

longs to that group of public officials, growing increasingly prominent in the scientific and technical services of the government, who willingly forego the rewards and comforts that their brilliant abilities might easily win for them in other walks of life, in order that they may follow the highest ideals of their profession. In the example of his splendid life, in the influence of his wise and unerring judgment and counsel, and in his splendid idealism, Fischer will continue to live on, in the years that stretch out before, in the memory of those whose lives were enriched by his friendship.

C. W. WAIDNER

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH NATIONAL PHYSICAL LABORATORY

THE report of The British National Physical Laboratory for 1920, which was recently issued, gives a survey of the work carried out in the various departments during that year, and also a statement of the program for 1921-22.

From the abstract in the London *Times* we learn that in regard to testing work, the charges for which have been revised owing to increased cost, the number of tests made in some departments was considerably smaller than in the preceding year and even than in the year before the war, though in others an increase is recorded. Of clinical thermometers no fewer than 1,598,100 were tested, and it is interesting that there has been a steady improvement in the quality of the instruments since the introduction of the order requiring them to be submitted to test.

In spite of the falling off in the routine work of certain sections, the activities of the laboratory continue to grow, and the demands upon it are likely to be increased in consequence of the steps taken by the government for the establishment of coordinating research boards for physics, chemistry, engineering, and radio research. The Radio Research Board has drawn up and approved a scheme of research to be carried out at the laboratory, and the Physics Research Board has also in-

dicated certain lines of research which it is considered desirable the laboratory should take up. Some additions to the buildings have been authorized and others are under consideration. The space available for extension is, however, very limited, and accordingly measures have been taken to secure land for building purposes immediately adjoining the laboratory grounds.

As usual, in addition to researches of a general character, the laboratory has in hand various special investigations for government departments and other bodies. The Photometry Division, for example, has undertaken experiments on ships' navigation lamps for the Board of Trade, on miners' lamps for the Home Office, and on motor-car head lamps for the Ministry of Transport. It is assisting the Office of Works in connection with the lighting of government offices, museums, and other buildings. Experiments have been made for the purpose of securing adequate illumination on the walls at the National Gallery, while avoiding direct sunlight and of diminishing as far as possible reflection of objects and people in the glass covering the pictures. Measurements in the Houses of Parliament have shown that, especially in the House of Commons, the illumination is very low—less on the average than the equivalent of one candle at a foot, whereas it is usually considered that three or four times as much should be provided for the easy reading of such matter as manuscript notes.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE MEDICAL BOARD OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS HOSPITAL

THE resolutions limiting the fees of surgeons operating at the Johns Hopkins Hospital to \$1,000 and fees for hospital visits to \$35 weekly, recently passed by the trustees on the recommendation of the Medical Board, are as follows:

WHEREAS, the trustees of the Johns Hopkins Hospital desire that all patients may leave the hospital feeling that they have received not only proper professional, nursing and administrative service, but also that they have been dealt with fairly in every particular, including charges for medical and surgical service; and