

dean of the Institute of Diseases of the Chest, Brompton Hospital; Dr. A. J. Amer, chief medical officer, Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.; Prof. R. C. Browne, Department of Industrial Health, University of Durham; Dr. J. C. Gilson, deputy director, Pneumoconiosis Research Unit, Medical Research Council; Dr. T. E. Howell, chief medical inspector, Ministry of Fuel and Power; Dr. T. H. Jenkins, divisional medical officer, South Western Division, National Coal Board; Dr. J. Rogan; Dr. J. Trefor Watkins, divisional medical officer, East Midlands Division, National Coal Board. Dr. J. S. McLintock, assistant to the chief medical officer of the National Coal Board, is the secretary of the Panels.

Biochemistry and Virus Laboratory of the University of California, Berkeley

THE opening of the new Biochemistry and Virus Laboratory of the University of California, Berkeley, which has been under construction since October 1950, has been arranged for October 10, and as part of the ceremony a symposium will be held in which four addresses on biochemistry and four on viruses will be given by distinguished men of science. The symposium, as well as conducted tours through the Laboratory, will be open to the public. The opening of the Emil Fischer Library of the Laboratory will be accompanied by a special observance of the centenary of the birth of Emil Fischer on October 9, 1852. The Laboratory building is being constructed with funds provided by the State of California, although special equipment costing more than 250,000 dollars has been provided by funds made available by Lederle Laboratories, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc., the Rockefeller Foundation and the University of California; the total cost is two million dollars. The building has five floors and a roof penthouse and glasshouse, and is 200 by 60 ft. in size. It stands just inside the east entrance to the Berkeley campus. Facilities for teaching are divided into two parts, 240 elementary students being accommodated on the ground floor and 80 advanced students on the second floor. Research facilities for approximately a hundred graduate students and about thirty senior staff members are provided on the upper floors of the building. The Emil Fischer Library, a machine shop, and special facilities for electron microscopy, ultracentrifugation, electrophoresis, X-ray analysis, analysis of stable and radioactive isotopes, microbiological assays, etc., are on the fourth floor. Special facilities for the investigation of dangerous viruses requiring complete isolation are provided on the fifth floor. Altogether, many new and unusual features are incorporated in the building. Research activities of the staff cover many aspects of the biochemistry of animals, plants and micro-organisms basic to an understanding of the functioning of living organisms in health and in disease. Members of the staff of the Virus Laboratory, under the direction of Dr. W. M. Stanley, are giving special attention to studies of the modes of reproduction and mutation of viruses.

Michaelsen Institute of the University of Copenhagen

A NEW Institute of the University of Copenhagen, to be known as the Michaelsen Institute, will be opened on April 16. At the ceremony, Prof. E. D. Adrian, president of the Royal Society of London,

will speak on "Sensory Discrimination". The new Institute has been sponsored jointly by the Michaelsen Foundation, the Carlsberg Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Danish State. On three of the floors, it houses the Institute of Neurophysiology (director, Prof. Fritz Buchthal), and on a fourth the Isotope Section of the Zoophysiological Laboratory (director, Prof. H. H. Ussing). The occasion will mark the opening of the first scientific institute to be finished in Denmark since the Second World War.

Indonesian Journal for Natural Science

THE first issue of a new monthly journal, the *Indonesian Journal for Natural Science (Madjalah Ilmu Alam Untuk Indonesia)* (R. 12 a year or R. 2 a number), marks the move of the Royal Physical Society in Indonesia (Perhimpunan Ilmu Alam Indonesia—Koninklijke Natuurkundige Vereniging in Indonesie) from Djakarta to Bandung. This Society has a long history, for it was founded in 1850 and, since that date, has issued a journal under various names but always with a continuous sequence of volume numbers. Thus the first issue of the new *Journal* is Volume 107 (Nos. 1, 2 and 3; 1951), for it succeeds the old *Chronica Naturæ*, the last volume of which was numbered 106. Bandung is the seat of two Faculties of the University of Indonesia, those of Mathematics and Natural Science and of Technical Science, and hence the Society has moved to a scientific atmosphere which should be favourable to its growth. The Society covers a wider field than the modern meaning attached to its name, for the *Journal* covers all aspects of science, and the first issue has as much space devoted to biological topics as to physics and chemistry. The contents of this issue include review articles on special topics; scientific notes; communications and announcements; book reviews; new publications; and personalia. Although it is intended to publish as much as possible in English, quite a large proportion of the articles are in Dutch. The address of the *Journal* is Djalan Ganeça 10, Bandung, Batavia, and contributions should be sent to the editor, Prof. Th. H. F. Klompé. The commercial representative in the Netherlands is J. B. Reelick, Keizersgracht 790, Postbox 863, Amsterdam.

Government Loans for Fuel-Saving Equipment

SPEAKING in the adjournment debate in the House of Commons on March 7 on Mr. M. Philips Price's motion on the need for comprehensive measures for the more efficient utilization of coal, the Minister of Fuel and Power, Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd, referred to the growing awareness of industry that insulation and the installation of fuel-saving equipment usually offer a quick return in terms of fuel saved. He said that the Government is doing what it can to ensure that the supply of fuel-saving equipment and insulating materials is adequate, and made the important announcement that the Government is prepared to make arrangements whereby experimentally, for one year, a sum of £1 million would be available at full commercial rates for loans to firms who wish to insulate their factories and install fuel-saving equipment. This sum would cover both the structural insulation of factories built before a date to be prescribed, and the installation, by a prescribed date, of approved fuel-saving equipment. The motion, with the idea of which though not the exact form the Minister agreed, was carried, and it was indicated in the debate that it also has the support of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee.