THE ROYAL SOCIETY EMPIRE SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE

The Conference was formally opened by His Majesty The King, accompanied by Her Majesty The Queen, at 11 a.m. on Monday, 17 June 1946. The opening ceremony took place in the Senate House of the University of London, which had been kindly lent by the Senate for the occasion. The opening ceremony was followed by lunch, and after lunch the Conference held its first session —‘the United Kingdom contribution on general scientific organisation.’ The High Commissioner for India gave a reception at India House in honour of the Indian delegates.

‘The general scientific organization in Canada, New Zealand and the Colonial Empire’ was the subject of the morning session on Tuesday, 18 June. The Parliamentary and Scientific Committee gave a tea at the House of Commons. The Rt Hon. Sir John Anderson received the guests. The Australian film ‘Science in Australia’ was shown to the delegates at the Royal Society on the same evening.

On Wednesday, 19 June, the morning session was concerned with ‘the general scientific organization in Australia, South Africa and India.’ The delegates had lunch at Burlington House and immediately after left for a visit to the National Physical Laboratory where there was a reception. The delegates were entertained to tea after having been shown round the Laboratory. The Rt Hon. Viscount Addison, Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, received the guests at the cocktail party which the Government gave in Lancaster House.

Thursday, 20 June, opened with a discussion on ‘methods of improving interchange of scientists, and the future of scientific liaison offices.’ In the afternoon the delegates attended an ordinary meeting of the Royal Society in the course of which they heard the Royal Society Ferrier Lecture.

The morning discussion on Friday, 21 June, was on ‘the post-war needs of fundamental research.’ Delegates who are chemists were
entertained to lunch by the Chemical Society and the delegations from India and Burma were entertained to lunch by the Burmah Oil Company. In the afternoon a reception in honour of the delegates was held by the English Speaking Union; Lord and Lady Wakehurst received the guests. Tea was served later. Delegates who are members of professional Chemical Institutes in the Dominions were entertained to dinner by the Royal Institute of Chemistry.

The subject of the morning session of Saturday, 22 June, was 'the natural products of the Empire and chemical industries that are or might be based on them.'

In the afternoon delegates travelled to Cambridge and heard an interesting talk on 'Cambridge and its history' during the evening.

On Monday, 24 June, two sessions were held simultaneously. One on 'the problems of agriculture' and the other on 'the need for a coordinated survey of the mineral resources of the Empire.' In the afternoon the departments open for visits by the delegates were the Cavendish Laboratory, the Biochemistry Laboratory, the Molteno Institute (Cellular Physiology) and the Low Temperature Research Station.

The ceremony of the conferment of Honorary Degrees on five of the delegates took place in the afternoon. The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge (Mr H. Thirkell) conferred the degrees and later entertained all the delegates at a sherry party in Clare College.

In the evening informal discussions took place on a number of subjects including, 'blood groups,' 'geophysics in South Africa' and 'the role of minor elements in nutrition of plants and animals.'

On Tuesday, 25 June, two discussions took place simultaneously during the morning. One on 'greater uniformity in standards of measurement' and the other on the 'collection of scientific records and material and risks involved in the distribution of plants, seeds and animals.' In the afternoon visits were made by various parties to the University Farm, the Plant Breeding, Potato Virus, Horticultural Research Station, Empire Potato Collection, Animal Research Station, Department of Mineralogy, Department of Geology and the Department of Engineering.

Informal discussions in the evening included 'cosmic rays,' 'soil
physics,’ ‘physical properties of viruses’ and the ‘Pentoxyleae—a new group of Jurassic Gymnosperms from the Rajmahal Hills, Behar.’

Wednesday, 26 June started with an excursion to Ely. The Dean of Ely (The Very Rev. Lionel Blackburne) welcomed the delegates and conducted them round the Cathedral. A garden party was given in the afternoon by St John’s College. Unfortunately the weather was not good on that day and the party was held in the Hall. The Master of St John’s (Mr E. A. Benians) received the guests.

The evening’s informal discussions included ‘the role of the village pond in the rural economy of India,’ ‘generation of high energy particles,’ ‘extra-terrestrial radio waves’ and ‘problems of antarctic research.’

The subject of the discussion in the morning of Thursday, 27 June, was ‘scientific information services.’ Visits were made in the afternoon to Pest Control Ltd., Unit of Animal Physiology, Department of Physiology, Pye Radio Ltd., Chemical Laboratory, Laboratory of Physical Chemistry, Laboratory of Colloid Sciences, Department of Pathology, Department of Experimental Medicine and Department of Medicine. The subjects of the evening’s informal discussions included ‘oceanic geology,’ ‘the use of tracer elements and arrangements for their supply’ and ‘constitution in cattle and its relation to pests and diseases.’

The morning discussion on Friday, 28 June, was on the subject of ‘the etiology and control of infectious and transmissible diseases.’ In the afternoon visits were made to the Cambridge Instrument Company, Department of Zoology, Department of Botany, Department of Agriculture, Nutritional Laboratory and Animal Pathology Laboratory. In the evening the Mayor of Cambridge (Lady Bragg) held a Civic Reception at the Guildhall in honour of the delegates.

