

of the French National Blood Transfusion Centre in Paris. It is edited by Dr. Tzanck, director of the transfusion centre, and by Dr. Bessis, head of the research laboratory, with the help of a distinguished editorial committee. This journal will help to satisfy a need which has been felt for some time in Europe. The rapid advance made during the War in the field of blood groups—to mention only one aspect of the subject—has demanded much printing space. Indeed, the advance has been so rapid that by the time papers have been published in English quarterly journals of a general nature, with their long waiting lists, most of the original interest has been lost; for this reason, *Nature*, the *British Medical Journal* and the *Lancet* have borne the brunt of publishing blood-group work in Great Britain, of necessity in a concentrated form. Other rapid outlets are needed for more detailed and technical papers, and French workers in this subject are to be envied in the possession of their new journal. Perhaps the editors will consider publishing occasional papers in English. They have already shown an international spirit, for Sir Lionel Whitby launches the journal with an article on "Stockage et conservation du sang et de ses dérivés", and there is also an article by Race, Mourant and Macfarlane on "Travaux recents sur les antigènes et anticorps Rh avec une étude particulière de la théorie de Fisher". Papers by French authors are: "Les leucoses à plasmocytes" by Lamy and Willk, "Recherches sur la coagulation sanguine" by Tzanck and Burstein, "Contribution à l'étude de la cytologie sanguine" by Bessis, "Immunisation anti-Rh et pan-réactivation des anticorps anti-Rh. Description d'un nouveau test biologique" by Bessis, and also some useful notes on the technique of Rh testing. The *Revue d'Hématologie* is to appear quarterly and is published by Masson et Cie., Paris, and can be obtained in Great Britain through Messrs. H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., Gower Street, W.C.1; the annual subscription is 450 francs.

### Indian-made Skis

At the request of the R.A.F. Rest and Leave Camp at Srinagar, Kashmir, an investigation into the possibility of making solid wood skis from Indian timber was carried out at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, India. The investigation and experimental work is described in two *Indian Forest Letters*, Nos. 78 and 79, 1945 (For. Res. Institute Publications, Civ. and Milit. Press, Pram Nagar, Dehra Dun). The common timbers in Europe for skis are ash and hickory, the latter being the better, whereas ash is the lighter. As might be expected, the requirements of timber for ski-making are very exacting. The wood must be tough, elastic, straight-grained, smooth and capable of taking a good polish with wax. It must not be too heavy, nor warp or twist, and should wear well. The three Indian timbers tried were *Terminalia tomentosa* (laurel wood of Great Britain), *Dalbergia sissoo* and *Artocarpus hirsuta*. None of these timbers appears to be ideal for the purpose. The *sissoo* and *laurel* are too heavy, and the *Artocarpus* does not appear to wear well. These experiments are described in Leaflet No. 78, entitled "Bending of Skis". Leaflet No. 79, entitled "Laminated Skis", carries the problem further. After discussing the advantages of laminated skis in a country in which temperatures and moisture are so varied as in India at different periods of the year, it is stated that a method of making laminated skis from Indian timbers using water-resistant phenolic resin

adhesives has been devised. Skis so made from *Terminalia tomentosa* and *Artocarpus hirsuta* have been found satisfactory. Lamination, it is said, facilitates seasoning, effects a better utilization of wood, as material too small for other purposes can be used; defects are reduced; it facilitates impregnation with resins in a more even manner and makes possible longer and stronger, especially curved, structures, than with solid wood. The investigations and methods are described in the two leaflets.

### World Organisation of Museums

A PARAGRAPH in *The Times* of August 20 reported an American movement towards the establishment of an international organisation of museums. This envisages the promotion of: (1) international exchange exhibitions, (2) the exchange of museum specimens, (3) the exchange of staff, (4) the establishment of travelling scholarships, and (5) the establishment of an international school for training young men and women in museum work. Mr. Chauncey J. Hamlin, chairman of the Policy Committee of the American Association of Museums, and president of the Buffalo Museum of Science, has visited several European countries, and this has resulted in the formation of committees (which will work upon the proposals) in France, Switzerland, Holland and Belgium. It is to be noted that each of these committees is composed of leading museum officials. Mr. Hamlin has also been in touch with officials of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, and before his return to America he was in London to discuss with the Museums Association and directors of leading British museums the possibility of the formation of a British committee to work along the same lines.

### The Electron Microscope

THE separate revised publication of a lecture given to the Quekett Microscopical Club in February 1945 provides the general biologist with a very useful half-crown's worth of information ("Introduction to the Electron Microscope." By F. E. J. Ockenden. Monographs of the Quekett Microscopical Club. Pp. 24+8 plates. London: Williams and Norgate, 1946. 2s. 6d. net). It is in no sense a user's handbook complete with all the necessary technical details required by the user of the instrument, still less is it a summary of all the more important results obtained with it. Some recent technical developments of the first importance, notably the gold replica method of Williams and Wyckoff with which some startlingly beautiful stereoscopic pictures have been published in *Nature* (among other places) this year, have been omitted entirely. Nevertheless, as a sample of what this important new instrument is concerned with, the uninformed general reader could do much worse than read this pamphlet; and if it whets his appetite for closer acquaintance with the real thing no harm will have been done.

### The British Institution of Radio Engineers

THE British Institution of Radio Engineers has recently issued its twentieth annual report, which covers the activities of the twelve months ended March 31, 1946. The main object of the Institution is the advancement of the practice of radio engineering, not only by the promotion of meetings and conferences by which the dissemination of technical knowledge is effected, but also by such other activities