Associate membership examinations were held for 538 candidates and, in English only, for 193 holders of National Certificates in electrical engineering. Arrangements have been made with the British Red Cross Society for prisoners of war in Germany to sit for the associate membership examination in prison camps. 1,065 national certificates and diplomas in electrical engineering were awarded during the year.

297 books and pamphlets have been added to the Institution's reference library and 58 new volumes to the lending library. Subdivision of the *Journal* came into effect in January 1941, Part I being distributed free to members; more than 6,000 members subscribed for Part II and some 4,000 for Part III. *Science Abstracts* continue to be published monthly in two sections, Section 'A', dealing with physics, and Section 'B', with electrical engineering. The universal decimal classification has now been adopted in both sections, as from January 1942. 1,045 copies are issued each month to members and 6,720 copies per month to others.

FOLK-LORE OF VENEREAL DISEASE

IN a recent article (*Brit. J. Ven. Dis.*, 18, 1; 1942) Dr. J. D. Rolleston attributes the scarcity of the folk-lore literature on venereal disease partly to the fact that most medical practitioners know little and care less about folk-lore, and partly to the fact that folk-lorists are rarely medical practitioners and shrink from dealing with what they regard as an unsavoury and repulsive subject. No mention of venereal disease, for example, is to be found in W. G. Black's "Folk-Medicine" (1883) or Sir James Frazer's "Golden Bough" (3rd ed., 1927-36), the two principal works by lay writers, in which much valuable medical folk-lore is to be found, while of the two chief works in Great Britain by medical authors, namely, Pettigrew's "Superstitions Connected with the History and Practice of Medicine and Surgery", published in 1844 or two years before the term 'folk-lore' was invented by William John Thoms, does not mention venereal disease at all, and the comparatively recent work by Dan McKenzie on "The Infancy of Medicine" (1927) has only two brief references to the subject.

The only important treatise on medical folk-lore in which the subject of venereal disease is adequately discussed appears to be that of O. V. Hovorka and A. Kronfeld (1908-9) entitled "Vergleichende Volksmedizin". Owing to the comparatively recent establishment of their autonomy, there does not seem to be any folk-lore connected with chancroid or the fourth, fifth and sixth venereal diseases, so that Dr. Rolleston's paper deals only with syphilis and gonorrhoea.

As regards nomenclature, the term 'syphilis', which was introduced by Fracastoro in 1521, did not at first receive general recognition and during the whole of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries only about half a dozen writers employed it. Although, however, no scientific term was given to the disease, on its first appearance in Europe a host of new names was introduced by the laity, the commonest being those indicating that the malady had originated in France. Popular theories as to its origin included the views that the disease had a divine source, being a punishment for unchastity, that it was due to intercourse between a man and an animal or that it was caused by intercourse with a woman who was menstruating or had a vaginal discharge of any kind.

Belief in a cure of a disease by transfer of it to another person or animal is a well-recognized tenet of medical folk-lore, but whereas in the case of other complaints such as epilepsy, whooping cough, warts, boils, pulmonary tuberculosis and the acute exanthemata, the transfer is purely imaginary, in venereal disease, especially gonorrhoea, it only too frequently actually takes place without, of course, having any curative effect. The person to whom the disease is transferred is preferably a young virgin of either sex, much less frequently an adult. This superstition, which dates back for several centuries, is world-wide. Other folk-lore methods of treatment for venereal disease include animal and plant remedies and miscellaneous cures which in the case of syphilis include sweating and fumigation, and local application of drugs or other substances. In the case of syphilis but not of gonorrhoea, several patron saints may be invoked, while in gonorrhoea but not in syphilis coprotherapy is sometimes employed.

COLLECTIVE FARMING IN RUSSIA AND THE UKRAINE

SIR JOHN RUSSELL has made a study of Russian agriculture, and, through his visits to that country from time to time, has been able to observe trends in agricultural policy, and the results of the State and of collective farms. He discussed his observations in a lecture recently delivered at the Royal Institution.

It was impossible to arrive at once at the most desirable system of land utilization, this being influenced by progress in farming methods, particularly as regards mechanization, and the effect of this on the growth of the workers' interest in the State or collective unit, as opposed to his own personal stake in the land. The application of modern machinery to tillage, and of methods of livestock improvement and disease control to herds and flocks are more suited to large than to small units, and it is probable that success in these directions influenced the workers' views as to the extent to which they were prepared to identify their own interests with that of the large unit in which they are employed.

