

to apply it mainly to the extension of experimental research.

Shortly after information as to the legacy had been received, the freehold of 19 Albemarle Street, immediately adjoining the Davy Faraday Research Laboratory and the rest of the institution's buildings, came into the market. With the double object of investing Mr. Brown's legacy and providing for future extensions of the premises, it was resolved to purchase the property. The purchase has now been completed. For the present the institution will use the top two floors of the new house for storage of books and apparatus, releasing valuable accommodation elsewhere for other purposes. It is proposed to let the lower floors, and to devote any income obtained to research purposes. Eventually, as the research activities are enlarged, it may prove necessary to occupy a larger part of the house.

Nature states that it was noticed last April that a sinking had occurred of the ceiling of the library on the first floor at the Royal Institution, and of the floor of Sir William Bragg's rooms immediately above. The ceiling, which was old and of timber construction, was found to be defective. It was temporarily propped, and at the end of the lecture season a thorough examination was made. An astonishing state of disrepair was discovered. Not only was the heavy timber ceiling defective, but also the brick walls upon which it was supported were cracked and broken in all directions. The examination was carried down to the rooms on the ground floor and here a similar state of affairs was revealed. When in 1799 the Royal Institution was founded, a large town house was purchased and considerably altered to suit its new purpose. Further alterations have been made at intervals. Vulliamy added the Corinthian column front in 1837. In 1930 a large part of the building, including the lecture theater, was completely reconstructed, but the library and rooms below it were left untouched. These it has now proved necessary to rebuild.

The reconstruction is now in progress. The defective brickwork of the walls is being replaced, including that of the front wall, which is being worked at from the inside, so that the elevation of Albemarle Street will remain untouched. New fire-resisting floors are to be supported on a steel structure, which is being erected within the walls. The steel work, the foundations for which are being carried to basement level, will also serve to strengthen the rebuilt walls. When completed, the rooms on the first and second floors will appear much as they were before, but advantage is being taken of the alterations to construct a large new research laboratory in the basement. The work is expected to be completed in April, and it is understood that it will cost about £12,000.

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE PHYTO-PATHOLOGISTS OF BRAZIL

THE result of preliminary conversations during several years, and of the activity of an organizing committee, consisting of H. S. V. Grillo, chief of the Section of Plant Pathology of the Instituto de Biologia Vegetal of the Ministry of Agriculture; A. S. Müller, professor of plant pathology of the Escola Superior de Agricultura do Estado de Minas Geraes, and N. Azevedo, of the same institute, the first reunion of phytopathologists of Brazil was held in Rio de Janeiro from January 20 to 25, 1936.

The inaugural session was presided over by the Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Odilon Braga, who installed as president of the reunion Dr. A. A. Bitancourt, sub-director of the Instituto Biologico de São Paulo, elected in preparatory session by the members of the reunion.

The daily program of the meeting consisted in excursions at 9:00, special sessions at 3:00 and general sessions opened to the public at 5:00, held in the library of the historical Jardim Botânico of Rio.

Papers were presented on the history of phytopathology in Brazil, the need for the development of phytopathology in Brazil, the teaching of phytopathology in Brazil, the organization of plant protection in various countries, fungus flora in Brazil, quarantines, spraying machinery, as well as various papers on fungicides, specific plant disease problems and related subjects.

Through the cooperation of Dr. J. Campos Porto, director of the Instituto de Biologia Vegetal do Rio, a special number of the official journal of the institute, *Rodriguesia*, will be dedicated to the proceedings of the meetings, and will contain the titles and abstracts of these papers or entire papers when short.

A special committee was selected to serve during the year 1936, for the study of the projects and suggestions which appeared, relative to phytopathological nomenclature, plant disease surveys, plant protection legislation, future meetings and the formation of a society. The members are A. A. Bitancourt, H. S. V. Grillo, A. S. Müller, H. P. Krug and N. Fagundes.

A social gathering was held one afternoon at the home of the director of the institute, within the Botanical Gardens, in the form of a tea, offered by the Minister of Agriculture.

ALBERT S. MÜLLER,
Acting Secretary

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE ON UNEMPLOYMENT AND RELIEF FOR CHEMISTS AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

THE Committee on Unemployment and Relief for Chemists and Chemical Engineers, also known as Chem-