

### 1959 Waverley Gold Medal Competition

THE Waverley Gold Medal and a prize of £100 will be awarded for an essay of about 3,000 words based on recent scientific research or development (whether the author's work or not), giving an outline of the scientific background, the experimental results and its potential application in industry. Essays will be judged for technical content, clarity of presentation and for style. A second prize of £50 will also be awarded; and an additional prize of £50 is offered for the best entry from a competitor under the age of thirty on July 31, 1959. The competition is open only to persons engaged in scientific work during January 1–July 31, 1959. Further details can be obtained from the Editor, *Research*, 4/5 Bell Yard, London, W.C.2, to whom all entries must be submitted before July 31.

### Bell Telephone Laboratories : Kelly Award

BELL Telephone Laboratories and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers have announced the establishment of an award for achievement in the field of telecommunications, to be known as the Mervin J. Kelly Award. The award is named in honour of Dr. Kelly, formerly president and now chairman of the board of Bell Laboratories, who will retire on March 1 after forty-one years of scientific and administrative service with the Bell Telephone System (*Nature*, 183, 221; 1959). The Kelly Award will be given annually by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of telecommunications. The prize will consist of a bronze medal, a cash award of 1,000 dollars and a certificate. The first award will be made in 1960. The Award is being sponsored by Bell Laboratories but will be administered solely by the Institute.

### "Electrode Potentials and Compound Formation in the Palladium-Platinum-Hydrogen System"

REFERRING to the communication under this title in *Nature* of January 3, p. 39, Messrs. A. W. Carson, T. B. Flanagan and F. A. Lewis write: "The platinum content of the palladium-platinum alloys investigated should be read as weight per cent. It had previously been reported (Stetsenko, A. I., and Tverdovskii, I. P., *Zhur Fiz. Khim.*, 26, 647; 1952) that the upper limit of platinum content in palladium-platinum alloys, which allows of the formation of a two-phase region close to 25° C. in the palladium-platinum-hydrogen system, is about 9 per cent by weight platinum and not 5 per cent as incorrectly quoted by us".

### Burden Neurological Institute :

Dr. W. Ross Ashby

REFERRING to the note on the appointment of Dr. Ross Ashby as director of the Burden Neurological Institute, Bristol (*Nature*, January 24, p. 220), it has been pointed out to us that he will not be succeeding the retiring director, Prof. F. L. Golla, until May 1. Dr. Ross Ashby was referred to as "previously director of the Research Laboratory at Barnwood House, Gloucester"; he is in fact director of research at that Institute. For eleven years Dr. Ross Ashby was pathologist at St. Andrew's Hospital, Northampton. Among his publications is "An Introduction to Cybernetics", which has been translated into French, Spanish and Russian. In 1932 he obtained the Bronze Medal and Prize of the

Royal Medico-Psychological Association, and in 1948 he obtained the Burlingame Prize (£100) offered by the Institute of Living, Hartford, Connecticut, for the best piece of original research carried out during the previous year. In 1956 he was granted a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford, California.

### Announcements

PROF. R. O. REDMAN, director of the Observatories in the University of Cambridge, has been elected president, for 1959–60, of the Royal Astronomical Society, in succession to Dr. W. H. Steavenson.

THE Secretary of the United States Army, Mr. W. M. Brucker, has presented a replica of *Explorer 1*, the first American Earth satellite placed in orbit, together with its *Jupiter-C* carrier rocket, to the Smithsonian Institution.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made by the British Council with the assistance of the Foreign Office, the Board of Trade and the Nuclear Energy Consortia for Prof. W. Murgatroyd, professor of nuclear engineering in Queen Mary College, London, to visit Venezuela, Colombia, Peru and Mexico during March 30–April 29. Under similar arrangements Prof. J. M. Kay, professor of nuclear power in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, is to visit Chile, Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil during March 23–April 29. They will lecture to scientists and engineers on British nuclear developments and aims, and also discuss the possibilities for future co-operation with the United Kingdom.

THE Proceedings of the Fourth International Congress of Biochemistry, held in Vienna in 1958, are being published by the Pergamon Press by arrangement with the International Union of Biochemistry. The fifteen volumes include all the contributions, invited discussions, symposia and colloquia presented.

A DEBATE, organized jointly by the Royal Institute of Chemistry (London Section), the Classical Association (London Branch) and the Haldane Society, on the motion "That the Education of our Future Rulers should be primarily in the Sciences rather than in the Humanities", is to be held in the Beveridge Hall, Senate House, University of London, on March 18. The chairman will be Sir Cyril Hinshelwood; for the motion, Sir Alexander Fleck and Prof. A. R. Ubbelohde; against the motion, Prof. B. Farrington and Prof. W. Beare.

THE Plant Phenolics Group is holding a symposium on "Phenolics in Plants in Health and Disease" in the Department of Engineering in the University of Bristol on April 2 and 3. Further details can be obtained from the honorary secretary, Dr. T. Swain, Low Temperature Research Station, Downing Street, Cambridge.

THE annual International Starch Convention organized by the German Cereal Research Station at Detmold is to be held in Detmold during April 21–23. It will be followed on April 24 by a special Convention to celebrate 75 years of potato research and also on April 24 and 25 there will be held at Detmold the first plenary session of the newly formed International Committee for the Standardization of Analysis of Starch and its By-products. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Eric Dux, Sichel Adhesives, Ltd., 6 Friar's Lane, Richmond, Surrey.