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SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY¹

By Sir WILLIAM BRAGG, O.M.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

THREE magnificent gifts have been made during the last few months for the furtherance of research in this country. In May it was announced that Lord Austin had placed a quarter of a million sterling at the disposal of the University of Cambridge to be devoted to the work of the Cavendish Laboratory. More recently still Lord Nuffield has presented to the University of Oxford a million and a quarter for postgraduate research in medical science. This afternoon the council of the Royal Society has accepted on behalf of the society a principal share in the responsibility for the administration of a sum of £200,000 bequeathed by the late Mr. H. B. Gordon Warren. The interest of this money is to be applied to the encouragement of research in metallurgy, engineering, physics and chemistry. The administering committee is to consist of eight members appointed by the society and two by the governors of Williams Deacon's

¹ From the Anniversary Address given at Burlington House on November 30.

These great gifts are naturally a source of deep satisfaction to the fellows of a society which was founded for the purpose of "improving natural knowledge." The givers are men who are or have been engaged in industry: which fact is itself a source of gratification. It is good to see that practical affairs are in accord with the realization of the vital importance of research.

Lord Nuffield's gift recognizes the value of research for the prevention and cure of disease. The obvious success which has already been attained in this way is sure ground for the expectation of further benefits commensurate with the magnitude of the new effort. Lord Austin's gift is for the promotion of investigations which are at the time devoted mainly to the abstruse problems of the atomic nucleus. The terms of Mr. Gordon Warren's bequest suggest a more immediate contact with industry.

Thus these benefactions differ widely in respect to their immediate purposes: but they all acknowledge the same principle, that the improvement of natural

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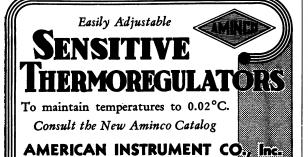
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