

already been cited in judicial decisions and opinions of international and national courts, but the pamphlet is to be regarded rather as a praiseworthy piece of publicity for the Declaration than as a serious attempt at an appraisal. Even if the period covered were longer, the limits of the pamphlet preclude any consideration of the deeper considerations which must be taken into account in forming any sound judgment as to the effect of the Declaration on human thought and action.

International Relations Committee of the Textile Institute

To promote the international aspects of its work, the Textile Institute has established an International Relations Committee, with Mr. John Boulton, of Courtaulds, Ltd., Droylsden, Manchester, as chairman. The Institute already has an American Panel, which was established after Mr. Boulton had paid a visit to the United States, and the new Committee is inviting members in India, Australia and South Africa to consider the possibility of forming similar panels there. Contacts are also being established with members in Canada, Switzerland, France, Sweden and Norway. Mainly through its annual conference the Institute already serves as an important link on matters of textile science and technology in many parts of the world, and the new Committee is now taking over responsibility for liaison between the Institute and other textile organizations overseas. The scope of the Institute's outside activities may be gauged from the fact that, of the Institute's 5,600 members, about a thousand reside outside the British Isles, and some 15 per cent of the new members joining the Institute each year are from overseas.

Society for Applied Bacteriology : Winter Meeting

THE winter meeting of the Society for Applied Bacteriology was held on January 9 at the Institute of Structural Engineers, Upper Belgrave Street, London. At the morning session, attended by about eighty members and visitors, original papers were read, and in the afternoon a joint meeting was held with the Microbiology Group of the Society of Chemical Industry (see p. 316). The first papers, presented by T. Richards, Audrey Jones and G. M. el Sadek, were on the detection of lipolytic activities of bacteria using night blue or victoria blue. The organisms are grown on the surface of a nutrient agar (pH 7.8) containing a 5 per cent emulsion of the test fat, and the dyes, although temporarily inhibiting bacterial growth at the chosen concentration of 1 in 15,000, indicate lipolytic action by colour changes. In milk, the majority of lipolytic bacteria are of the micrococcus group. Tributyrin is not the best substrate for assessment of lipolytic activity. W. B. Hugo described manometric studies on the effects of phenol, phenoxetol and cetrinide on the respiration of bacterial cells with single substrates, and discussed their possible application to determining bactericidal action. The method appears at present to be unsound, since responses obtained varied according to the substrate used. The action is obviously complex, mannitol and glucose giving rise to an initial stimulation followed by destruction, and succinate and glycerol giving an immediate fall. The growth of moulds on wad materials used in bottle closures was discussed by J. R. Everton and T. E. Bashford. Wood pulp board was less susceptible than bonded cork, and growth was encouraged if there was an air space between the cap and

the wad and liner. Mrs. J. M. Barnes compared the efficiencies of cotton-wool swabs against alginate swabs. Since alginate swabs disintegrate completely, it was thought that they may give higher bacterial populations, but experiments with beer glasses, etc., showed no significant difference. D. G. Griffiths and colleagues discussed the relative efficiencies of various methods of sterilization of milk bottles in the dairy, and the methods available for assessing sterility. They suggested that valuable information would be obtained from both plate counts at 30° C. and 37° C. and the 'clot-on-boiling' test.

Abstracting and Indexing of Scientific Literature

THE first report on the activities and the meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee on Abstracting and Indexing in the Medical and Biological Sciences, which has now been issued by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (pp. 92. Paris : Unesco ; London : H.M.S.O., 1951 ; 5s., 250 francs, or 85 cents), describes the origin of the Committee and its proceedings and decisions to the end of 1949. It includes copies of the resolutions adopted at the preparatory conference during October 3-4, 1947, by the Interim Co-ordinating Committee during April 5-6, 1948, and by the Executive Committee of the latter body during October 15-16, 1948, as well as of the Final Act of the International Conference on Science Abstracting in June 1949. Other papers included are as follows : the report on methods of abstracting considered by the Interim Co-ordinating Committee ; a survey of the work of that Committee, by Dr. Hugh Clegg ; co-ordination of the work of abstracting services, by Prof. M. W. Woerdeman ; the arrangement of bibliographical information in abstracting journals, by Dr. I. Leitch ; abbreviations, contractions and symbols used in the medico-biological sciences, by Mrs. M. Lwoff ; the librarian's preferences regarding abstracting services, by Mrs. E. R. Cunningham ; abstracting services from the user's point of view, by Prof. P. Lépine ; abstracts from the point of view of the abstracting editor, by Dr. G. W. M. Findlay ; and the abstracting organization as an information service, by Dr. C. Wilcocks. All these papers were prepared for the meeting of the Permanent Committee during June 1-4, 1949.

Sinhalite : a New Mineral

IN a paper read at a meeting of the Mineralogical Society on January 24, G. F. Claringbull and M. H. Hey showed that many of the gemstones ranging in colour from pale yellow to dark blackish-brown, and for many years thought to be an iron-rich olivine (peridot), are, in fact, a new mineral having the composition $MgAlBO_4$. It is orthorhombic with unit cell dimensions $a = 4.328$, $b = 9.878$, $c = 5.675$ Å.; space group $Pbmm$, $Pb2_1m$ or $Pbm(2)$. Besides a number of gemstones, one pebble from a gem gravel has been identified. As this and some of the cut stones are known to have come from Ceylon, the name 'sinhalite' is proposed. Sinhalite is much less rare than another new mineral, taaffeite (*Nature*, 167, 438 ; 1951. *Min. Mag.*, 29, 765 ; 1951), of which only two small cut stones are known.

Nuffield Foundation Awards in Dentistry, Biology and the Social Sciences

THE Nuffield Foundation is offering a number of fellowships, scholarships and bursaries in the fields of dentistry, biology and social sciences, as follows.