

analysis it is necessary to have available not only the arc and the condensed spark but also the wide range of excitation conditions intermediate between them. A. Walsh (*Bull. Brit. Non-Ferrous Metals Res. Assoc.*, No. 201, 60, March 1946) has constructed such a source unit, which provides a simple condensed spark, a low-voltage D.C. arc, and, by using a triggered low-voltage discharge, a whole series of intermediate excitation conditions. The circuit, described fully in the paper, is similar in principle to that of Hasler and Dietert (*J. Opt. Soc. Amer.*, 33, 218; 1944) but totally different in detail, particularly in regard to the method of triggering and the electrical constants of the discharge circuits. The results of some experiments performed with the new source unit on aluminium-base, zinc-base and lead-base alloys are given in tabular form. These indicate that a high degree of reproducibility is obtainable with the new type of source and that the accuracy is higher than is possible with a simple condensed-spark unit.

#### 116 A White Blackberry

W. A. MURRELL (*J. Hered.*, 36, 21; 1945) has found that the white sand-blackberry is recessive to the normal colour. It is fruitful and may under cultural conditions be improved in flavour and size; it has the advantage that it does not stain the hands and teeth. It has been found to be self-incompatible, and at present will only set when crossed with the normal sand-blackberry.

#### 116 Embryos from Unborn Mothers

W. L. RUSSELL and P. M. DOUGLASS (*Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci.*, 31, 402; 1945) have been able to transplant mouse ovaries from embryos *in utero* to females 4 days old. After mating these host females, normal offspring were obtained from the transplanted ovaries. This fact will prove useful in various investigations.

#### Wellcome Veterinary Research Fellowship: Mr. J. B. Polding

MR. J. B. POLDING has been awarded a Wellcome veterinary research fellowship by the Veterinary Educational Trust, to undertake work upon the metabolism of *Brucella abortus*, the causal organism of bovine contagious abortion. Mr. Polding, who has previously carried out investigations in Malta and in India on undulant fever in man and on bovine abortion, will work in the Biochemistry Laboratories at Oxford under the supervision of Prof. R. A. Peters and Dr. D. D. Woods. The award of this fellowship brings the total of research awards made by the Trust to nine. The problems being investigated include a study of structure and function in domestic animals, worm infestations of equines, staphylococcal infections of animals, blowfly problems of the sheep, contagious bovine abortion, resistance of animals to parasitic infestation, and equine infertility. It is hoped shortly to make a further appointment for work upon animal nutrition.

#### Conference on Fuel

THE Fuel Efficiency Committee of the Ministry of Fuel and Power, under the chairmanship of Dr. E. S. Grumell, has arranged a conference on "Fuel and the Future" to take place in London during October 8-10. During the intervening months, a campaign to promote fuel efficiency and fuel economy is being

undertaken by the Ministry through various agencies, and the Conference is intended to focus attention on development during the next five to seven years, and on the fuel savings that can be made, in industry, non-industrial premises and homes, with the aid of the new equipment now becoming more readily available. Most of the sessions will be held at the Central Hall, Westminster. The opening session on October 8 will be addressed by the Minister of Fuel and Power and by the Minister of Health. Afterwards the Conference will meet in eight separate sections, six of which will be concerned each with one group of industries having related fuel problems, one with the problems of architects in connexion with new housing, and one with women's views on domestic heating. On the morning of October 10, there will be general discussions on the "Sizing and Grading of Coal" and "District Heating", while in the afternoon the Minister of Fuel and Power will take the chair at the closing session, when the sectional chairmen will survey the proceedings of their Sections. Particulars of the meeting can be obtained from the Ministry of Fuel and Power, Fuel Efficiency Directorate, Queen Anne's Chambers, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1, or to any Regional Office of the Ministry of Fuel and Power. The Institute of Fuel is co-operating in the Conference and has accordingly arranged for the Melchett Lecture to be given on October 8; the annual reception, dinner and dance of the Institute are to be held on October 9.

#### Indian Plywood Tea Chests

IN the published results of research work, clarity and brevity should be among the objectives aimed at if the work is to be appreciated by the non-expert. More especially is this the case where the results of the research are to be useful in industries and so forth. In the article entitled "Indian Plywood for Tea Chests" published in *Nature* of December 1, 1945, certain types of plywood tea chests are referred to. In *Indian Forest Records*, vol. 3, No. 4, dealing with this subject, in the summary, nine different types of tea chests are said to have been subjected to systematic scientific tests. In the text itself they are quoted in a table under the heading "Type of Box" as 'O, 14-14-14': 'S, 14-14-14' and so forth. In the summary it is said, "The 'O, 14-14-14' and 'S, 14-14-14' types of plywood tea chests are found to be stronger . . ." The writer of the article in *Nature* took this to mean 14 in. x 14 in. x 14 in. in size; since, in the pamphlet, both the 'O, 14-14-14' and the 19 in. x 19 in. x 24 in. are referred to as "plywood tea chests". Apparently the figures given under "type of box" (namely, O, 14-14-14) refer to the thickness of individual plies in parts of an inch, and not to the size of the chests in inches. It is a pity that this was not made clear in the pamphlet.

#### Announcements

THE seventy-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Observatory of Cordoba is being celebrated by a joint meeting arranged by the Observatory and the Argentine Physical Society to be held during September 20-23, 1946.

WE have been asked to state that the closing date for applications for appointments at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore (advertised in *Nature* of July 6, p. iii), has been extended to August 6.