

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

as will improve the training of radio engineers and secure better recognition of the status of the profession as a whole. The Institution has attempted to improve the education of the young radio technician, not only by the conduct of its own graduateship examinations which continue to attract an increasing number of candidates each year, but also by co-operating with other interested bodies in an attempt to establish suitable national courses of training in the various branches of the telecommunications field. Accounts of the work of the various committees of the Institution during the past year are contained in the report referred to above; and at the twenty-first annual general meeting held on September 25 the Council unanimously recommended the election of Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten as president of the Institution for the year 1946-47.

Copies of *Nature* for Service Men in Italy

LIEUT.-COLONEL J. C. CASTLE wrote a year ago from the Directorate of Disposals in Italy (see *Nature*, August 4, 1945, p. 140) asking for unwanted copies of *Nature* to be sent to him for the use of service men stationed in Italy. There was a good response to this appeal. Colonel Castle now writes that his unit is being disbanded, and no further copies should be forwarded to him; he asks us to thank, on his behalf and on behalf of the troops who also received these copies of *Nature*, those anonymous senders who have been forwarding copies of the journal to him.

Diffusion in Solution

The *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences* (46, 209; 1945) contains six papers by I. G. Longworth, O. O. Beckmann, M. M. Bender, E. M. Bevilacqua, E. B. Bevilacqua, D. M. French, A. R. Gordon, H. H. Harned, L. Onsager, J. L. Rosenberg, and J. W. Williams, dealing with various aspects of the diffusion of electrolytes and macromolecules in solution. The fundamental theory of diffusion and the mathematical treatment of the subject are adequately dealt with, and experimental methods described, references to the literature being given. Attention is directed to these papers, which are likely to interest workers in various fields.

The Night Sky in October

FULL moon sets on Oct. 10d. 20h. 40m. U.T., and new moon on Oct. 24d. 23h. 32m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: Oct. 18d. 13h., Saturn 4° S.; Oct. 26d. 16h., Mars 2° S.; Oct. 26d. 23h., Mercury 4° S.; Oct. 27d. 11h., Venus 7° S. In addition to these conjunctions with the moon, the following conjunctions occur: Oct. 10d. 12h., Mercury in conjunction with Jupiter, Mercury 2.2° S.; Oct. 21d. 01h., Mercury in conjunction with Mars, Mercury 2° S. The following occultations of stars brighter than magnitude 6 take place: Oct. 14d. 01h. 14.0m., 43 Taur. (*R*); Oct. 16d. 00h. 00.6m., 5 Gemi. (*R*); *R* refers to reappearance and the latitude of Greenwich is assumed. Mercury sets half an hour after the sun on Oct. 1 and is unfavourably placed for observation during the month. The planet attains its greatest eastern elongation on Oct. 31. Venus sets about 25 minutes after the sun on Oct. 1 and a few minutes after sunset on Oct. 31. The planet attains its greatest brilliancy on Oct. 13. Mars and Jupiter are unfavourably placed for observation in October. Saturn, in the constellation of Cancer, can be seen in the morning hours, rising at 0h. 17m.,

23h. 27m. and 22h. 28m. at the beginning, middle and end of the month respectively. The stellar magnitude of Saturn is 0.5 during October.

It is possible that there will be a short meteor shower on Oct. 10, most likely in the early morning hours, but it may occur before midnight on Oct. 9. These meteors are the debris of Comet Giacobini-Zinner, and the radiant will be in the head of the Dragon. Moonlight will seriously interfere with observations, and it is quite probable that few—and those only the very bright meteors—will be seen.

Announcements

PROF. M. L. E. OLIPHANT, Poynting professor of physics in the University of Birmingham, will deliver the third Rutherford Memorial Lecture of the Physical Society on October 7 at 5.15 p.m. in the Royal Institution; he will speak on "Rutherford and the Modern World".

MR. GEOFFREY HEYWORTH, chairman of Lever Bros. and Unilever, Ltd., and vice-chairman of its sister company, Lever Bros. and Unilever My., has been appointed chairman of the Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, in succession to Lord Riverdale, who is retiring after holding the appointment for nine years. Prof. H. W. Melville, professor of chemistry in the University of Aberdeen, has been appointed a member of the Council, in succession to Sir Franklin Sibly.

THE Medical Research Council has recently received from Sir Leonard Rogers a further generous addition to the endowment for research in tropical medicine with which he originally entrusted the Council in 1926. The capital value of the fund thus created is now approximately £15,000. The income is applicable to special purposes within the general field of tropical medical research.

PRIOR to 1939 the Departments of the History and Philosophy of Science and of the History of Medicine at University College, London, which were the only departments of their kind in Great Britain, provided either full-time or part-time postgraduate courses of one and two years. On an average they accommodated 30-35 students. With the return of University College to London last year, the study of these subjects has been revived. Prof. H. Dingle is now in charge, and under his supervision courses in the history of science are being provided.

A BRANCH meeting of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux will be held in the Hornby Library, William Brown Street, Liverpool 3, at 3 p.m. on October 18. Mr. A. B. Agard Evans, of the Ministry of Works, will speak on "Information Service and the Export Trade". Mr. R. Brightman will be in the chair. Particulars can be obtained from Miss L. Wolff (hon. secretary), I.C.I. Ltd., Dyestuffs Division, Hexagon House, Blackley, Manchester 9.

THE following appointments to the post of provincial director in the National Agricultural Advisory Service have been made: South-East Province, Mr. Eric Rea, at present agricultural adviser to Messrs. R. A. Lister and Co., Dursley; South-West Province, Mr. Colin D. Ross, at present executive officer to the Devon War Agricultural Executive Committee (in place of Mr. W. T. Price, who has resigned on appointment as principal of Harper Adams Agricultural College).