

his botanical library are to be turned over to the college.

DR. HELEN UPDEGRAFF (Mrs. Arthur F. Cary), physiological chemist in the chemical laboratory of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, died on Oc-

tober 25. She was a daughter of Dr. Milton Updegraff, professor of mathematics, U. S. Navy, retired.

ALFRED BOSTOCK HILL, emeritus professor of hygiene and public health at Birmingham University, died on November 6. He was seventy-eight years old.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH IN GREAT BRITAIN

THE report of the Committee on New Industrial Development set up by the British Economic Advisory Council in March, 1931, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. H. Thomas, has been issued. The conclusions are summarized as follows:

Having examined the various arguments which have been put forward in support of the proposed establishment of a new national research organization as outlined in our terms of reference, we consider that such an organization would cut right across the existing organization of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and would be likely in practice, by the confusion of purpose and distraction of effort it would cause, to injure rather than to forward the cause of scientific research in British industry.

Moreover, we are satisfied that the existing government organization for the promotion of industrial research is efficient, and is sufficiently flexible to enable it to develop along such lines as may be desirable to meet the changing needs of industry.

We are, therefore, unable to recommend the establishment of a new national organization along the lines suggested.

It is highly desirable that there should be at the disposal of government a small fund capable of being readily used for research developments, such as that which is at present at the disposal of the Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. We consider, therefore, that when the balance of this fund is surrendered to the Exchequer at the end of the current year a sum of money should continue to be available for expenditure on research developments or unforeseen requirements by suitable provision in the department's annual estimate.

The evidence which we have received shows clearly how valuable are the services rendered to industry by the research associations established by particular industries, and we trust that it will be possible for his Majesty's Government to continue to provide financial assistance to these bodies on a scale sufficient to enable them to function effectively until such time as industry is in a position to bear the whole of their cost.

Dealing in the report with the suggestion that there is a gap in our research arrangements, the committee says that it doubts whether greater progress would be secured by attempting to work on more centralized

lines, inasmuch as the value of research depends on a readiness to apply its results. Moreover, the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is always willing to create organizations of its own in important industrial fields where it recognizes that a need for research exists. The committee holds, also, that there appears to be little danger in practice that discoveries arising in one part of the industrial field, as the by-product of research there carried on, will be wasted through lack of knowledge of them in the industries to which they are chiefly of interest.

The committee considers that the question of the extent to which facilities should be provided for large-scale tests, or for what is sometimes called "development research," is not one that can be settled in general terms, and that so far as organization is concerned, the requirements of development research seem to be adequately provided for by the machinery of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and provide no useful scope for the creation of a new organization.

SCIENTIFIC WORK IN CHINA

THREE years ago there was organized in the Little Gorges, near Chungking of Szechuan province, an Academy of Science of Western China. This institute is supported primarily by private contributions. It has now an annual budget of \$40,000 Mex. for research and survey work in geology and biology. With the help of Dr. H. H. Hu, director of Fan Memorial Institute of Biology at Peiping, a herbarium and a botanical garden has been established by the academy, with a view to exploring all parts of the province and eastern Tibet and to collecting seeds, cuttings, bulbs, etc., for planting in the botanical garden. It is planned to establish in the garden a nursery where seeds and bulbs will be provided for sale or exchange. For instance, the collector was instructed to collect seeds of *Rehderodendron*, a new genus of three species of ornamental trees of *Styracaceae*, recently described by Dr. Hu. Seeds of other interesting and ornamental plants will be assiduously collected. The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University will be the first in the United States to share a part of this collection. This year two parties have been sent out by the arboretum to collect herbarium specimens and seeds, one to eastern, another to southwestern, Szechuan.