

News and Views

Medal Awards of the Royal Society

THE following is a list of those to whom the Royal Society has this year awarded medals. The awards of the Royal medals have received the King's gracious approval: *Copley Medal* to Prof. J. S. Haldane in recognition of his discoveries in human physiology and of their application to medicine, mining, diving and engineering; *Rumford Medal* to Prof. W. J. de Haas for his researches on the properties of bodies at low temperatures, and, in particular, for his recent work on cooling by the use of adiabatic demagnetisation; *A Royal Medal* to Prof. S. Chapman for his researches in kinetic theory of gases, in terrestrial magnetism and in the phenomena of the upper atmosphere; *A Royal Medal* to Prof. E. D. Adrian for his work on the physiology of nerve and its application to the problems of sensation; *Davy Medal* to Prof. W. N. Haworth for his researches on the molecular structure of carbohydrates; *Darwin Medal* to Prof. A. C. Seward in recognition of his work as a palaeobotanist; *Sylvester Medal* to Earl Russell for his distinguished work on the foundations of mathematics; *Hughes Medal* to Prof. K. M. G. Siegbahn in recognition of his work as a physicist and technician on long-wave X-rays.

Council of the Royal Society

THE following names have been put forward for election as officers and council of the Royal Society for the ensuing year: *President*, Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins; *Treasurer*, Sir Henry Lyons; *Secretaries*, Sir Henry Dale and Sir Frank Smith; *Foreign Secretary*, Prof. A. C. Seward; *Other Members of Council*: Prof. E. D. Adrian, Dr. E. J. Butler, Dr. W. T. Calman, Mr. D. L. Chapman, Prof. A. W. Conway, Prof. W. H. Eccles, Prof. T. R. Elliott, Mr. P. P. Laidlaw, Sir Gerald Lennox-Conyngham, Prof. J. C. McLennan, Dr. F. H. A. Marshall, Sir Charles Martin, Prof. G. T. Morgan, Prof. R. Robison, Dr. Herbert H. Thomas, Prof. E. T. Whittaker.

A. P. Borodin (1834-77)

ALEXANDER PORFIREVIČ BORODIN, the distinguished Russian chemist who was born on November 12, 1834, was the natural son of Prince Guedeanov. At an early age he was attracted to music and is better known as a composer than as a man of science. He studied chemistry under Zinin at St. Petersburg (Leningrad), graduating in medicine in 1858. He had a brief career as an army doctor, and after being appointed as professor of chemistry, was sent abroad with Mendeléeff and others to study under Bunsen, Kekulé and Erlenmeyer in Germany and under Wurtz at Paris. Borodin also went to Italy with Mendeléeff and studied at Pisa. Before returning to St. Petersburg in 1862, to take up his duties as professor, he commenced a series of investigations on the condensation reactions of aldehydes and discovered aldol simultaneously with Wurtz. He prepared and studied numerous double inorganic

fluorides and a few organic fluorides. Altogether Borodin published about twenty chemical papers, the last few dealing with the higher fatty acids. His leisure was mostly given to music and his musical friends (his wife, Katerina Sergeievna Protopova, was a pianist), but he found time to urge the claims of Russian women regarding education, and from 1872 he gave free lectures in chemistry for the St. Petersburg Women's Medical School, of which he was one of the founders. He died on February 16, 1877.

Sir Alfred Gilbert, R.A.

IN connexion with the death of Sir Alfred Gilbert, the sculptor, which occurred on November 4, at the age of eighty years, it is interesting to note that originally he contemplated adopting the medical profession as a career; early changed, however, for that of a sculptor. St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School recalls, with legitimate pride, that among medals attached to the foundation, one, instituted in 1897, was in honour of Sir William Lawrence (a colleague in his day of Abernethy), surgeon at St. Bartholomew's from 1824 until 1865, and president of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1846 and in 1855. The medal was designed and executed by Gilbert. Cast in gold and chased, and 2½ in. in diameter, it was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1897, together with an enlargement in plaster of Paris. The gift is awarded annually in association with a valued senior studentship in medicine and surgery. The obverse depicts the head of Lawrence, not in profile, but within a sculptured circle, looking directly towards the spectator, an unusual medallion presentation. The reverse carries a beautiful composite design, also within a sculptured border; a youth in the centre has two draped females on either side personifying Wisdom and Science, and they whisper words of counsel, embodying a line from Homer. Sir William Lawrence, who was born in 1783 and died in 1867, is thus worthily commemorated through the art of Gilbert.

Research and Development Lectures

IN 1933 the British Science Guild established the Research and Development Lectures, with the special object of directing public attention to the importance of scientific research and of the utilisation of its results in the service of mankind. The first lecture of the series was given in May 1933 by Sir Harold Carpenter, on "Metals in the Service of Human Life and Industry". Early in 1934 the suggestion was made by Lord Melchett, president of the Guild, that the lectures should be given in the theatre of the Royal Institution, in which special equipment and facilities exist for the experiments and demonstrations it was desired to have. The proposal was accepted by the managers of the Royal Institution and arrangements were made by which the British Science Guild had the use of the lecture theatre on two occasions in May. On