

Metal-Ammonia Ions

IN connexion with the letters from F. J. Garrick and from Dr. J. S. Anderson, N. L. Spoor and Prof. H. V. A. Briscoe published in *NATURE* of March 20, 1937 (p. 507), Prof. A. A. Grünberg, Kovensky pereulok 22, log. 12, Leningrad, has been good enough to give references to several papers by himself and his collaborators which are for the most part inaccessible to English readers. In these, during the last seven years, it has been shown experimentally that the ammines of platinum and rhodium may undergo acid-dissociation by a mechanism similar to that inferred from the exchange experiments on cobalt ammines. Prof. Briscoe and his collaborators state that they are glad to learn that their entirely independent experiments afford, both qualitatively and quantitatively, so satisfactory a confirmation of the findings and predictions Prof. Grünberg has already published. Of the more recent references he gives, one (A. A. Grünberg and D. T. Rjabtschikoff, *Acta Physico-Chimica*, 3, No. 5, 555; 1935), which is in German, and may be seen in a few British libraries, should certainly be consulted by chemists interested in this subject.

Medical Research in India

THE first annual report, for 1935-36, of the Indian Institute for Medical Research has been issued by the Governing Body. The Institute in Calcutta commenced work on January 1, 1935, with a 'diagnostic' section, for helping medical practitioners, and four research departments, and a brief survey of research work carried out is given. This includes the preparation of a potent anti-cholera serum, trials of which are now being carried out, a vaccine for the treatment of oriental sore (leishmaniasis), nutritional researches, with the discovery that some common Indian fruits contain a high content of vitamin C, and the mechanism of antigen-antibody combination.

Announcements

THE second International Congress of Cosmobiology will be held at La Malou on September 19-21. Further information can be obtained from Dr. M. Faure, La Malou, Hérault, France.

THE second International Scientific Congress of Alimentation will be held in Paris in the second fortnight of October and will consist of the following six sections; physiology of feeding, rules for normal feeding, feeding in the colonies, the teaching and social importance of food hygiene, and the protection and supervision of articles of food. Further information can be obtained from M. Alquier, 16 rue de l'Estrapade, Paris 5e.

THE one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of the celebrated Czech physiologist and histologist Johannes Evangelista von Purkinje will be celebrated by a series of ceremonies and addresses at Prague, Brno and Bratislava on September 24-28. Further information can be obtained from the secretary, Dr. Jarmila Psotnicková, 32 Katerinka, Praha II.

THE Serbian Royal Academy of Sciences, which is composed of four academies—those of social science,

natural science, philosophical science and fine arts—recently celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation in the presence of the Regent, Prince Paul of Yugoslavia, Dr. Radenko Stankovitch, formerly professor of the Faculty of Medicine at Belgrade, the Patriarch of the Orthodox Church, and a number of other well-known scientific workers and high officials of the Balkan countries.

THE library of the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford, is about to be transferred to its new quarters in South Africa, and publications intended for it should now be addressed to "The Radcliffe Observatory, Pretoria, South Africa", instead of to Oxford.

A LECTURE COURSE on industrial law has been arranged by the Industrial Welfare Society at its headquarters, 14 Hobart Place, S.W.1, beginning on October 4 at 6.30 p.m., for ten weeks, and will be conducted by Mr. H. Samuel, barrister-at-law. Further information can be obtained from the secretary of the Society.

AN exhibition of Egyptian antiquities newly found at Armant by the Sir Robert Mond Expedition has recently been arranged at the Archæological Institute, St. John's Lodge, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1, by the Egypt Exploration Society. The exhibition will remain open until September 25. Admission and catalogue are free.

WE have received a communication from the Secretary of St. Joseph's House, Diocesan Home for Boys (a home for orphan and destitute boys), 126 Baker Avenue, Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia, stating that it is proposed to encourage the boys in the study of science, including microscopy. The Secretary would be grateful for gifts of small microscopes which any reader may be prepared to present to the Home.

THE Sir William White Post Graduate scholarship in naval architecture (1937) of the Institution of Naval Architects has been awarded to Mr. Allan M. Baxter, of the Royal Technical College, Glasgow.

THE following scholarships for 1937 have been awarded by the Institution of Electrical Engineers: Duddell Scholarship to R. S. Peacock, King's School, Ely; Swan Memorial Scholarship to Dr. B. C. Robinson, Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne; William Beedie Esson Scholarship to R. P. Kinsey of Evershed and Vignoles Ltd.; Silvanus Thompson Scholarship to J. R. Catlin, of Igranic Co. Ltd.; David Hughes Scholarship to L. Lieberman, Queen Mary College, London; Salomons Scholarship to S. G. Bittles, College of Technology, Belfast; War Thanksgiving Education and Research Fund (No. 1), Grant of £50 to J. E. Parton, University of Birmingham; Paul Scholarship to T. H. Fulford, Acton Technical College, London.

ERRATUM.—Dr. Gwyn Williams informs us that the MS. of his letter "Kinetics of Catalysed Polymerization of Styrene" (*NATURE*, Aug. 28, p. 363) contained an error. The polymers produced have molecular weights of the order 3,000, not 5,000 as printed (p. 364, col. 1, line 10).