

period was set up in 1949. Among other activities, its programme will include economic studies and detailed surveys of the districts in which the three experimental farms are situated.

#### Reviews of Pure and Applied Chemistry

THE first issue of *Reviews of Pure and Applied Chemistry*, published by the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, Melbourne (quarterly, £1 5s. a year), will be welcomed by chemists in Australia, but should prove of interest to a much wider circle of readers. The facilities for the publication of original researches in Australia are now quite well served by many journals, and the decision of the Institute to start a review journal is very sound. According to the opening editorial, the aim is to provide "a journal in which general articles and critical reviews in all branches of chemistry could be published". The contents of the first issue include a discussion of the mechanism of chemical change by Prof. F. G. Soper and an article dealing with the impact of chemistry on biology and medicine by Prof. A. R. Todd; the chemical engineering problems in the generation of nuclear power are outlined by Prof. J. P. Baxter, while Dr. K. L. Sutherland has reviewed the change of surface tension with time. Clearly the aims of this journal are different from those of either *Chemical Reviews* or *Quarterly Reviews*, since, if the first number reflects future policy, articles as well as detailed reviews receive equal prominence. Undoubtedly the more general articles, as well as the detailed reviews, will be welcomed by the members of the Institute, who vary from the pure research worker to the wholly administrative chemist. However, it should be appreciated that some articles are by no means as comprehensive or as detailed as those to be found in the two review journals quoted above. The editor rightly rejects any purely nationalistic objective in the inauguration of this journal; nevertheless, it is to be hoped that readers throughout the world will be able to look to it for periodical reviews of work in those branches of chemistry in which certain Australian schools are most active. The printing is good, and the diagrams are well reproduced. Within the limits which have been laid down, *Reviews of Pure and Applied Chemistry* has made a good start.

#### Bulletin of the Research Council of Israel

THE *Bulletin of the Research Council of Israel*, the first number of which has recently been published (1, Nos. 1-2; pp. 168; March 1, 1951; Jerusalem; annual subscription (4 issues) £1 2; single copy 500 prutot, double number 750 prutot), is intended primarily to facilitate the publication of scientific papers dealing with problems of regional importance but of wider interest. In addition, preliminary communications on both fundamental and applied research will be accepted in the form of letters to the editor, and the present issue contains forty-one such letters. The nine papers included deal with such varied subjects as the geomorphology of Israel; long-range forecasts of rainfall; the formation of 'salt tables' in natural and artificial solar pans; the iodine number estimation of bitumen; the vegetation of the Kurkar Hills; egg-development and diapause in the Moroccan locust; estimation of the incidence and destructiveness of plant diseases (terminology and outline of the technique of visual appraisal); fractionation of whey proteins as a means of grading milk powders and detecting adulteration of fresh

milk with milk powder; and investigations on *d*-limonene, a by-product of the citrus industry. It is intended in future to publish four numbers annually.

#### Bibliography of French Mathematics and Astronomy during 1940-48

THE December 1950 issue (No. 6) of the *French Bibliographical Digest* (pp. 109; New York: Cultural Division of the French Embassy, 1950) lists the most significant books on mathematics and astronomy published in France during 1940-48, together with some works published in French by Belgian and Swiss men of science. Only works of at least university level are included; but special courses on higher mathematics given at French universities and college text-books of special interest are regarded as meeting this requirement. Some reviews which have been taken, with acknowledgment, from *Mathematical Reviews*, *Revue Générale des Sciences*, *Revue Scientifique* and the *Bulletin Critique du Livre Français* are included, and the books are listed alphabetically by authors' names in classified sections under mathematics and under astronomy. Prof. Arnaud Denjoy contributes an appreciation of French mathematics during the Second World War, and besides an index of authors and collective works there is a list of French periodicals dealing with these fields of science and a directory of publishers.

#### Bengal Immunity Research Institute, Calcutta

A PAMPHLET has been published by the Bengal Immunity Research Institute, Calcutta, on the occasion of its third anniversary on November 26, 1950, describing the origins and organization of the Institute. Research in medicine, chemistry, biochemistry, biology, physiology, bacteriology, therapeutics, materia medica, pharmacy and other subjects which bear upon the prevention, alleviation and cure of human diseases and disorders, is carried out. The Institute also seeks to develop new medicaments, to improve existing processes and products; it collaborates in the investigations on drugs at the Bengal Immunity Therapeutic Ward; and it organizes lectures and demonstrations. The research programme is scrutinized by a scientific advisory board. The number and character of the departments of the Institute are elastic: departments of bacteriology, biochemistry, chemistry and pharmaceutical chemistry and of pharmacology have been established, as well as a museum to accommodate specimens of Indian medicinal plants and their active principles, and a library containing more than six thousand volumes. The Institute has already published nearly five hundred papers.

#### Safety in the Laboratory

A MANUAL on safety in the laboratory prepared by the Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., primarily for the guidance of its own technical staff, contains some excellent advice and information which will be found useful by all laboratory workers. It emphasizes that safety is largely a matter of exercising forethought and reasonable care. General safety policy, fire and first aid, and a safety code for laboratory practice are the headings of the three sections into which the manual is divided. An appendix deals with electrical procedure in laboratories. The safety code lists the various items and the appropriate precautions to be taken, as, for example, "Cathode ray tubes—wear eye-shields when handling cathode ray tubes in case of implosion", in alphabetical order. Messrs. Dunlop