During the stay of the Conference in Cambridge the following establishments were open to visits by delegates: Cambridge University Press, Strangeways Research Laboratory, Department of Metallurgy—Chemical Laboratory, Department of Mathematics, Department of Geography, the Scott Polar Institute, Laboratory of the Physics and Chemistry of rubbing solids, Department of Geophysics and Geodesy, Observatory and Solar Physics, Entomological Field Station, Depart-
ment of Genetics, Botany School Field Station, Radiotherapeutics Laboratory, Department of Anatomy, Department of Physiology and the Department of Psychology.

The delegates were housed in groups of varying numbers in the following Colleges: Christ's, Emmanuel, Gonville and Caius, King's, Magdalene, Pembroke, St John's, Selwyn, Trinity and Trinity Hall.

The Conference Centre was at the Arts School which had been kindly lent for the purpose. This contained a lecture room for the discussions, a reading room for the delegates, an information bureau, post office and telephone facilities, and offices. An additional lecture room was available at the Cavendish Laboratory and was used on several occasions.

On Saturday morning, 29 June, the delegates left Cambridge for Oxford. On arrival the President of Magdalen College (Sir Henry Tizard) gave a short introductory talk. A garden party for the delegates was given at Wadham College later in the afternoon. In the evening the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford (Sir Richard Livingstone) welcomed the delegates at a reception given in Rhodes House.

On Sunday, 30 June, many of the delegates went on an all-day excursion of the country round Oxford and had tea at Blenheim Palace.

Monday, 1 July, opened with two simultaneous discussions, one on 'problems of medical science, including a discussion of the physiological and psychological factors affecting human life under tropical conditions and in industry' and the other on 'modern methods of mapping and exploration by air, including use of radio technique.'

In the early afternoon Honorary Degrees were conferred on four of the delegates at the Sheldonian Theatre. Visits were made to the following: Clarendon Laboratory, where an informal discussion on atomic energy took place, Department of Agriculture with an excursion to Wilcot, and the Wingfield-Morris Orthopaedic Hospital at Headington. A cocktail party was given by the Nuffield Foundation at Christ Church at which Lord Nuffield and Sir William Goodenough received the guests. The subjects of the informal evening
discussions included, 'recent advances in chemotherapy,' 'long-range weather forecasting' and 'economic ornithology and bird population problems.'

The morning discussion on Tuesday, 2 July, was on 'co-ordination of scientific work within Africa.'

The afternoon visits included a trip to Benson and Nuneham to see the Air Survey, 106 Group, R.A.F., the Department of Botany and the Botanic Garden and the Nuffield Institute for Medical Research (cineradiography). The evening's informal discussions included: 'recent advances in pharmacology,' 'present position in cosmology' and 'collaborative research in anthropology.'

The morning discussion on Wednesday, 3 July, was on the subject of 'nutrition.' The afternoon visits included the Clarendon Laboratory (meteorology of the upper atmosphere), Department of Forestry and Imperial Forestry Institute at the School of Forestry, and the Institute of Social Medicine.

The Mayor of Oxford (Mr David Oliver) received the delegates at the Town Hall in the afternoon and entertained the guests to tea. In the evening informal discussions took place on 'recent developments and applications of infra-red work in chemistry and physics' and 'hormones.'

On Thursday, 4 July, a party of delegates paid an all-day visit to the Telecommunications Research Establishment at Great Malvern. The morning discussion was on 'land utilization and conservation.' In the afternoon delegates attended a lecture on penicillin at the Pathology Laboratory. Later visits were paid by various parties of delegates to the Physical Chemistry Laboratory, Biochemistry Laboratory, Pharmacology Laboratory, Zoological Laboratory, Physiological Laboratory and Clarendon Laboratory (physics). In the evening the delegates attended a reception at Magdalen College. The President of Magdalen (Sir Henry Tizard) received the guests.

While in Oxford delegates were housed in the following Colleges: Balliol, Brasenose, Christ Church, Corpus Christi, Exeter, Hertford, Lincoln, Magdalen, Merton, New College, Queen's, St John's, Trinity, University, Wadham and Worcester. The reading room for delegates and information bureau were at Rhodes House, in some of
the reception rooms kindly lent for the purpose. Post office and telephone facilities were again provided. The morning discussions took place in the Biochemistry and Physical Chemistry lecture rooms. Office accommodation was provided at Keeble College.

The Conference returned to London on Friday, 5 July.

The morning discussion on Saturday, 6 July, was on the subject of 'co-operation in the scientific field.' An afternoon reception was held in honour of the delegates by the Society for Visiting Scientists and tea was served. In the evening the Federation of British Industries gave a cocktail party at Claridge's Hotel.

On Sunday afternoon, 7 July, delegates went on a cruise through the Port of London. The trip on the Port's S.Y. *St Katharine* was made possible through the kindness of the Chairman, Sir John Anderson, and members of the Port of London Authority.

The final session of the Conference was held on the morning of Monday, 8 July, at University College. The delegates were entertained to lunch at University College by the Provost (Dr D. R. Pye). Scientific Departments of the College were open to delegates during the afternoon. A discussion, arranged jointly with the British Association, on 'the dissemination of scientific information to the general public' took place in the afternoon at the Royal Institution. Later a reception was held at the Royal Institution with demonstrations illustrating the history of researches carried out in the Institution and its Davy Faraday Laboratories.

A detailed account of the proceedings of the Conference will form the subject of a special volume.