

### SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

#### THE BRITISH COMMITTEE FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

SOME points in the report of the British Privy Council committee for scientific and industrial research are summarized in the *Electrical World* as follows:

*Funds Available.*—The Imperial Trust for the Encouragement of Scientific and Industrial Research holds £1,000,000 that Parliament has voted for research purposes. Manufacturers' associations, the London County Council and some governmental departments have also contributed funds for specific purposes.

*Personal Grants to Research Workers.*—Thirty-six awards in the nature of maintenance grants were made to individuals, of which twenty-four went to students being trained in the methods of research, ten to independent research workers and two to research assistants. Grants will also be made for apparatus and materials.

*Industrial Versus Pure Science Research.*—During the past year the committee has devoted its chief effort to the organization of industrial research rather than to the prosecution of work in pure science; first, because it felt the paramount importance of arousing the interest of manufacturers and, second, because of the influence of the war. It emphasizes the hope that the absence of references to pure science should not be taken as indicating a lack of appreciation of its importance.

*Trade Research Associations.*—Many trade associations have lately come into existence, some of which include research among their objects. The committee has helped in their organization and has assisted and cooperated in their research activities.

*Research in the Universities.*—Hearty cooperation of the principal universities, technical schools and trade schools in England has been secured, and their resources have been coordinated for the important problems on hand. A closer connection is being established between these institutions and the industries which rely upon results of research in the manufacture of their products.

*Technical Societies.*—The committee is co-

operating with the electrical, mechanical and mining engineers' institutions and other professional societies, in some cases subsidizing the researches originated by the institutions and extending their scope.

*Information Collected and Published.*—In cooperation with technical societies and institutions of learning the committee has collected and published available information and is continuing this useful work, which will greatly simplify that of future investigators. It is also preparing memoranda on various fields for research, with an analysis of the problems involved and the proposed program for research.

*Assistance to Individual Manufacturers.*—An arrangement has been made with the Royal Society by which it will assist the committee in selecting the institution or research workers best fitted for a particular investigation. If the investigation progresses satisfactorily, the manufacturer is invited to contribute part or all of the expense in exchange for the exclusive use of the results over a given period. Another proposed way is to attach an investigator to the works laboratory and share expense with the manufacturer.

#### GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF THE PLATINUM INDUSTRY

THE Council of National Defense has issued the following statement:

Through Ordinance Requisition No. 510 from the Secretary of War, the government has taken over control of the production, refining, distribution and use of crude and refined platinum for the period of the war. The control will be exercised through the chemical division of the War Industries Board. The chemical division sent out to the industry requests for inventories of the existing stock of crude and refined platinum and platinum-iridium alloys as of March 1, 1918.

The letter stated that it was not the intention of the government to take over and handle directly the present stock of platinum but to permit its shipment by the producers or dealers subject to certain conditions. Upon the fixing by the Secretary of War of a reasonable price for crude, refined and alloyed platinum,