

and certain minor aberrations. The photographs show the helium atom as a diffusely continuous region filled with electricity. In neon, the inner group of K electrons is clearly distinguishable from the L electron group. The resolving power is insufficient to distinguish the K and L groups of electrons in argon, but does separate these

from the M electrons. The appearance of these atoms is in good accord with modern quantum theory of atomic structure. These experiments afford probably the most direct information now available regarding the way in which electrons are distributed in atoms.

(To be concluded)

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF SCIENTIFIC WORKERS¹

THE annual report of the Executive Committee of the Association of Scientific Workers presented to the council on February 24 refers to the formation of a National Parliamentary Science Committee as an outcome of negotiations with the British Science Guild as the outstanding special work of the year. The support of twelve leading institutions has been obtained, and the committee includes Sir James Henderson, Professor Miles Walker, Professor Blackman, with Commander Bernacchi as chairman, and Mr. A. Howard and Mr. H. J. W. Stone as joint honorary secretaries. In consequence, the Parliamentary Committee of the British Science Guild and of the Association have been disbanded. The compilation of a "Handbook of Extra-University Research in Pure and Applied Science," giving data concerning commercial, endowed and private research laboratories, has been completed and negotiations for publication are in progress. It is believed that the handbook will serve as an advertisement of British research activities and of the interest taken by British industrialists in maintaining the highest efficiency in factories. The book may become a standard work of reference alongside the "Universities Yearbook" and the "Year-Book of Scientific and Learned Societies."

The association has been active in combating the evil of bogus degrees and has been in negotiation with the universities to secure their support of successive bills introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Jessel to deal with this evil. The association collected a considerable amount of information regarding the granting of degrees by five different British "degree-mongers" but has so far been unable to induce the universities to withdraw their opposition at the third reading of the bills. The finance of the research associations has received attention and is being considered by a joint Committee of the Association and the British Science Guild. The production of "Science in Parliament" has continued and a memorandum has also been prepared on the relation of the unification of national transport, the construction of ship-canals across Britain, the reconstruction of derelict canals and land-

drainage. The report concludes by directing attention to the resolution passed that members should seek to assist towards a better adjustment between scientific advances and social progress.

THE U. S. BUREAU OF STANDARDS

At the recent meeting of the American Chemical Society, a resolution was passed urging increased financial support by the Federal Government for the U. S. Bureau of Standards. The resolution reads:

The establishment and maintenance of certain fundamental standards are vital to the advancement of the science of chemistry.

These standards have been established and maintained by the Bureau of Standards under the authority of Congress for many years, and new standards are developed by the bureau as need is found for them.

The bureau is performing its proper functions in an expanding national and international program. This work conforms to the original purpose for which the bureau was established, and has been done so well as to gain it national and international favor and reputation.

The American Chemical Society, an organization of 17,000 members practising their profession in the scientific, academic and industrial fields, believes this work to be of great scientific value, and necessary to practical advances in both pure and applied chemistry.

As a consequence of the retrenchment policy of the Federal Government, the continuance of these activities of the Bureau of Standards has been put in jeopardy.

The attention of proper committees and members of Congress is called to this critical situation with the request that, in making appropriations, provision be made for the necessary and adequate standardization and research activities of the Bureau of Standards, so that it may continue its valuable service to chemical science and industry.

A PALEONTOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTION AT ITHACA, N. Y.

DURING the past few decades considerable Neozoic material has been collected and brought to Ithaca, N. Y., for study by paleontological students. Bulletins of American paleontology have offered a ready means for publishing descriptions and illustrations of this new material. It relates largely to the Southern States, West Indies and South America with con-

¹ From *Nature*.