

since March, 1939, under the title "Britain To-day," containing generally an editorial and three articles written for the foreign reader on subjects which may be expected to be of interest to him. Reference is also made to the work of the council in regard to films, particularly the commission of documentary films on carefully chosen subjects dealing with British life and achievements and the commission or acquisition of films intended for educational purposes abroad or describing scientific or technical achievements which it is desired to make known abroad. An Advisory Scientific Committee has also been formed which it is intended should work in three or more panels, one under the chairmanship of Sir William Bragg dealing with pure science, a second under the chairmanship of Sir Edward Mellanby dealing with medicine and a third under the chairmanship of Sir William Larke dealing with engineering. Sir William Bragg is also chairman of the Advisory Scientific Committee as a whole.

Previously, the council's interest in scientific publicity was shown chiefly in cooperation with the British Medical Information Service, the dispatch of a number of scientific and learned periodicals and books abroad including a complete section of the South American Book Exhibition, the preparation of a Spanish hand-book of British industrial practice, in conjunction with the British Standards Institution, and the presentation of equipment to a hospital in Sana'a and to a bacteriological institute in Chile.

#### PREFERENCE RATING FOR RESEARCH SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

THE *Journal* of the American Medical Association writes that the great importance of scientific research to the defense program has just been recognized by granting a high defense priority rating to equipment needed by research laboratories. The Director of Priorities, E. R. Stettinius, Jr., signed an order which became effective on August 30 and remains effective until February 28, 1942, granting the priority rating of A-2 to such equipment. There are in the United States some two thousand research laboratories which use small quantities of about five thousand chemicals and require in their work twenty-five thousand different instruments.

Any laboratory having difficulty in securing essential materials for scientific research and wishing to qualify for the A-2 rating should apply to the Office of Production Management, Chemical Branch, Washington, D. C., on form PD-88. In its application the laboratory must state the type of service rendered or products manufactured. The Office of Production Management has entered into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences whereby the Division of Priorities will have the benefit of the advice of the

academy with respect to all applications received. When a laboratory files an application, it should state the number of copies of the order it desires so that it may apply the rating to deliveries to it by its suppliers if necessary and enable its suppliers in turn to apply the rating to deliveries to them by their sub-suppliers. Each order issued to a laboratory will bear a serial number assigned by the Division of Priorities.

If a laboratory is unable to obtain some essential material even with the A-2 rating, it should file an application with the Priorities Division on form PD-1; then, provided the research product is considered sufficiently important, the Priorities Division will issue an individual preference rating certificate, assigning a higher rating to a particular delivery of specified material. Further details concerning this matter may be obtained from the Priorities Division of the Office of Production Management.

#### THE NEW YORK AQUARIUM

THE New York City Aquarium at Battery Park will be closed at the beginning of October and most of its exhibits will be removed temporarily to the Zoological Park in the Bronx.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Estimate it was proposed to transfer \$21,775 from the aquarium budget to the budget of the New York Zoological Society, this sum to cover the cost of providing facilities in the park for some of the fish, aquatic birds, etc., now housed at the aquarium. Opposition to the proposed transfer of budget funds was voiced by George McAneny, spokesman for professional, historical and civic organizations. In common with other speakers opposing it, he feared that the first step was being taken toward ultimate demolition of the ancient landmark. Park Commissioner Moses, however, suggested its retention as a restored Fort Clinton, provided the city were able to appropriate the \$182,000 needed for such restoration. Kenneth Dayton, director of the budget, stated that the city would have no funds available for the construction of a building to replace the aquarium.

At this meeting representatives of the New York Zoological Society distributed copies of an architect's drawing showing a possible exhibit to be established at the Zoological Park to house some of the aquatic animals, such as penguins, now in the aquarium. The exact location of the proposed exhibit was not disclosed, but it was indicated that a site had been chosen at a central point in the park.

It is reported that plans are now under consideration for the ultimate establishment at Coney Island of a marine garden, similar to the one recently established in Florida. The plan calls for its construction through some form of authority that will charge an admission fee to support the enterprise.