

Council, at which an international group of interested persons discussed terminology of some aspects of gas exchange in the lungs, in particular the term 'diffusing capacity'. The participants represented Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Scandinavia, Switzerland, and the United States. Dr. P. Hugh-Jones, Department of Medicine, King's College Hospital Medical School, London, was chairman. When the term 'diffusing capacity' was originally proposed, it was considered that diffusion was the only factor determining the rate of transfer of gas between alveolar capillary blood and alveolar gas. It is now known that the rate of reaction between carbon monoxide, oxygen and intracellular haemoglobin, as well as other factors, affect the transfer rate. In addition the diffusing capacity as actually measured is dependent on additional variables, such as the ventilation perfusion relationship in the lungs. In the light of these considerations, the majority of those present agreed that the term 'transfer factor' be substituted for 'diffusing capacity', but no definite proposal was made that this be carried out immediately. Persons interested in this field of research and wishing to submit their views should write to J. E. Cotes, Medical Research Council Pneumoconiosis Research Unit, Llandough Hospital, Penarth, Glamorgan.

### Causes and Treatment of Rheumatic Disease

DURING May 29-30, 1962, the Nuffield Foundation held a small two-day conference at Ashridge College, at which scientists from various biological disciplines discussed with rheumatologists the possible nature of fundamental rheumatic processes. This exchange of ideas between clinical and non-clinical research workers proved stimulating, and the Foundation believes that the report of the papers and discussion may be of value to other people. A copy of the report may be obtained (without charge) by writing to the Nuffield Foundation, Nuffield Lodge, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

### International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

NOTICE is hereby given of the possible use by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature of its plenary powers in connexion with the following cases, full details of which will be found in *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (20, Part 5, to be published on October 21): (1) Designation of a type-species for *Crassispira* Swainson, 1840 (Gastropoda). *Z.N.(S.)* 459. (2) Validation of *Alycus* Koch, 1842 (Acari). *Z.N.(S.)* 465. (3) Validation of *Natrix barbouri* Taylor, 1922 (Reptilia). *Z.N.(S.)* 1559. (4) Suppression of *Conus candidus* Born, 1778 (Gastropoda). *Z.N.(S.)* 1567. (5) Suppression of *Pleuronectes grohmanni* Bonaparte, 1837 (Pisces). *Z.N.(S.)* 1579. (6) Validation of, and designation of a type-species for, *Diplectrona* Westwood, 1839 (Insecta, Trichoptera). *Z.N.(S.)* 1580. (7) Validation of *Sceloporus torquatus* Wiegmann, 1828 (Reptilia). *Z.N.(S.)* 1582. (8) Validation of *Ortholitha* Hubner, [1825] (Insecta, Lepidoptera). *Z.N.(S.)* 1585. (9) Validation of *Krohnia* Langerhans, 1880 (Chaetognatha). *Z.N.(S.)* 1586. (10) Suppression of nine specific names of Holothuriodea. *Z.N.(S.)* 1587. (11) Suppression of *Eoscorpis inflatus* Peach, 1882 (Arachnida). *Z.N.(S.)* 1588. (12) Validation of *Prochilodus argenteus* Agassiz, 1829 (Pisces). *Z.N.(S.)* 1590. (13) Validation of *Tinodes pusillus* McLachlan, 1862 (Insecta, Trichoptera). *Z.N.(S.)* 1592. (14) Rejection of the notype and type-locality of *Thamnophis sirtalis* (Linnaeus) (Reptilia). *Z.N.(S.)* 1600. Any zoologist who wishes to comment on any of the foregoing cases should do so in writing to the Secretary, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, c/o British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7, before April 21, 1964.

### The International Academy of Astronautics

DR. CHARLES S. DRAPER (United States) has been appointed president of the International Academy of

Astronautics in succession to Dr. F. J. Malina. Dr. Draper is head of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as well as director of the Institute's Instrumentation Laboratory. Prof. E. A. Brun (France), president of the International Astronautical Federation, and Prof. U. S. von Euler (Sweden), secretary of the Nobel Prize Committee, have been elected vice-presidents. The following Academicians have been elected to the Board of Trustees of the International Academy of Astronautics: Section 1—Basic Sciences, Prof. A. Ehmert (German Federal Republic) and Dr. D. F. Martyn (Australia); Section 2—Engineering Sciences, Prof. J. M. J. Kooy (Holland), Dr. F. J. Malina (United States) and Prof. R. Pešek (Czechoslovakia); Section 3—Life Sciences, Dr. W. R. Lovelace II (United States) and Air Commodore W. K. Stewart (United Kingdom).

### Announcements

PROF. LINUS PAULING, of the California Institute of Technology, has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 1962. In 1954 Prof. Pauling was awarded the Nobel Prize for Chemistry (see *Nature*, 174, 907; 1954). He is a foreign member of the Royal Society.

THE Right Hon. Lord Franks, Provost of Worcester College, Oxford, and former chairman of Lloyds Bank, and Prof. R. H. S. Thompson, professor of chemical pathology, Guy's Hospital Medical School, have been appointed additional trustees of the Wellcome Trust.

A LEAFLET, *Another Kind of School*, has been issued by the National Association for Mental Health for parents of children who are not accepted for school, describing the Junior Training Centres and other openings and facilities available to enable mentally handicapped children to make the best use of their abilities (Pp. 4. London: Association for Mental Health, 1963. 6d.).

THE third Western National Meeting of the American Geophysical Union will be held in Boulder, Colorado, during December 26-28. Further information can be obtained from W. W. Kellogg, the Rand Corporation, 1700 Main Street, Santa Monica, California.

THE eighth international conference on "Cosmic Rays", arranged under the joint auspices of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics and the Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, will be held at Jaipur during December 2-14. Further information can be obtained from Dr. R. R. Daniel, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Colaba, Bombay 5.

THE National Productivity Year Conference, "Productivity in the Next Five Years", will be held at Eastbourne during November 26-28. The conference is being organized by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and its aim is "to compare notes, to discuss future action and to provide a guide for firms and organizations in every sector of our working life". Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, British Productivity Council, Vintry House, Queen Street Place, London, E.C.4.

A ONE-DAY course on "Aspects of Microbiology and Plant Protection" will be held by the Joint Biology Committee at the William Beveridge Hall, Senate House, London, W.C.1, on November 16. The programme will include: "Microbiology of the Air", by Dr. P. H. Gregory; "The Migration and Dispersal of Aphids and the Dissemination of Plant Viruses", by Dr. C. G. Johnson; "Some Chemical Aspects of Crop Protection", by Prof. R. L. Wain; "Modern Methods of Plant Protection and the Conservation of Wildlife", by Dr. N. W. Moore. Further information and tickets can be obtained from the Joint Biology Committee, c/o the Association of Agriculture, 78 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1.