernard and Scientific Adventure", pays a just tribute to the work of this great man. The book reviews and the guide to current medical literature continue to be a valuable feature of the bulletin. In this issue there is also a very interesting article on the making of a catalogue of medical films by Dr. Brian Stanford, who is in charge of the reference catalogue of all the films of medical interest in Great Britain, which is being maintained by the co-operation of the Scientific Film Association and the Royal Society of Medicine. Some notes on health education films and some of those produced at the Pasteur Institute are also given.

### British Scientific Instrument Research Association

ONE of the first steps taken in the major scheme of expansion which the British Scientific Instrument Research Association is at present engaged in putting into effect was the creation of an Information Department to serve both members and staff. This Department, in April 1946, began the publication of a printed monthly bulletin, consisting of about twenty pages an issue, and containing Association notes, and abstracts of current, including patent, literature relating to scientific instruments. The bulletin, at first, was circulated only to members of the Association, to whom it is supplied free of charge, but, in order that it may be of the greatest possible use to makers and users of scientific instruments, the Council of the Association has now decided to make the bulletin available to non-members at an annual subscription of £2.

The October issue of the bulletin (vol. 1, No. 10) records that the work of transferring the Association's research laboratories from Russell Square, London, to new and much larger premises at Chislehurst, Kent, is making good progress, and it is expected that a substantial section of the chemical laboratories will have been removed by the end of November. The response to the request sent out to members for copies of their catalogues and other publications has been very good, and it is hoped to maintain an up-to-date collection of these in the Association's Library. The offices of the Association are at 26 Russell Square, London, W.C.1. The chairman is Dr. W. H. Eccles; the director of research and secretary, Mr. A. J. Philpot; and the information officer, to whom all communications relating to the bulletin and requests for loan of documents should be addressed, is Mr. C. W. Hanson.

### Instrument Practice

WITH the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 a number of important Continental journals disappeared from the literature of instrument technology. Many of these are again becoming available in Great Britain; but there is no doubt that there is room for more published information in this large and varied field of scientific thought. The issue of the first number of a new English publication on instrumentation is, therefore, a matter of great interest. The name of this monthly journal is *Instrument Practice*, and its title page states that it hopes to cover the whole