After the Revolution, State farms were developed, but the peasants, who expected nothing less than individual ownership of the land that they tilled, were not then sufficiently mature, either politically or technically, to make a success of this form of organization. Instead of the State farm, the collective farm figured more and more prominently in the development of Soviet land policy. Thus, by 1939, the area occupied by collective farms was more than eleven times that of State farms.

Collectivization is based on the principle that an entire village, with its land, is run by the inhabitants as one farm, boundaries being obliterated, and the whole area divided into a few fields, the number depending on the rotation. All possessions are pooled, and the workers share the produce remaining after paying out the Government share, and meeting other obligations. Collectivization at first met with great opposition, particularly owing to the compulsory pooling of all livestock; peasants who, by years of hard work and economy, had got together a cow and a few pigs, found it difficult to have to restart from the same level as those who had never made any sacrifice to provide their families with

livestock necessary to maintain them in milk, butter, and other produce. For this reason, collectivization at first resulted in a heavy decrease in the numbers of livestock. The opposition to collectivization decreased when the benefits of the tractor in large-scale farming were realized, and, later, by the action of the State in securing the land to the collective farm for ever, and in giving to each householder a small plot of land, a cow, one or two pigs and poultry. The peasant of the collective farm is allowed to sell the produce of his plot and of his stock. A worker's time is shared between the collective farm and his own plot, and, in the same way, his income is derived from those two sources.

Sir John gave some data showing the proportion of workers' time spent on the collective farms, the proportion of his total income derived from that source, and the influence of efficiency in the management of the collective on the proportion of his total earnings derived from it. It has become necessary, in some instances, to enforce a minimum of two hundred working days per annum on the collective farm, in order to prevent the peasant from devoting too much of his time to his own plot and stock.

The most important feature of the new system, however, is that production is planned, each farm being told what, and how much, to grow for a period of five years. Requirements are allocated to the different districts, and each farm in the district is allotted its area for the various crops, and told what quantities of animal products are expected of it.

Great efforts are made to utilize science. Thus, extensive soil surveys are carried out, and made use of in developing rotations; one important result of this is a reduction in the area of fallow from 35 per cent under the old three-course system to 20–25 per cent now that rotations are practised. Science also plays a part in the struggle against drought; the importance of this can be understood when it is realized that in large areas in the south the average annual rainfall is not more than 12 inches.

The standard of comfort and of living of the Russian farm workers has not reached that of the British land worker. Houses are smaller, and are not so well furnished. The diet is simple, and would be considered monotonous by many standards. Great strides have been made in education, and by 1939 the ladder was complete, every child having an opportunity of university education.

The author has succeeded in presenting the reader with a brief but clear picture of the lines along which Russian policy is developing. The results of collective farming are discussed, and there is an interesting account of life in a Russian village, or collective farming.

E. J. ROBERTS.

APPOINTMENTS VACANT

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments on or before the dates mentioned:

PATHOLOGIST AND DIRECTOR OF THE CLINICAL RESEARCH LABORATORY—The Secretary and Treasurer, Victoria Infirmary of Glasgow, 40 St. Vincent Place, Glasgow, C.1 (June 27).

MASTER (OR MISTRESS) TO TEACH MATHEMATICS, MECHANICS, SOME SCIENCE, AND ENGLISH at the Junior Technical School of the Wellingborough Technical Institute—The Secretary for Education, County Education Offices, Northampton (June 27).

ASSISTANT SCIENCE MASTER, GRADUATE, TO TEACH PHYSICS PRINCIPALLY, at the Junior Technical School for Boys—The Director of Education, Education Office, Leopold Street, Sheffield 1 (June 27).

TEACHER OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS, at the Oxford Schools of Technology, Art and Commerce, Building Trades and Junior Day Departments—The Chief Education Officer, City Education Offices, 77 George Street, Oxford (June 29).

HONOURS GRADUATE IN ENGINEERING at the Quakers' Yard Technical School—The Director of Education, Education Department, Town Hall, Merthyr Tydfil (June 30).

LECTURER IN CIVIL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERING—The Secretary, Northampton Polytechnic, St. John Street, London, E.C.1 (June 30).

MISTRESS TO TEACH PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY at the Wellingborough High School—The Secretary for Education, County Education Offices, Northampton.

ASSISTANT FOR MATHEMATICS, and an **ASSISTANT FOR SCIENCE WITH ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**, if possible—The Principal, Technical Institute, Longport Street, Canterbury.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, June 20

INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS (LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES BRANCH) (at the South-West Essex Technical College, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London, E.17), at 2.30 p.m.—Conference on "The Eye in Industry".

