

work could best be done by the common effort of the countries concerned through the medium of the Science Co-operation Office. It was decided that the most urgent need was to create a net-work of laboratories of marine biology. Secondly, a certain number of 'service laboratories' should be organized on a regional scale, in the first place by giving some laboratories now operating on a limited national scale the facilities for extending their services to the whole region; the laboratories so selected are to be those dealing with chemical analysis, conservation of microbiological type-cultures, X-ray analysis and scientific films. Finally, the meeting recommended that an Inter-American Institute for Cosmic Ray Research should be set up, with the task of establishing a net-work of cosmic-ray research stations at appropriate altitudes and latitudes, taking into account the stations already in existence; the Institute would have the responsibility of standardizing the equipment and co-ordinating and facilitating the research work in these stations. Those attending the meeting were: Profs. M. O. de Almeida (Brazil), V. Deulofeu (Argentina), I. Escobar (Bolivia), C. Estable (Uruguay), A. G. Domínguez (Argentina), J. Ibañez (Chile), C. Lattes (Brazil), M. S. Vallarta (Mexico), R. Tálce (Uruguay) and F. De Venanzi (Venezuela).

Science for Peace: Statement on the British Atom Bomb

THE National Committee of Science for Peace, 49 Flower Lane, London, N.W.7, has issued the following statement: "The recent announcement that an atomic bomb has been made in Britain has been welcomed in some quarters as an illustration of British scientific and technical skill. As an organization of practising scientists, we feel that it serves rather to provide yet another instance of wasteful and dangerous misdirection of scientific effort. . . . To those who argue the priority of defence, we have an obligation, as students of the technical possibilities of modern warfare, to point to the fact that Britain is the most vulnerable of all the great powers to atomic attack. By permitting the installation of N.A.T.O. atomic bases in this country, successive governments have ensured that in the event of war Britain will become the target for a type of offensive to which we are satisfied there can be no practical defensive answer. . . . We call on our government to abandon the path of the atomic arms race. . . . The only practical defence of Britain to-day lies in a programme, to be undertaken by men who have the moral courage to dissociate themselves from indiscriminate massacre as a military policy, with a twofold aim: the use of scientific resources for the development of our own economy and the raising of world living standards, and the sincere and tireless pursuit of conciliation. This organization has never advocated the unilateral surrender of a legitimate defensive weapon. At the present time, the measure of agreement already reached between the powers is, in our opinion, adequate to enable international renunciation of atomic warfare to be achieved without delay, on a basis of reasonable compromise".

European Seismological Commission: Meeting in Stuttgart

DURING the week September 21-27 the first meetings of the European Seismological Commission, as constituted by the International Union of Geodesy

and Geophysics at Brussels in 1951, took place in Stuttgart. The meetings were attended by representatives from twelve European countries, three being from Great Britain. Seismologists from Algeria and South Africa also attended. The main subjects discussed were the seismicity of the European continent, the structure of Europe, the thicknesses of the continental layers as determined by elastic waves set up by explosions, earthquakes and gravity anomalies, near earthquakes in Europe, the motion at the focus of an earthquake and the determination of the depth of focus, seismological observatory work in various European countries, seismogram interpretation including graphical methods, and wave theory. The meeting, the arrangements for which were in the hands of Prof. W. Hiller, was eminently successful, and it is intended to issue a report in due course.

Mathematical Research Institute of Oberwolfach

THE Mathematical Research Institute of Oberwolfach (State of Baden), in the French Zone of Germany, has been functioning regularly since it was first opened in 1945 under its honorary director, Prof. W. Süss, of Freiburg (editor of the German *Fiat* reviews in mathematics), and a large number of informal conferences have been held there, the most recent being one at the end of September on algebra and number theory. All grades and ages, from newly graduated research students to professors of world renown, from inside and outside Germany, are represented in the visitors' book, and the atmosphere of stimulating homeliness, friendliness and freedom to which all testify is due to the quiet management and personalities of the hosts, Prof. and Mrs. Süss. The Institute is attached to the University of Freiburg and receives a small annual government grant for running expenses and equipment. It welcomes all working mathematicians (and their families, as far as space permits) and offers them, at a minimum charge to cover the cost of food, an excellent library, facilities and leisure for relaxation or work, in a comfortable modern country house which is the gift of the State of Baden. It is open all the year round; but, owing to the prohibitive cost of central heating, only a few rooms are in use during the winter. In summer-time, the typical Schwarzwald scenery makes it very attractive, and many of the meetings are held in the open. Proposals for future work are gladly received. Following a suggestion by Prof. Martin Eichler, of Münster, the ideas of Hecke and his school in the field of automorphic functions, algebraic functions and analytical number theory are to be discussed, probably during the second half of this month.

Museum of Leathercraft, London

CONSIDERING the great importance of leather in the past and its not inconsiderable value at the present time, it is strange that only recently has there been established a museum devoted to its study and its relation to the development of civilization. The Museum of Leathercraft has now been founded, and is housed in temporary quarters in the National Leathersellers College, Tower Bridge Road, London, S.E.1. Although the formation of a collection is its main purpose, the scope is much wider. Its aims have been set out in the following terms: "The establishment of as complete a historical record as possible of the preparation and use of leather, in all ages and in all countries, by the acquisition of actual examples