

done by direct contract at the universities; for the most part, however, radio research at the universities is not formally part of the programme of the Organization. In addition to the laboratory research in Great Britain, the Organization operates outstations in the country and overseas, of which the four principal ones are: Hillhead, near Fraserburgh, Scotland, which is mainly concerned with vertical-incidence ionospheric measurement, though, in addition, it is used for transmission and reception tests; Port Stanley, Falkland Islands, and Singapore, which also are both used for vertical-incidence ionosphere work, the latter being in close contact with Raffles College, Singapore; and Winkfield, Windsor, which is concerned with the accurate measurement of direction of arrival of ionospheric waves. The establishment of further stations is being considered.

Last but not least in the activities reported by the Radio Research Board is the short account given of the service known as "Abstracts and References", a service of very long standing, which reviews contemporary literature suitable for the needs of all radio research workers, whether engaged in fundamental research or in industrial developments and applications. For many years these abstracts have been published monthly in the *Wireless Engineer* and also, since 1946, in the *Proceedings* of the Institute of Radio Engineers in New York.

The past achievements of British research in the field of radio and radar are probably well appreciated by the layman; and "Radio Research 1933-48", in the typically prosaic and modest way that characterizes official reports, gives an outline of the technical details and enhances the reputation that has been gained. There can be little doubt that the new Radio Research Organization will carry the torch in the same way.

RESEARCH COUNCIL OF ISRAEL FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

THE first annual report of the Research Council of Israel covers its activities from its establishment in June 1949 to March 31, 1950*. These activities comprise the organization and co-ordination of research in all the branches of natural science and technology; the encouragement and conduct of scientific investigations with the view of the development of industry and agriculture and the utilization of the natural resources of Israel, as well as the promotion of health and welfare; and advising the Government on planning in all fields connected with natural science and technology. The Council, which consists of seven men of science appointed by the Prime Minister, and five representatives of the main scientific institutions of the country, with the Prime Minister as chairman, has established standing advisory committees for fundamental research, as well as industrial, agricultural, building and food research. Medical research is being considered by a sub-committee of that for fundamental research, and other sub-committees have been appointed for problems of general biology, enzymology and the utilization of wind-power and solar energy. For the present, research projects are being carried out in the estab-

* Research Council of Israel. First Annual Report for the Year ending 31 March 1950. Pp. 30. (Jerusalem: Government Printer, 1950.)

lished scientific institutions, and these are being extended where necessary.

A study of the phase relationships of the important salts of the Dead Sea is reported as being carried out in the hope that the results may assist in the separation of these salts by solar evaporation. The Geological Institute was established at Jerusalem in May 1949 with the main task of mapping the country on a scale of 1:20,000 for the purpose of determining its resources in raw materials and surface water, in addition to that of advising other Government departments in the field of geology. Two industrial research associations, the Citrus Concentrates Producers' Association and the Ceramics Research Association, have so far been formed, and the textile laboratory at the Standards Institution of Israel at Tel-Aviv is expected to facilitate establishment of a textile research association. Building research is directed particularly to the requirements of the new immigrants' houses and the development of new building methods which will entail the minimum use of imported materials. Besides a systematic study of climatology in relation to building and investigations on the influence of roof structure on the indoor climate of rooms on upper floors, the respective merits of concrete and bitumen for use in road construction in different parts of Israel are being studied, as well as the mechanism of the deterioration of bitumen and the physical effects of its ageing.

The percolation of water from storage ponds, the utilization of olive residues and the rate of evaporation from water surfaces are other problems under investigation, while plant investigations have concentrated mainly on the comparative growth of different strains of fibre plants under local conditions and tests of the methods applied for the industrial utilization of these plants. Local plants containing alkaloids or essential oils have also been studied, as well as the sensitivity of summer and winter plants to herbicides. Two other projects were aimed at the elimination of the serious tick-borne diseases of cattle. Problems related to the utilization of orange peel for the growth of fodder yeasts, including a study of the micro-organisms which intervene in the fruit processing and of useful micro-organisms in the citrus industry, have also been investigated, and it is intended to publish detailed scientific reports on the projects in hand, either in scientific periodicals, including the *Bulletin* of the Council, the first issue of which is now in the press, or in the form of monographs. Three such monographs published in 1949-50 are listed in the report, together with a list of publications of the Palestine Branch for Scientific and Industrial Research, 1945-48.

OVERSEAS FOOD CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1949-50

THE second annual report of the Overseas Food Corporation*, which covers the year ended March 31, 1950, has already been rendered somewhat out of date by subsequent changes in personnel, and, so far as the groundnuts scheme is concerned, by the Corporation's acceptance last autumn of the recommendations of the 'working party' which it had appointed as a result of the disappointing agricultural results at Kongwa for the second year in succession.

* Overseas Food Corporation. Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the Year ended March 31, 1950. Pp. vi+121. (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1950.) 3s. 6d. net.