status of radiology among the sciences. He was especially insistent on the fundamental value of physics to radiology, particularly in regard to methods of measurement and the designing of equipment, subjects in which he was deeply interested up to the time of his death.

Many in his own branch of the profession and a number of his friends and former patients, wishing to keep his memory green, have suggested that an appeal for funds should be made to found a Mackenzie Davidson Chair of Radiology at some university.

Had Mackenzie Davidson lived he would have been among the first actively and generously to support the foundation of an institute for teaching and research in radiology, of which he was one of the earliest pioneers. If funds permit, it is hoped to found such an institute, to which possibly the chair could be attached, and of which the personnel and equipment would be beyond reproach. The benefit accruing to the British School of Radiology would be incalculable.

Till quite recently radiology has been regarded as a purely medical subject, but experimental research has shown that X-rays may be profitably employed commercially in a number of industries. A new subject, radiometallography, has, for example, come into being, which offers great possibilities for examining the internal structure of metals and other materials. In this connection radiology has already been turned to account by the steel manufacturer, the metallurgist, the engineer, the manufacturer of explosives, the aircraft constructor, the glass manufacturer, etc.

The future of radiology will therefore lie, not only in the fight against disease and suffering, but also in the increase of commercial and industrial efficiency. But these new branches of radiology need much investigatory work before they can come fully into their own, and a chair of radiology associated with an X-ray institute should play a worthy part in such development.

## THE ENGLISH UNION OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS

*Nature* reports that the half-yearly council meeting of the National Union of Scientific Workers, presided over by Mr. G. S. Baker, of the National Physical Laboratory, was held at University College on March 6. The rapid growth of the union has necessitated the appointment of a full-time secretary, and Major A. G. Church has been appointed to fill that office. The research committee in its report outlined the function of this body and that of the research council, which it is hoped will shortly be constituted. It will consider how best industry and public administration should be kept in close touch with the development of scientific knowledge, and ensure that the views and conditions of employment of scientific workers shall receive consideration from all bodies bringing forward schemes for research in science or for the administration of research. It was felt that the state should not subsidize industrial research associations unless such bodies display an anxiety to ensure that the direction of research shall be in the hands of those who have shown capacity for leadership in scientific work. A report on patent rights presented by Mr. A. A. Griffith emphasized the opinion "that the only satisfactory way of remunerating salaried inventors is to pay them adequate salaries; a salaried inventor receiving an adequate salary should have no claim whatever to any extra payment because his work proves unexpectedly remunerative." On the motion of Miss A. B. Dale, the council unanimously agreed to "protest against the differential treatment of men and women as regards the method of recruitment to the Civil Service and the salary scales offered therein as recommended by the Reorganization Sub-committee of the Civil Service National Whitley Council."

## THE HARVARD ENGINEERING SCHOOL AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION

THE Harvard Engineering School has adopted a new plan of instruction for the junior year of the engineering course, whereby students will hereafter be given an opportunity to combine classroom work with six months of active engineering practise and industrial training. According to the new plan, which will be inaugurated in June and will apply to the instruction in mechanical, electrical, civil, sanitary and municipal engineering, every student who wishes to take the industrial training work will spend half his time during his junior year working in industrial or engineering plants within easy reach of Cambridge.