and severe handicaps: their heroic and sincere attempts to serve the scientific workers during the war years will be gratefully acknowledged.

The present appears to offer a propitious moment for launching upon a five-year plan for the development of this industry and in accomplishing this task all the four agencies should participate and co-operate; the Government by extending their financial support and offering tariff protection, the scientists by placing their experience at the disposal of the industry and through research, the industrialists by encouraging the instrumentation of their industrial equipment and processes and the trade by organising the manufacture of instruments in their own workshops.

The universities and the research institutes can play an extremely inspiring and constructive role in contributing to the development of the industry; they can inaugurate courses in applied physics with special reference to scientific instruments and industrial instrumentation; they can initiate research on fundamental and applied aspects of scientific instruments. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has already financed quite a few schemes which have a direct bearing on the manufacture of scientific instruments. The National Physical Laboratory will, we have no doubt, include a section for the study of scientific instruments. Polytechnic Institutes which are expected to come into being in the next few years, might appropriately offer facilities for training in precision mechanics, instrument design and instrument making; these institutes should be able to provide a continuous flow of competent technical personnel for the instrument industry. The immediate needs of the industry with respect to precision mechanics could, however, be met by a selection from among the “Bevin Boys”, and the hundreds of skilled personnel trained in the Ordnance Factories, Munition Workshops and the Hindustan Aircraft Factory. The skilled labour which has been developed during these war years should not be allowed to languish and the scientific instrument industry and the fabrication of chemical plant, if started, could absorb almost the entire quantity of skilled labour now threatened with retrenchment.

With a view to speed up the progress of the industry, it may be advisable to entertain, for short periods, the services of a few top-ranking specialists experienced in this line, who would undertake to train some of our young men during the period of their contract. Large number of such experts from Germany have gone to Britain and America and it is reported that several hundreds of them have been ‘removed’ by the Russians. A few may still be available in Germany and other parts of the war-devastated Europe; they would eagerly accept an invitation from this country with gratitude and undertake to assist us in developing this industry. The task of choosing these experts may well be entrusted to a Technical Mission which should be deputed to England, America and Germany, who should also be entrusted with the task of studying the industry in all its bearings, and of securing the necessary capital equipment. The Technical Mission should be composed of the instrument-minded and active scientists, creative engineers and shrewd businessmen connected with the instrument trade.

In an editorial on the Scientific Equipment Industry, the Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research (1944, 2, 75) entered a strong plea for a pooling of the experience acquired by the scientific workers; it was suggested that the information thus made available should be edited and published and a five-year plan drawn up for making the country self-sufficient with respect to the scientific instruments and laboratory chemicals. We earnestly hope that our leading men of science will take up this task immediately and secure the generous support of the Government for establishing this key industry on a broad and enduring foundation.

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**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**J. J. CHINOY MEMORIAL MEDAL**

The following six eminent scientists working in the field of plant physiology have been awarded the J.J. Chinoy Memorial Medal: Dr. G. S. Sirohi, Division of Plant Physiology, IARI, New Delhi; Prof. S. C. Maheswari, Department of Botany, Delhi University; Prof. V. S. Ramdas, School of Life Sciences, S. V. University, Tirupati; Prof. S. P. Sen, Department of Botany, University of Kalyani, Kalyani; Dr. K. S. Krishna Sastry, Department of Crop Physiology, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore; and Dr. G. V. Joshi, Department of Botany, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.