

in previous years, the Animal Technicians Association held its annual general meeting at the time of the Congress. The proceedings of the Congress will be published in full in the *Journal of the Animal Technicians Association*.

Applied Microbiology

MICROBIOLOGY is now well established as a scientific discipline, and the publication of the results of fundamental research is fairly well catered for in the journals of the scientific societies. In recent years the application of microbiology to the manufacturing and food industries, to agriculture, and to the many fields in which control of micro-organisms is demanded, has resulted in the presentation of many papers of undoubted value which would, however, be out of place in journals devoted to fundamental research. Many industries, and even branches of industries, now publish the results of applied research, including microbiology, in their own journals. The Society of American Bacteriologists, by sponsoring a new journal, *Applied Microbiology* (The Williams and Wilkins Co., Baltimore 2, Maryland, U.S.A., 6 numbers, bimonthly, per volume annually 63s.), evidently considers that there is a place for yet another journal designed, to judge from the general statement of aims and from the list of members of the editorial board, to embrace all fields except animal and plant disease. The project is ambitious, and to achieve the apparent object there will have to be careful selection of papers, to avoid wandering into territory already catered for. The first number (January 1953) contains a catholic collection of papers, of which some at least have that wide appeal necessary to justify the appearance of another journal which must be read.

New York Zoological Society: Aid for Biological Research in Europe

THE New York Zoological Society has renewed for 1953 its 'Point Four' programme of aid to biological research in Europe. In 1952 the Society made grants for research to individuals and institutions in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey. This year funds will again be made available to research departments or individual investigators in universities, natural history museums, zoological parks, aquariums and non-profit biological laboratories. The use of funds is limited to the purchase of specific items of research equipment, books and technical journals, and the costs involved in providing experimental material. It is not intended to provide assistance to personnel of medical institutions, commercial laboratories, government-sponsored programmes or any programme concerned primarily with applied or economic biology; however, individuals or groups in such organizations are eligible for aid in connexion with any fundamental studies of their own which are being carried out simultaneously but separately. Applications for grants should be addressed to Dr. Ross F. Nigrelli, chairman of the New York Zoological Society European Research Fund, Zoological Park, New York 60, N.Y.

Insects of Micronesia

THE Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, is now supporting the project known as "Insects of Micronesia" which was hitherto carried on by the Pacific Science Board of the United States National Research Council with funds from the Office of Naval Research

of the United States Navy; the National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C., has made a grant of 15,200 dollars to the Bishop Museum to help in continuing the work for the next eighteen months. The project is under the direction of J. Linsley Gressitt, and the results will be published by the Museum as a special series. About four hundred thousand specimens have been assembled from Micronesia, and these are being studied by more than a hundred specialists representing some fifty institutions in a dozen countries. J. F. Gates Clarke, N. L. H. Krauss and Dr. Gressitt have been completing the field-work in the Caroline Islands during 1952-53 under a contract by the Office of Naval Research.

Announcements

THE Stas Medal of the Société Chimique de Belgique was presented to Prof. F. A. Paneth, professor of chemistry in the University of Durham, on the occasion of the general meeting of the Society on March 22.

PROF. JEAN LERAY, of the Collège de France, Paris, has been elected a member of the Mechanics Section of the Paris Academy of Sciences in succession to the late Prof. E. Vessiot. Prof. Christian Champy, professor of histology in the University of Paris, has been elected a member of the Anatomy and Zoology Section of the Academy in succession to the late Prof. C. Perez.

THE National Coal Board has appointed Mr. A. Whitaker to be director of extra-mural research. In addition to its own research establishments at Stoke Orchard and Isleworth, the Board has extensive research interests in several research associations and also sponsors projects at a number of universities and with commercial firms. This work will in future be directed by Mr. Whitaker, who will be responsible to the director-general of research at headquarters, Dr. W. Idris Jones. Mr. Whitaker is a physicist; during the War he was with the Parnall Group of companies and was awarded the O.B.E. for work in connexion with aircraft equipment.

THE Zoological Society of London is offering a limited number, not exceeding six, of research studentships to senior undergraduates reading zoology, tenable during the summer vacation for a minimum period of four weeks at the Society's Gardens, Regent's Park, or at Whipsnade Park, where laboratory and other facilities are provided. Work which includes observations on living animals will be given preference; experiments requiring licences are not allowed. Grants in aid of travelling expenses and a subsistence allowance for those living away from home may be awarded. Applications, giving particulars of the applicant's age and attainments and a brief outline of the work proposed, and supported by the head of the department in which he or she works, should be sent before April 30 to the Director, Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

In a paragraph in *Nature* of February 21, p. 332, entitled "A Dominant Sex-linked Mutation in the House Mouse", summarizing a paper by E. D. Garber published in *Science*, 116, No. 3004 (1952), the gene 'bent-tail' and its morphological effects were described. Dr. D. S. Falconer points out that he had already recognized a sex-linked gene, 'tabby', with morphological effects in the mouse (see *Nature*, 169, 664; 1952).