

inaugurated some years ago. It was organized before the existence of an exclusively Swiss transmission station. The League of Nation's transmitter, located at Prangin near Geneva, was rented for that purpose at certain free hours. In the first stage, the service was limited to one weekly broadcast for Swiss citizens in each continent separately. The programmes intended for the Swiss were of a homely popular character, but for foreigners an endeavour was made to convey a rounded-out conception of Switzerland's artistic achievements, of her general activities and of her age-old ideals. The talks were enhanced by samples of Swiss musical art, popular music with the more stately and the classical with the modern. Unfortunately, when the first station was practically finished it was burnt down.

The new Swiss station is now well on the way to completion. It is situated at Schwarzenburg, about twenty kilometres from Bern. The construction of a short-wave station is a heavy and costly undertaking for a small country of no more than four million inhabitants. The reconstruction of the station without loss of time and in spite of the enormous difficulties of a world crisis is a proof of the tenacity and capacity of Swiss engineers. Until quite recently, the short-wave transmissions have been in the experimental stage. But now rapid progress is being made. It is expected that a regular daily programme will be organized for all continents. The first step will include a one station service only, with two directed aeriels for North America, one for South America, two for Africa and one for the Far East. The second step will bring two additional areas for Central America, Southern Asia and Australia, and a circular emitter which will ensure the listeners in bordering European lands of good reception, and in addition a second station will be connected with all these different types of emitters, allowing thus simultaneous transmissions of two programmes on different wavelengths and for different destinations. The station will for financial reasons have to find ways and means of recuperating a part of its investment. To this end, the second transmitter will be placed principally at the disposal of a radio-telephone service with overseas countries.

#### "Metallurgical Abstracts"

THE Minister of Labour in a recent speech said: "I want to shorten the war. I believe it can be shortened, but nothing but metal will do it". No more emphatic statement of the importance of the metallurgist in the present struggle could be desired. In connexion with all metallurgical work the accessibility of complete and authoritative abstracts of the research work published throughout the world is essential. For many years the "Metallurgical Abstracts" of the Institute of Metals have been widely recognized as fulfilling these requirements, and the latest volume fully upholds the reputation of its predecessors ("Metallurgical Abstracts" (General and Non-Ferrous). Edited by S. C. Guillan. Vol. 6 (New Series), 1939. Pp. xii+683. 1940. London: The Institute of Metals, 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London,

S.W.I. Subscription price, including two bound volumes of the *Journal of the Institute of Metals*, £4, post paid). In every metallurgical and most engineering establishments of the country where non-ferrous metals are produced, fabricated or used, this volume is essential.

#### The Journal of Pathology and Bacteriology

WITH the May issue, this journal completes its fiftieth volume. Founded in 1892 by the late Prof. Sims Woodhead, it has consistently maintained its position as an authoritative journal of British pathology, and much of the best work in pathological and bacteriological research of British investigators has appeared in its pages. Commendation must be expressed with regard to paper and type, and the excellent illustrations have always been a feature. The present number which, in spite of war-time restrictions, maintains the high standard of its predecessors, contains thirteen papers covering a wide range of subjects in human and animal pathology, bacteriology, chemotherapy and other topics, together with some shorter articles and book reviews.

#### University of Iceland

IT is stated by the Reykjavik correspondent of *The Times* that the University of Iceland recently celebrated the twenty-ninth anniversary of its foundation by inaugurating a new university building, erected with the proceeds of a lottery authorized by the State. The British Minister, Mr. Charles Howard Smith, was present, and messages of congratulation were received from the Universities of Cambridge, Dublin, Leeds, London, Oxford, and Abo (Finland), and Yale University. The new building is large enough to house all the faculties of the University, which has until now had to make use of temporary quarters in the Parliament Building.

#### Announcements

DR. RICHARD KRONER, the well-known German Jewish philosopher and formerly professor at Dresden, Kiel and Berlin, who left Germany two years ago, has been appointed professor of logic and metaphysics at McGill University, Montreal.

THE National Academy of Medicine of Mexico has recently celebrated the centenary of the birth of the Mexican hygienist Edoardo Liceaga (1839-1926), author of works on inoculation against rabies, protection of the ports and frontier cities of Mexico against cholera, and the geography and prevention of yellow fever and typhus.

ERRATUM.—In the leading article on salvage and utilization of waste in *NATURE* of June 29, p. 988, reference was made to the utilization of woollen rags in the manufacture of high-grade paper. For "woollen" should be read "cotton".