

ing in 10 acres of ground in Strathardle, Perthshire (The Scottish Field Studies Association. Annual Report, 1963. Edited by B. W. Ribbons. Pp. 27 + 4 plates. Glasgow: The Scottish Field Studies Association, 1964. 4s.). This new permanent field centre affords excellent opportunities for work in the Scottish Highlands on biology, physical geology, physical and human geography and archaeology. Close to the centre are coniferous and deciduous woodland, freshwater river, loch and lochan, dry and wet moorland, glacial moraines, terraces and haughs, and the remains of a small highland village. The Highland Boundary Fault is at hand and a few miles away are Ben Vrackie, Glen Shee, Glen Isla, Beinn A'Ghlo and Killiecrankie. Kindrogan stands at an altitude of 850 feet, and has an annual rainfall of 38 inches. Amateur naturalists and research workers are invited to use the centre for their own private work and to join courses organized by the Association, together with groups of pupils and students accompanied or unaccompanied by their own staff. The standard of such courses is adjusted to suit the needs of those present, and the Association is also prepared to consider arranging courses to suit particular groups. Details of the courses and facilities available may be obtained from the Warden, Kindrogan Field Centre, Enochdhu, Blairgowrie, Perthshire.

### The Quaker Approach to Life

In her eighteenth Eddington Memorial Lecture, now published, Dr. K. Lonsdale gives a moving and sincere account of the development of her faith as a part of her whole experience of and outlook on life (*I Believe . . .* Pp. 56. Cambridge: at the University Press, 1964. 4s. 6d.). This attitude to life as an experiment calling for commitment, as Dr. J. H. Oldham did, brings out the essential harmony between her work and her faith. Religious truth, she argues, is known to us through religious experience, that of ourselves and of others, and includes scientific experience, while going far beyond it. Even to those who may not follow her on some particular points Dr. Lonsdale's lecture makes refreshing reading and a stimulating challenge to approach life as a whole, much in the spirit of Donald Hankey half a century ago.

### The National Institute of Sciences of India

THE Yearbook of the National Institute of Sciences of India, 1963, constitutes the usual reference work with lists of Fellows, Council and senior office staff, membership of committees, rules and regulations, medals and lecturers, and publications (Pp. vi + 241. New Delhi: National Institute of Sciences of India, 1964. 15 Rs.). The Council's report summarizes the anniversary address of the President, Dr. A. N. Khosla, and gives particulars of the symposia, on endocrinology of reproduction, vitamin metabolism, and fertility of Indian soils, arranged during the year. Proposals are under consideration for development of the Institute on the lines of the Royal Society, and steps are being taken to expedite publication of scientific papers, including removal of the Publications Office from Calcutta to Delhi. Brief reports on researches in mathematics, physics, chemistry and physiology are appended.

### Science and Technology in Poland

THE tentative analysis of the present state of Polish science contributed by H. Jablenski to the *Review of the Polish Academy of Sciences* for April-June 1964 (9, No. 2; 1964) considers successively the position of the biological sciences, medical studies, chemical sciences, mathematical and physical sciences, geology and technical sciences in Poland in relation to the extent to which they meet the needs of Poland, the relations between the several disciplines and gaps which should be filled. The same issue also contains the abridged text of an address by the Deputy Prime Minister, E. Szyr, on the responsibilities, organization and methods of work of the Committee on Science and Technology.

### Roumanian Scientific Abstracts

THE Scientific Documentation Centre of the Academy of the Roumanian People's Republic is now issuing monthly: *Roumanian Scientific Abstracts*. These are to be published in two series, on natural sciences and social sciences, from January/February 1964, in English and Russian, and will provide scientists abroad with complete and rapid information on Roumanian research in these fields. In the issue for the natural sciences, entries are arranged under mathematics and astronomy, physics, chemistry, and biology. Nineteen periodicals are covered.

### New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research

THE New Zealand *D.S.I.R. Handbook 1964*, which supersedes the 1960 edition, contains in general information compiled by the staff of the Department's Information Service up to March 31, 1964, but since organization and administration of science in New Zealand are at present undergoing important changes some gaps in the coverage are inevitable (Pp. 104. Wellington: Government Printer, 1964). Besides outlining the general organization of the Department, the *Handbook* gives, for each Division or institution, the address, principal officers and an outline of the scope of its work.

### Building Material Properties Classified

ARCHITECTS and builders require a good deal of detailed technical and economic information to permit choice between a number of possible materials or products. For this information reliance is often on technical literature supplied by manufacturers, sometimes supplemented by results of tests or assessments made by independent test houses or research organizations, or on documentation available from building information centres. There is at present no established system for presenting this sort of information, such as could facilitate comparison of similar products on the basis of essential relevant properties of materials and products. To meet this need a report has been prepared, entitled *A Master List of Properties for Building Materials and Products* (CIB Report No. 3. Prepared by CIB Working Commission W. 31. Pp. 20. Rotterdam: General Secretariat, CIB, P.O. Box 299, 1964. 2 Sw. francs). This is an important step towards uniformity of presentation and a systematic framework for setting out values for physical properties and design data without actually specifying any particular standards. Under the heading 'Properties', this *Master List* gives guidance on general information; composition and method of manufacture; shape, dimensions, weight; general appearance; physical, chemical and biological properties; durability; special technical properties for installations, mechanical plant, equipment, etc.; working characteristics; and functional properties of common types of building elements in which the material or product is incorporated. Under the heading "design considerations and details: suitable applications", there are included architectural and constructional details; examples of common mistakes in design and work; and references. Instructions for work and maintenance embrace this subject, site testing and instructions for cleaning and maintenance. Other headings are economics; specification of distribution; sales organization; contract work; technical service. "Because it is intended to be comprehensive, not every property in the list will apply to every product, and the Working Commission (W 31) is going to produce separate lists, based on this master list, that will relate to various classes of materials or products and to materials or products used for particular purposes." This is a most useful summary of data essential to modern building practice and should be in the hands of all concerned with building construction where only the best will satisfy.