DR. FRANK LAWRENCE COOPER, instructor in physics at Yale University, died on February 25 in his sixty-ninth year.

DR. HARRY FLETCHER BROWN, vice-president of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, who from 1904 to 1911 was director of the department for smokeless powder, died on February 28 in his seventy-seventh year.

PERLEY J. BUCHANAN, director of Process Development and Chemical Control of the American Agricultural Chemical Company, died on February 23 at the age of sixty years.

DR. JAMES BRODBECK, president and chairman of the board of the Society of Chemical Industry at Basle, Switzerland, died on February 26 at the age of sixty-one years.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY IN GREAT BRITAIN

RECOMMENDATIONS are made by the London Chamber of Commerce in a report on scientific and industrial research, which was adopted at a recent meeting. *The Times,* London, states that

The report was submitted by a special committee, appointed on June 8 last year, "to ascertain in what manner the chamber could assist in promoting research in industry." The chamber has reached the conclusion that in order to galvanize research in this country into full and fruitful activity there are three basic essentials: A centralized and planned direction, through a Central Research Board, a far greater stream of money flowing into research, and a larger, better trained, and better paid staff.

The report suggests that the proposed Central Board should act as a coordinating and directing body for all research organizations, and be the link between the Government and the research activities of the country at large. The need for better facilities for specific research on behalf of the small firm is held to be evident.

The Central Research Board should have the right to intervene and require research associations, in consideration of the public funds placed at their disposition, to undertake fundamental research in directions which it judges to be in the national interest, and to require greater activity on the part of associations, which, in its view, are proving unequal to their responsibilities. It should be the duty of the board to consider the effect on national trade and industry as a whole of discoveries of a fundamental nature, and to direct the use of those discoveries so that they may be of the maximum advantage to the nation.

Dealing with finance, the Chamber believes that the universities, as the bodies entrusted with the vital task of carrying on pure research, should maintain a far larger staff than at present of graduates and of skilled laboratory technicians. It is recommended that the number of research fellowships at the universities should be substantially increased.

The Chamber strongly supports the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee in its recommendation that a sum of £10,000,000 should be spent over the first five post-war years in equipping and enlarging university laboratories, and that the program, estimated before the war to cost £12,000,000, to increase the provision of technical and art colleges and to expand and bring up-to-date those already in existence, should be carried out.

EXHIBIT OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE U.S.S.R. AT THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

AN exhibition portraying the history and activities during the last twenty-five years of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences has been placed on display in the Library of Congress.

Founded by Peter the Great in 1724, the academy to-day consists of approximately 136 academicians, more than 30 honorary academicians, about 224 corresponding members and over 5,000 scientific and technical assistants. Sixteen American scientific workers are now honorary or corresponding members of the academy. The portraits of some of the more prominent academicians have been included in the exhibition through the cooperation of the Embassy of the U.S.S.R. Representative volumes of the more important works by members of the academy have been selected for display from the extensive collection of Russian materials in the Library of Congress, probably the richest to be found in any library in the Western Hemisphere.

The organization of the academy groups its activities in eight departments, to each of which a section of the exhibit is devoted: the departments of physico-mathematical, chemical, geology-geographical, biological and technical sciences; history and philosophy, economy and law, and language and literature. Under these eight departments, the academy maintains 76 institutions, 11 laboratories, 47 stations, 6 observatories and 24 museums. There are also eight branches of the Academy of Sciences throughout the Soviet Union, under the supervision of which are 39 institutes, 28 stations, 3 astronomical observatories, 8 botanical gardens, 3 sanctuaries and 17 other scientific research establishments. The exhibit includes publications issued by each of the departments of the academy and some of its branches.

The peace-time work of the academy was suddenly interrupted on June 22, 1941, when Germany invaded Russia. From the very beginning of the invasion,

the academy readjusted its activities to place its resources fully behind the war effort. Even while Moscow was under heavy German attack, the publication of journals and texts was continued. Books printed while the city was under Nazi bombardment are among those shown in the display.

