

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Dr. J. M. Barnes, director, Toxicology Research Unit, Medical Research Council; Prof. A. R. Clapham, professor of botany, University of Sheffield; Dr. R. A. E. Galley, director, Tropical Products Institute, Colonial Office (officer-in-charge, Colonial Pesticides Research); Mr. C. O. Harvey, Laboratory of the Government Chemist (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research); Dr. Donald Hunter (physician to the London Hospital and part-time physician-in-charge, Department of Research in Industrial Medicine, London Hospital); Mr. W. C. Moore, director, Plant Pathology Laboratory, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prof. W. L. M. Perry, professor of materia medica, University of Edinburgh; Mr. G. G. Samuel, scientific staff (headquarters), Agricultural Research Council. The terms of reference for the Group are: "To study the need for further research into the effects of the use of toxic chemicals in agriculture and food storage, and to make recommendations". The Group is independent of the interdepartmental Advisory Committee on Poisonous Substances used in Agriculture and Food Storage, which will continue.

Corrosion Science Society

THE CORROSION SCIENCE SOCIETY has been founded with the following immediate aims: (1) to promote the advance of corrosion science and its application to the solution of practical problems; (2) to organize meetings—personal, local, national and international—of scientifically qualified persons interested in all fields of corrosion and corrosion-protection research and practice, for the discussion of current work; (3) to co-operate with all other professional individuals, societies and institutes, British and foreign, with interests in the corrosion field. The first meeting will be held during April 4–5 at the Battersea College of Technology, London. Stress-corrosion, cracking, the corrosion and protection of aluminium, cathodic protection, electrode processes and high-temperature corrosion and oxidation will be among subjects to be discussed on the basis of a series of talks by workers at present active in these fields, including C. Edleanu, J. G. Hines, T. P. Hoar, J. E. O. Mayne, N. F. Mott, E. C. Potter and L. L. Shreir. Those interested should write to either Dr. T. P. Hoar, Department of Metallurgy, Pembroke Street, Cambridge, or Dr. L. L. Shreir, Battersea College of Technology, London, S.W.11.

Research in the German Federal Republic

ON BEHALF of the Federal Republic, the German Embassy in London publishes quarterly an attractive journal, *Germany*. A recent issue was devoted to fundamental research and its application (4, No. 12; 1959). The main articles deal with plastics and their place in the German economy together with accounts of the work being carried out in the different plastic research institutes. Prof. Curt Hoffmann, of the Institute of Oceanography, Kiel, is the author of an essay on marine production biology, and Prof. K. O. Kiepenheuer, of Freiburg, describes solar research in Germany. To inaugurate a series of portraits of German Nobel Prize winners, there is an illustrated account of the life and work of Prof. Otto Kahn. The journal also contains articles describing various aspects of cultural life in Germany, the most interesting portraying celebrations in connexion with the Schiller bicentenary in West Germany. The annual subscription to the journal is D.M. 20.

The Burma Research Society

DURING 1910 a small group of Burma residents, mostly Civil servants with varied interests as amateurs in the natural history, archaeology, history and literature of the country, established a society to serve as a forum for their discussions and a *Journal* for the publication of their findings. The creation of the University of Rangoon ten years later brought many well-qualified recruits to the Society and the University gave it a permanent home. The thirty-one volumes of the *Journal* published between 1910 and 1941 include many original papers of first-class importance, but everything came to an end with the Japanese occupation. All records and stocks of publications went on the bonfire of the University Library and very few complete sets of the *Journal* seem to be in existence. The Society started up again in 1948, and it was a happy thought of its 700 members, headed by the president, the Hon. U Chit Thoun, Minister of Culture, to mark the fiftieth anniversary by holding a six-day conference during December 28, 1959–January 2, 1960. Twenty-one papers were read and a further fourteen contributed to be published in a single volume with the conference proceedings. Some fifteen overseas visitors were guests of the Burma Government and were afterwards taken to Pagan, ancient capital of Burma, incredibly rich in archaeological and historical treasures, still in course of study by Prof. G. H. Luce and others. At the conference, Britain was represented by Dudley Stamp (professor of geology and geography in the University of Rangoon, 1923–26). To further mark the occasion, the Society is reprinting the more important papers of its pre-war *Journal*. There are to be three volumes—respectively History and Literature (published), Economic and Social, and Science, obtainable from the Society, c/o University Library, Rangoon, at kyats 20 (30s.) each. The Science volume includes eight geological papers, and a number on earthworms, tapeworms, algae and agricultural pests. A complete index to the *Journal* is also to be published.

Scientific Societies in the United States

THE U.S. Office of Science Information Service recently distributed a questionnaire to more than two hundred national scientific societies (*Scientific Information News*, 1, No. 4; Aug.–Sept. 1959). The questionnaire is part of a study designed to provide objective information about the human and financial resources of scientific societies and their publications. Data requested by the questionnaire include: (1) total membership and distribution of members among various membership categories; (2) titles, frequency, and subscription rates of society publications; (3) sources of income, including subscriptions and endowments. This study of scientific societies is the first step in a wide-ranging programme designed to provide a clearer picture of scientific communication in the United States. The results of two other National Science Foundation studies—one of the policies, practices and costs of professional scientific journals and the other of scientific man-power data gathered by the National Register of Scientific and Technical Personnel—will be correlated with the scientific society study to help the Office of Science Information Service carry out more effectively its task of fostering co-operation and co-ordination among scientific information sources.