SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

EXHIBITS AT THE CONVERSAZIONE OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

THE first of the two *conversaziones* given annually by the Royal Society was held at Burlington House, London, on May 14.

The exhibits included, according to the London *Times*, one by Professor Gerald Stoney and Mr. J. P. Chittenden, showing the vibration of steam turbine discs and shafts. In one model, a multi-loaded shaft was rotated up to 4,600 revolutions a minute or more. In the same room the Anglo-Persian Oil Company showed an experimental apparatus used in investigating the protection of oil tanks from lightning. In an adjoining room the National Physical Laboratory had two exhibits—one a mercury-vapor pump, designed to combine the jet and condensation principles in one unit and able to produce a vacuum of 0.00001 mm of mercury or less when working against a back pressure of 1 mm; and the other a method of measuring natural lighting in rooms. In a third exhibit from the laboratory, an electrical method of hardening the ends of standard gauges was demonstrated.

Among other physical exhibits, Professor E. N. da C. Andrade and Mr. J. W. Lewis had an apparatus for showing the vortex motion of viscous liquids between two rotating cylinders; the Cambridge Instrument Company sent a torsionmeter in which an ammeter gives a direct reading of the mean torque over a 4 ft. length of shaft of any diameter; a new type of isothermal calorimeter came from the Explosive Branch, Research Department, Woolwich; and apparatus sent by Professor W. A. Bone included a nickel-steel bomb capable of withstanding pressures up to 1,000 atmospheres suddenly developed in gaseous explosions. There were two applications of the neon lamp—one a device for measuring peak voltage, shown by Professor J. T. MacGregor-Morris and Mr. L. E. Ryall, and the other, a method, developed by the International Western Electric Company, of producing an even time-scale for the inspection of wave-forms with the cathode-ray oscillograph. A recently discovered wax portrait of Joseph Priestley, in high relief and colored as in life, and also the original pocket-sundial of the Earl of Orrery, were exhibited by Mr. George H. Gabb.

The biological exhibits were unusually numerous, among the contributors being the Departments of Zoology of the British Museum and the Imperial College of Science and the Royal College of Surgeons. A method permitting cell division to be studied in the living tissue was shown by Mr. T. S. P. Strangeways, and Mr. B. K. Das illustrated the development in certain Indian fishes of accessory breathing organs in addition to the gills. Living specimens of plants from Rothamsted Experimental Station showed the effects of absence of boron on the growth of various species. In some cases the presence of this element in very minute quantities appears to be essential for perfect development, though an excess is harmful. Cultures of fungi that cause dry rot in buildings were shown by Professor Percy Groom. Sir Almroth Wright, with Mr. A. Fleming and Dr. Colebrook, demonstrated methods for the exploration of bacterial disease.

A GEOLOGICAL FIELD TRIP

THE members of the department of geology of the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College have under serious consideration the repeating of the department's summer field trip in automobiles. Instead of an Appalachian trip, as of the last two summers, the one contemplated this year is to the Pacific Coast by a southern route, thence north through California, Oregon and Washington, and home by a northern route.

The trip of last summer was more extensive than the one of the previous season. It covered approximately 5,000 miles and included a study of 22 states, the District of Columbia and the Dominion of Canada. The whole of the Piedmont belt, from Montgomery to New York City, was traversed, the New England highlands and coast to York Harbor in Maine, the White and Green Mountains of New Hampshire and Vermont, the drumlins of Central New York, the Pleistocene lake shores to Niagara Falls and Cleveland, the glacial till plains to Columbus, Indianapolis and Vandalia, and the Mississippi embayment of the Gulf Coastal Plains from Cairo to A. and M. College. Many kinds of metallic and non-metallic minerals of economic value were studied as they were being produced; as, for example, the coal, iron and flux of the Birmingham district; the bauxite and fuller's earth of Central Georgia; the barite, yellow ochre, manganese, brown iron ore and marble of the Atlanta environs; the clay products of Baltimore; the anthracite of eastern Pennsylvania; the zinc and other ores of Franklin Furnace, New Jersey; the granites of Quincy, Massachusetts; the quartzites of Vermont; the rock salt of New York, etc. Exhibits of minerals, rocks, fossils and the like were examined at many places but more particularly at the museums at Tuscaloosa, Atlanta, Richmond, the National, the University of Pennsylvania, the American, at Harvard, Albany and Ohio State University.