Monday, June 22

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY (at Kensington Gore, London, S.W.7), at 3 p.m.—Annual General Meeting.

REPORTS and other PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

Great Britain and Ireland

Empire Cotton Growing Corporation. Annual Report for the Season 1940–1941. Pp. ii+18. (London: Empire Cotton Growing Corporation.) [56]

Annual Report of the Zoological Society of Scotland for the Year ending 31st March 1942. Pp. 29. (Edinburgh: Zoological Society of Scotland.) [86]

Other Countries

Ministério de Trabalho, Indústria e Comércio: Instituto Nacional de Tecnologia. Publicação 70: As argilas decorantes e sua activação tecnológica, análises e aplicações. Pela Yvonne E. Stourdzh. Pp. 103. Publicação 71: Sobre uma substância graxa do litoral do Piauí. Pela Camilla Rolin. Pp. 16. Publicação 72: Desenvolvimento da técnica para a determinação do volfrâmio em seus minerais. Pela Antonietta de Larmo Canticão. Pp. 13. Publicação 73: Dosagem volumétrica segundo F. Scheffer. Pela Yvonne E. Stourdzh. Pp. 40. (Rio de Janeiro: Instituto Nacional de Tecnologia.) [26]

Sudan Government: Wellcome Chemical Laboratories, Sudan Medical Service, Khartoum. Report of the Government Analyst for the Year 1940. Pp. 22. (Khartoum: Wellcome Chemical Laboratories.) [36]

U.S. Office of Education: Federal Security Agency. Bulletin 1940, No. 6 (Monograph No. 8): Supervision of Elementary Education as a Function of State Departments of Education. By Helen K. Mackintosh. (Studies of State Departments of Education.) Pp. vi+86. 15 cents. Occupational Information and Guidance Service, Leaflet No. 6: Medicine. By Walter J. Greenleaf. Pp. 24. 10 cents. Vocational Division Bulletin No. 215 (Occupational Information and Guidance Series No. 7): The Individual Inventory in Guidance Programs in Secondary Schools; a Study of Present Practices in Selected Schools. By Eugene A. Leonard and Anthony C. Tucker. Pp. v+60. 15 cents. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) [86]

Proceedings of the United States National Museum. Vol. 92, No. 3137: Descriptions of Five New Species of Chalcidoidea, with Notes on a Few Described Species (Hymenoptera). By A. B. Gahan. Pp. 41–51. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) [86]

Cornell University: Agricultural Experiment Station. Bulletin 763: Soils in relation to Fruit-Growing in New York, Part 15: Seasonal and Soil Influences on Oxygen and Carbon Dioxide Levels of New York Orchard Soils. By Damon Boynton. Pp. 43. Bulletin 764: Consumer Buying of Potatoes and Store Offerings. By Alda S. Hotchkiss. Pp. 34. Bulletin 765: The Demand for Milk and Cream as revealed by Consumer Purchases at Retail Food Stores in New York City. By Charles J. Blanford. Pp. 47. Bulletin 767: A Study of Dairy-Farm Management in Onondaga County, 1938 and 1939. By R. W. Hoecker. Pp. 21. Bulletin 768: The Transmission of Farming as an Occupation. By W. A. Anderson. Pp. 29. Bulletin 769: Agricultural Production in New York, 1866 to 1940. By T. E. LaMont. Pp. 36. Bulletin 770: Control of White Grubs in Strawberries. By Theodore W. Kerr, Jr. Pp. 40. Bulletin 771: Measurements and Weights of One Hundred Cows in the Cornell Dairy Herd. By E. G. Misner. Pp. 21. Bulletin 772: The Winter Hardiness of some Ornamental Woody Plants in New York State. By John F. Corman. Pp. 32. Bulletin 773: Changes in the Prices of Apples and other Fruits. By M. D. Woodin. Pp. 25. Bulletin 774: Relative Economy of Nutrients in Servings of some Commonly Used Foods. By Barnard Barber Kennedy. Pp. 18. Memoir 240: Studies on the Biology of Four Common Carpet Beetles. Part 1: The Black Carpet Beetle (*Attagenus piceus* Oliv.), the Varied Carpet Beetle (*Anthrenus verbasci* L.), and the Furniture Carpet Beetle (*Anthrenus vorax* Waterh.). By Grace H. Griswold. Part 2: The Old-fashioned Carpet Beetle (*Anthrenus scrophulariae* L.), by Margaret Greenwald. Pp. 75. (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University.) [116]