

preserving the national treasures in an atmosphere of constant temperature and relative humidity. Since the air is cleaned by the new plant, the pictures do not need glass fronts to protect them from dirt, and this helps the lighting in that problems of reflexion are eliminated. As regards the lighting itself, the gallery has a ceiling of special glass which does not alter the colour of the daylight filtering through. The artificial illumination is made up of both fluorescent tube lighting and filament lamps, which together produce a natural light of 15–20 ft.-candles in intensity. The air-conditioning machinery, which cost £15,000 together with building costs of £25,000, is large enough to serve a number of other rooms, and it is hoped to equip other parts of the National Gallery with this system in the future. The plant provides a temperature of 65° F. with air at 68 per cent relative humidity throughout the year; extreme winter and summer air conditions of, respectively, 30° F. at 78 per cent humidity and 80° F. at 58 per cent humidity, have been allowed for. The air enters through ceiling ducts and leaves by grilles at floor level, and it is treated at the rate of six complete changes an hour.

### Fertility and Sterility

*Fertility and Sterility*, of which the first number was published in January (1, No. 1; pp. 99; New York: Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., Publishers, 49 East 33rd Street, New York 16; 8 dollars or 9.50 dollars a year) is the official journal of the American Society for the Study of Sterility. The general purpose of this new publication is to assemble in one place accounts of original investigations, reports of clinical experiences, review articles and correspondence pertinent to the subject of infertility. The more immediate purpose is to assist clinicians in the treatment of human infertility. In the past, information required by the clinical investigator or practitioner was scattered in papers in a wide range of periodicals, and from this point of view the appearance of the new periodical will be of substantial value to those interested in the problems of fertility and sterility. The Editorial Board of the new journal consists of physicians, and the articles which appear in the three issues published up to now are confined mainly to medical aspects of fertility and sterility in man. It seems, however, and is very much to be hoped, that the Editorial Committee will encourage contributions from outside the medical circle, particularly from research workers concerned with the basic sciences of anatomy, biology, embryology, genetics, physiology and veterinary medicine, who at present lead in most major developments in the field of fertility and sterility. Provided that such enlightened editorial policy is introduced and maintained, there is little doubt about the successful future of *Fertility and Sterility*.

### Universal Congress of Esperanto

THE thirty-fifth Universal Congress of Esperanto was held at the Sorbonne in Paris during August 5–12, when more than two thousand members of about thirty nationalities took part. The Science Section of the Congress welcomed the initiative of a number of Japanese men of science in commencing to publish their work in Esperanto and appealed to other men of science, particularly those using the less widely understood languages, to follow their example. The Section also undertook, in collaboration with the

Universal Esperanto Association and the International Scientific Esperanto Association, to ask leading men of science to name the text-books and other works in their respective fields which it would be most profitable to translate into Esperanto. This decision followed from a proposal in similar terms recently made by Prof. Lavergne, of the Faculty of Law at the Sorbonne. The Section also resolved, in conjunction with the International Scientific Esperanto Association and the Academy of Esperanto, on measures to be taken further to develop and standardize Esperanto technical vocabularies.

### Foot-and-Mouth Disease Research

THE work at the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Research Station has up to the present been conducted under the scientific direction of a committee appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, with the financial and administrative arrangements being made by the Ministry. The Station is now to join the group of research institutes being financed by a grant-aid from the Ministry of Agriculture and coming under the scientific supervision of the Agricultural Research Council. The new governing body is being constituted by the Minister of Agriculture and the Secretary of State for Scotland, in agreement with the Agricultural and Medical Research Councils. The membership of the governing body is as follows: Sir Alan Drury (*chairman*), Dr. C. H. Andrewes, Prof. S. P. Bedson, Mr. T. Dalling, Prof. R. E. Glover, Dr. J. Russell Greig, Prof. Wilson Smith and Prof. W. I. B. Beveridge.

### Royal Society of Arts: 1951 Centenary Prize

THE Royal Society of Arts is offering a 1951 prize of a gold medal and a sum of £500 for the best proposal submitted on "A Means of Promoting the Production or the Economic Utilization of Food in Great Britain". The proposal may be quite general or may be concerned with any particular branch or aspect of food production. The Society has instituted this prize as a part of its celebrations of the centenary of the Great Exhibition of 1851, which it originated, and as a revival of the policy of offering prizes for inventions and other projects, which the Society employed in the early days of its existence. Entries, which may be submitted by British subjects, citizens of the Commonwealth and the Irish Republic, and foreigners permanently resident in the United Kingdom, must reach the Secretary, Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.2, by March 1, 1951.

### Congress on Building Research, 1951

A COMPREHENSIVE congress on building research, to be held in London during September 11–20, 1951, will mark the rapid developments in building science made since the end of the Second World War, and has been arranged because of the great and growing interest shown in the subject in many countries. The congress is sponsored by the British professional institutions and learned societies interested in building science, and by government departments, with the support of representative industrial federations in Great Britain. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is providing the central organisation. Papers are being invited from research workers in many countries on a wide range of topics, and arrangements are being made to welcome to the congress a large number of visitors from overseas.