

Edinburgh, during June 2-6, when the subject of "Animal Fibres" will be considered. The conference will be divided into three sections covering, respectively, blending of fibres in yarns, blending of fibres in fabrics, and dyeing and finishing of blended fabrics. In all, twenty-three papers will be read, of which eight will be from visitors overseas. Excursions will be made on June 5 to Scottish firms and textile bodies ranging from Selkirk to Dundee. Further information can be obtained from the Development Officer, Textile Institute, 10 Blackfriars Street, Manchester 3.

Third International Spectroscopy Colloquium, 1952

THE Industrial Spectroscopy Group of the Institute of Physics is arranging the third International Spectroscopy Colloquium, which will be held during September 1-3. The conference will be residential and will be held at High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire. There will be accommodation for a few married couples; as the total attendance is limited to about 120, early application for enrolment forms is necessary. The programme will provide for papers read and discussed in eight short sessions. Two sessions will probably be devoted to progress reviews of special aspects of spectroscopy; it is hoped also to have papers on various branches of absorption spectroscopy as well as emission and direct-reading methods. All communications concerning the conference, including suggestions for speakers, should be addressed to the Honorary Colloquium Secretary, Mr. E. Van Someren, Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

Exhibition of British Clocks, c. 1660-1820

An exhibition of the "British Clockmaker's Heritage", organized by the Antiquarian Section of the British Horological Institute, will be held in the Science Museum, London, S.W.7, during May 23-September 14 (weekdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and Sundays 2.30-6 p.m.; admission free), and will be opened by H.R.H. Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, on May 22. The exhibition will be divided into four main sections: an introductory group of clocks made before the inventions of the pendulum and balance-spring; and three larger groups showing respectively the development from about 1660 to 1820 of clocks for scientific purposes, domestic clocks, and the history of watches from about 1600 to 1820. The scope of the exhibition is not carried past 1820, since by that date the main technical features of timekeepers had become stabilized, and the artistic standards of domestic clocks had begun to fall off. In the section on clocks, of which there will be more than a hundred displayed, the names of famous craftsmen include Edward East, the Fromanteels (who introduced the pendulum into England), the Knibb family and Thomas Tompion. The marine chronometers will include three of the four famous pioneer machines of John Harrison, the Yorkshire carpenter who won the Government's prize of £20,000, offered for an accurate marine timekeeper. Finally, about two hundred watches will be shown. There will be two exhibition catalogues: a standard edition priced at 2s. 6d., and a profusely illustrated *de luxe* edition at 10s. 6d. (both obtainable from the Science Museum or from the British Horological Institute, 35 Northampton Square, London, E.C.1; postage 6d. extra). Both editions contain, besides informative descriptions of the exhibits, a series of articles by well-known writers on horology.

Announcements

PROF. F. A. VICK, professor of physics in the University College of North Staffordshire, has been appointed acting principal of the College until such time as a permanent appointment has been made.

PROF. W. T. MARSHALL, professor of engineering in the University of St. Andrews since 1946 (see *Nature*, 158, 443; 1946), has been appointed regius professor of civil engineering in the University of Glasgow in succession to the late Prof. Gilbert Cook.

THE Council of the Royal Society has appointed Mr. E. M. Gunnersen, a graduate of the University of Melbourne, as the first Rutherford Scholar. He will work on nuclear physics in a university in the United Kingdom commencing on October 1, 1952, for three years.

DR. H. HOLLINGS will, at the end of June, relinquish his appointments as director of the London Research Station of the Gas Council and as controller of research, North Thames Gas Board. He will be succeeded by Dr. R. H. Griffith.

THE Royal Dutch-Shell Group of Oil Companies is offering a research studentship in geophysics, of the value of £400 a year and tenable for two to three years at the University of Cambridge, which is open to men of any nationality less than twenty-seven years old. Further details can be obtained from Mr. B. C. Browne, Department of Geodesy and Geophysics, Downing Place, Cambridge. Applications must be completed by July 1.

THE eighty-ninth annual general meeting of the Institution of Gas Engineers will be held at Church House, Westminster, London, S.W.1, during May 27-30, under the presidency of Mr. J. H. Dyde. In addition to the president's address, seven papers will be given; there will also be a number of excursions to places of interest. Further details can be obtained from the Secretary of the Institution of Gas Engineers, 17 Grosvenor Crescent, London, S.W.1.

THE Development Commission is offering a few grants to British postgraduate honours students for training in research problems in marine or freshwater science, which is designed primarily to fit them for employment either in the fishery research services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Scottish Home Department or in a marine or freshwater biological research institute. The grants are worth £220-300 a year, with extra university fees paid, and are tenable initially for one year, but renewable up to a maximum of three years. Application forms, to be returned by June 1, can be obtained from the Secretary, Development Commission, 6a Dean's Yard, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

A CATALOGUE of the library of the Institut d'Études Centrafricaines, Brazzaville, has been prepared by Jeanine Lambert and issued as No. 4 of the *Mémoires* of the Institute (pp. 153; 1,000 francs). It consists of an author catalogue, arranged alphabetically, a subject catalogue, classified in twenty-five main divisions, with sub-divisions, according to a scheme detailed, and an alphabetical list of periodicals contained in or currently received by the library.

THE forty-ninth exhibition of scientific instruments and material, organized by the French Physical Society, will be held, as in previous years, in Paris at the Sorbonne during May 29-30 and June 3-5 (2.30-6.30 p.m. and also 8.30-11 p.m.) and on May 31 (2.30-6.30 p.m.). Further details can be obtained from the Comité d'Exposition, 12 rue Cuvier, Paris 5^e.