Under the direction of the academy, chemists have pioneered in manufacturing synthetic rubber, in photochemistry, in developing winter lubrications for tanks and planes, in producing new explosives and in extending the uses of helium. Soviet geologists have turned their energies to the problem of supplementing the stock of raw materials required by the Russian war machine, and agronomists have increased the productivity of agriculture. Physiologists and physicians have won international fame for their treatment of shock, tetanus, gangrene and other war maladies, and dietitians have found new nutritive substances, as well as new sources of vitamins, which have been used to help to solve the food problems resulting from the war. Technologists have also scored notable successes in finding substitutes for scarce materials, in simplifying technological processes and perfecting the organization of war industries. Most of these activities are represented in one way or another by publications on display.

Exhibited items of particular interest include the first book published by the academy in 1728 at St. Petersburg, the "Commentarii academiae scientiarum imperialis petropolitanae," pictures of the first building of the academy in Leningrad, its present home in Moscow, to which it moved in 1934, and the architect's drawing of its proposed new building; numerous publications of various scientific establishments attached to the general assembly and current periodicals concerning the academy as a whole. It is interesting to note that, while the publications are published mainly in Russian, a number have been published in English as well, while others have titles and summaries in English. M. V. Lomonosov (1711–1765), whose portrait appears in the historical section of the exhibit, is described as "probably the most interesting figure in the whole existence of the academy."

AWARDS OF THE BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

IT is reported in *Nature* that the Council of the Geological Society has announced the following awards:

The Wollaston Medal to Professor V. M. Goldschmidt, professor of geology, Frederiks University and Museum, Oslo, for his outstanding contributions to Norwegian petrology, and his fundamental researches into the structure of crystals and the distribution of the chemical elements in the earth.

The Murchison Medal to Professor V. C. Illing, of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, for his talented contribution to oil geology and Palaeozoic stratigraphy.

The Lyell Medal to Dr. N. R. Junner, of the Geological Survey of the Gold Coast and Sierra Leone, for his contributions to the stratigraphy of the Pre-Cambrian and his discoveries of valuable minerals associated therewith.

The Wollaston Fund to A. G. Brighton, curator of the Sedgwick Museum, Cambridge, for his services to paleontology and his researches on the echinoderms.

The Murchison Fund to G. M. Stockley, of the Geological Survey, Tanganyika Territory, for his work on the stratigraphy, paleontology and mineral resources of East Africa.

The Lyell Fund, one moiety to Dr. S. Buchan, of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, for his work on underground water resources of the London area, another moiety to E. W. J. Moore, of Haslingden, for his researches on carboniferous goniatites.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES BENEDICT DAVENPORT

THE Executive Committee of the board of directors of the Long Island Biological Association, at its meeting on February 28, 1944, passed the following resolution:

Be it resolved, That the directors of the Long Island Biological Association record with a sense of irreparable loss the death, on February 18, 1944, of Dr. Charles Benedict Davenport.

Among the foremost of American men of science, Dr. Davenport was for forty years a resident of Cold Spring Harbor. From 1898 until 1923, he served as director of the Biological Laboratory, and from 1904 until 1934 as director also of our neighbor organization, the Department of Genetics of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. To a greater extent than any other individual, he was, indeed, the founder of both these institutions.

Retirement from executive responsibility brought no slackening in the interest and labor of Dr. Davenport for the cause of the Biological Laboratory. Throughout periods of discouraging outlook, of disappointment and deep personal sorrow, no less than during the happier years, he held faith in the importance and assured success of our common aim. As Secretary of the Board from 1923 until his seventy-eighth year, Dr. Davenport maintained his health and enviable vigor, his sound judgment, foresight, complete self-effacement. Among all his fellow-workers and neighbors his memory will stand no less for high attainment than for an abiding example of integrity, helpfulness and warmth of heart.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of Dr. Davenport's family.

The Executive Committee decided also to ask the members of the association, as well as friends and colleagues of Dr. Davenport, for contributions to a Charles Benedict Davenport Memorial Fund, the interest of which will be used for aiding scientific research in the biological field.