Engineers and the Community

In an address delivered at the annual luncheon on June 8 of the Institution of Gas Engineers, the president, Dr. Harold Hartley, made some interesting comments on the relation of the engineer to the community. The term 'engineering', he suggested, should be extended to cover all endeavour utilizing the processes of Nature or scientific knowledge for the benefit and pleasure of mankind. This wider concept of the functions of engineers would bring the professional bodies closer together and give them increased influence in public affairs. The professional institutions set the standard for their members, and they can use their influence to ensure that, in the struggle for economic development, the fundamental cultural freedoms are not sacrificed. They can see that conditions are created which will enable everyone to give of his best in his own particular field; they should strive after something of the character of the old craft guilds, with their care for the reputation of their craft and their members, but also with a deep sense of public service. Dr. Hartley's audience consisted largely of gas engineers, and he rightly emphasized his points by reference to their special branch of the profession of engineering. He referred to the spirit of tolerance and loyalty which has characterized the gas industry in the past, and expressed the belief that this state of mind would enable the industry to overcome the difficulties inherent in the fundamental re-organisation which nationalization of the gas industry in Britain will involve. The Institution of Gas Engineers as a corporate body represents a limited number of types of men with specialist knowledge who are accustomed to thinking along similar lines; they should not find it difficult to co-operate with other specialists concerned in different ways with the industry, and with them to solve the problems lying ahead.

Acta Crystallographica

Acta Crystallographica is a new journal of crystallography published for the newly formed International Union of Crystallography by the Cambridge University Press. It is intended to replace the former *Zeitschrift für Kristallographie*, which between the two World Wars had attracted most of the original accounts of crystal structure analyses. In scope, however, it is intended to be wider, and sets out to reassemble the crystallographic work now scattered through a great variety of journals, and to be the main journal for experts in crystallography the world over. Six numbers are to be issued annually at a moderate cost made possible through subsidies from Unesco, and from numerous research associations and industrial firms in Britain and the United States. The first number, published in March, contains six full-length papers and three short communications on structure determinations of organic and inorganic substances; together with notes and book reviews. The papers are clearly illustrated, and data and methods are set out in sufficient detail for assessing their reliability. Linked with this new publication will be periodic structure reports analogous to the seven volumes of "Strukturbericht" (1931–39) and also a second revised edition of the "International Tables for the Determination of Crystal Structure" (1935). The editor and co-editors are to be congratulated on so promising a first number of a new scientific journal which is really necessary.

World Power Conference

A two-day meeting of the International Executive Council of the World Power Conference has been held at Stockholm. Nineteen countries were represented: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States. The British delegates were Sir Harold Hartley, chairman of the International Executive Council and of the British National Committee of the World Power Conference, who presided; Mr. Harold Hobson, vice-chairman of the British National Committee and lately chairman of the Central Electricity Board; and Dr. A. Parker, director of fuel research, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. It was announced that the Fourth Plenary World Power Conference in London will be held in July 1950 at the house of the Institution of Civil Engineers. The theme of the Conference was approved; it will be "World Energy Resources, and the Production of Power". The future activities of the World Power Conference were discussed, and tentative invitations were received from India, for a sectional meeting to be held in 1951 concurrently with the Fourth Congress of the International Commission on Large Dams of the World Power Conference; and from Italy and Switzerland, who may be the joint hosts at an 'Alpine' Sectional Meeting in 1952 or 1953. The Hungarian delegates suggested a 'Danubian' sectional meeting, to be organised jointly by the national committees of the Danubian countries, on a 'regional' basis. At the request of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations —which has conferred consultative status upon the World Power Conference—consideration was given to the 'Fuels' and 'Power' Sections of the Provisional Programme of the United Nations Scientific Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources, to be held in the United States in May 1949. It was announced that the first post-war Statistical Yearbook of the World Power Conference will be published shortly; it will contain data on resources and annual statistics covering the eleven years 1936–46. The next meeting of the International Executive Council will be held in Brussels during the first week of July 1949. The new edition of the booklet showing the names of national committees and representatives has been published; copies can be obtained upon application to Mr. C. H. Gray, secretary, International Executive Council, World Power Conference, 201/2 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

Cattle Health and Milk Production

The three Fison Lectures, made possible by the generosity of Messrs. Fisons, Ltd., are part of the educational programme of the Animal Health Trust and were delivered last May by Prof. L. Seekles, of the Veterinary Biochemical School, University of Utrecht. Prof. Seekles chose "Mineral Disturbances of Cattle" as the theme of his first lecture. Our food-producing animals have, he said, become physiologically artificial beings. Experiments carried out in his laboratory strongly suggest that the forced development of the cow as a milk producer causes over-activity of the pituitary gland. Discussing this idea in relation to milk fever, Prof. Seekles suggested that preventive measures against this disease should be designed to prevent over-development of the