Not all geologic but none the less interesting and profitable were the many "side issues." They consisted of visits to 26 institutions of higher learning, southern, eastern, New England and central states—

Alabama, North Carolina, Annapolis, Johns Hopkins, Pennsylvania, International Correspondence School, Columbia, Yale, Brown, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard, Syracuse, Western Reserve, Case, Oberlin, Ohio Wesleyan, Ohio State, etc.; to the Southern Memorial at Stone Mountain and Lincoln Memorial in Washington; to Mount Vernon and Arlington; to Valley Forge, Lexington and Concord; to Independence Hall, Faneuil Hall and Old North Church; and to the homes of O. Henry, Wilson, Longfellow, Hawthorne, Emerson, Alcott, Harding and Riley.

The party consisted of Professor W. C. Morse, Associate Professor F. E. Vestal, one graduate student, now in the University of Chicago, and eight undergraduates. The trip was made in two high-speed, one-ton Ford trucks, one equipped with four seats, the other with the three rear seats removed for baggage and camp outfit. Transportation cost—gasoline, oil and maintenance—was fifty dollars for each person.

W. C. M.

SYMPOSIUM ON ABSORPTION OF THE ITHACA MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

AT the Washington meeting the Executive Committee of the Division of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry decided to hold a symposium dealing with "Absorption" when the society meets in Ithaca from September 8 to 13. The following is a very tentative outline of the proposed program of the symposium.

There will be one or more papers dealing with the mechanism of absorption, two or three papers describing experimental work which confirms the theory as to the mechanism of absorption, a paper showing the application of this theory to commercial installation, three or four papers dealing with commercial absorption equipment and one or two papers which will emphasize the industrial chemical side of absorption.

Professor Walter G. Whitman will act as chairman of this symposium. Already he has been able to secure promises from several prominent authorities to present papers before this symposium. The attention of the members of the society is called to the fact that completed papers, not to exceed 3,500 words, must be in the hands of the chairman of the symposium or the secretary of the division on or before the first of August. The papers are then submitted to reviewers and only upon a favorable recommendation are the papers placed upon the final program. An abstract not to exceed 200 words should accompany each paper.

Chemists who are working in any of the many applications of the field of absorption should get in touch with Professor Whitman at their earliest convenience. His address is Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass.

ERLE M. BILLINGS,
Secretary, Industrial Division

DR. GEORGE E. DE SCHWEINITZ

IN accepting the resignation of Dr. George E. de Schweinitz as professor of ophthalmology in the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania, the following resolution was adopted by the trustees:

"RESOLVED: That the trustees accept with the deepest regret the resignation of Dr. George E. de Schweinitz as Professor of Ophthalmology in the School of Medicine, and instruct the secretary to prepare, in conjunction with Dr. LeConte, a suitable minute expression to Dr. de Schweinitz the gratitude of the trustees for his long and distinguished service to the university and to science."

Minute concerning the resignation of Dr. George E. de Schweinitz:

"Graduate from the Medical Department in 1881; resident physician in the hospital October 1, 1881 to October 1, 1882; surgical registrar, 1883-85; quiz master in therapeutics for five years; prosector of anatomy for Dr. Leidy, 1883-88; lecturer on medical ophthalmology, 1891 and 1892; professor of ophthalmology 1902 to date. As a teacher he has no superior; as a writer he has profound influence throughout the medical world. A recipient of the highest national and international honors from his confrères, he has achieved the ranking position in this country in his speciality. The luster of his accomplishments in life have been valued by him only as a means of ever increasing his service to the university, and of the forty-five years of close association with it, he gave constantly and freely of the best that was in him. The Board of Trustees is deeply grateful for such long and honored service."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE birthday honor list of the king of England includes the conferring of the Order of Merit on Sir Charles Sherrington, Wayneflete professor of physiology at the University of Oxford, and a baronetcy on Sir Humphry Davy Rolleston, president of the Royal College of Physicians, London.

PROFESSOR J. C. MCLENNAN, of the University of Toronto, has been elected president of the Royal Society of Canada.

AT the meeting of the Royal Society on May 15, the name of Mr. Henry Balfour, curator of the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, was added to the list of elections of the society, the list of selected names having been reduced to fourteen by the death of Dr. T. Nelson Annandale.

PROFESSOR RUDOLPH MARTIN, professor of anthro-