

University College, London: Restoration of War-damaged Buildings

ON November 30 a celebration was held in University College, London, to mark the restoration of the original College buildings in the main quadrangle, which were destroyed by enemy action during 1940-41. The present visitor to the College will find it difficult to realize the degree of damage which was suffered, so remarkable is the recovery that has since been made. Nearly fifty thousand square feet were totally destroyed and another fifty thousand were almost completely gutted by fire. The destruction included all the historic buildings of the College and much else, including the Physics Laboratory and the Great Hall. Fortunately, the College has been able to extend its site between Gower Street and Gordon Square to an area of twelve acres, and this has already given opportunities for the beginning of long-delayed expansions. The first block of the new Physics Building, a handsome and effective series of laboratories, has been completed. Industry has contributed to a preliminary stage in the development of the Chemistry Department. The College authorities feel that the most pressing need of the moment is for a new Great Hall, since at present the only assembly room is the Gustave Tuck Theatre, which, though a beautiful building, houses less than two hundred. As the provost of the College, Dr. B. Ifor Evans, pointed out at the celebration, University College, London, has a very worthy place in the history of university education in Great Britain. Founded in 1828 as a centre for university instruction and research without any restrictions of race or religious faith, it has grown during the past century and a quarter in a notable way until its present student population is three thousand five hundred. Though the standing of a university institution does not rest solely on its architecture and setting, it is worthy of notice that the concepts of the College's original founders were matched by those of the architect, William Wilkins. He provided the College on its then newly acquired site in Gower Street with what John Summerson has described as its "tremendously grand portico raised on a great podium with steps"; to this were added later the Flaxman Gallery and the Donaldson Library, and a quadrangle was formed with the Slade School, the Bartlett School of Architecture and buildings for the Faculty of Arts and the School of Egyptology.

Advisory Committee on the Protection of Birds

THE Home Secretary has appointed the following to be members of the Advisory Committee on the Protection of Birds for England and Wales: Sir A. Landsborough Thomson (*chairman*), Miss P. Barclay-Smith, Mr. P. E. Brown, Colonel R. S. Clarke, Mr. J. M. Craster, Mr. James Fisher, Mr. William Foster, Mr. Nigel Laing, Captain S. T. A. Livingstone-Learmonth, Mr. G. R. Mountfort, Mr. E. M. Nicholson, Major-General A. G. O'Carroll-Scott, Mr. Peter Scott and Mr. H. N. Southern. The Advisory Committee is appointed under the Protection of Birds Act, 1954, which came into force on December 1. The Act protects all wild birds, their nests and eggs, subject to specified exceptions; in particular, owners or occupiers of land may take action against specified harmful birds, and specified sporting birds may be shot outside the close season. The Act also restricts the sale and importation of birds and eggs and enables sanctuaries to be created.

Commonwealth Bursaries Scheme of the Royal Society and Nuffield Foundation: Awards

AWARDS under the Commonwealth Bursaries Scheme of the Royal Society and Nuffield Foundation have been made to the following: Dr. A. d'A. Bellairs, reader in anatomy, St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, London, to study material in South Africa during June-September 1955, in connexion with his work on the morphology and development of the vertebrate skull; Dr. D. A. Brown, senior lecturer in geology, Otago University, to study type-collections of the fossil Cyclostomatous and Cryptostomatous Polyzoa principally in London and Cambridge during 1955; Prof. S. N. De, professor of pathology, Nilratan Sircar Medical College, Calcutta, to study at University College Hospital Medical School, London, during June-September 1955, the mechanism of action of the cholera vibrio; Dr. A. J. Matty, lecturer in zoology, University of Nottingham, to visit Bermuda during March-September 1955 to extend his observations on the thyroid gland of bony fish; Dr. T. A. O'Donnell, lecturer in chemistry, University of Melbourne, to study inorganic fluorides at Cambridge during 1955; Dr. J. C. Smith, demonstrator and lecturer in chemistry, University of Oxford, to visit Pretoria and Melbourne during January-September 1955, to study methods of research on the chemistry of fats and waxes; Mr. W. Thomson, of the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeenshire, to study sheep nutrition projects in Australia and New Zealand; and Prof. A. Wood, professor of geology, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, to extend his researches, in Australia during January-May 1955, on the wall structure of the Foraminifera, to type and topotype material. This is the second group of awards under the scheme, which was instituted in 1953 to provide facilities for increasing the efficiency of scientists of proved ability by enabling them to pursue research, learn techniques or follow other forms of study in natural science in countries other than their own in the British Commonwealth.

Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, India: New Bulletin

THE Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute, which was opened in Calcutta in 1950, has now issued its first quarterly *Bulletin*, "devoted to the cause of the advancement of glass, ceramic and allied science and industries" (1, No. 1; August 1954; pp. 44; annual subscription Rs. 6 or 12s.; single issues Rs. 2 or 4s.). It is stated that each *Bulletin* will include a discussion of important current topics relating to the ceramic industry, and in India, as in the United States, the ceramic industry is taken to include the manufacture of glass and vitreous enamels in addition to pottery, clay building materials and refractories to which the term is confined in Britain and Western Europe generally. The *Bulletin* will also contain technical articles, manufacturers' experience, articles on production and quality control, new developments, answers to inquiries, trade statistics, news and reviews, books and abstracts. In this first issue there are two technical articles. The first deals with glass containers suitable for distilled water and is by Atma Ram (director of the Institute), S. P. Krishnaswamy, P. Roy and Sudhir Sen; original work is reported in a well-written manner, and definite recommendations are made for the benefit of the Indian glass manufacturer. The second technical article is on saggars