

in various branches and that this should be supplemented with provincial laboratories working under the guidance of, and in close liaison with, the central laboratory.

In January 1937 the nucleus of a central laboratory (Biochemical Standardization Laboratory) was established, under the direction of Sir R. N. Chopra, in Calcutta, at the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health. The Laboratory has now made satisfactory progress in the limited number of studies undertaken and has trained adequate personnel and laid sure foundations for future work in this field as evidenced in the triennial report (Report of the Biochemical Standardization Laboratory 1937-40. Government of India Press, Calcutta, pp. 92). During the three years preceding the introduction of the Drugs Bill in February 1940 it was thought that the best course for the Laboratory was to undertake a general survey of the quality of medical drugs in the Indian market and an examination of the specimens of drugs both imported and manufactured in India which were suspected to be of inferior quality.

Many drug manufacturing firms in India do not maintain properly equipped pharmacological laboratories with trained personnel capable of undertaking the standardization of chemotherapeutic preparations, and it was natural that ethical manufacturing concerns interested in the quality of their products should approach the only Government organization available with requests to have their products standardized.

In the initial stages the Laboratory had necessarily to restrict itself to certain definite drugs of comparatively greater importance to the pharmaceutical and medical professions. Routine analytical work was therefore largely concentrated on surveying the quality of tinctures of digitalis, strophanthus and squills, extract of posterior pituitary gland and adrenaline hydrochloride solution. In addition to the routine activities a good deal of interest in research problems on subjects which have a direct or indirect bearing on drug work was consistently maintained. For example, one of the first group of drugs which the laboratory investigated was the cardiac drugs of the digitalis series. Liquid preparations of these drugs deteriorate at a fairly rapid rate when stored under the climatic conditions existing in India, and factors leading to this deterioration and loss of potency have been the subject of investigation. Again, the estimation of the antidiuretic potency of pituitary extract in rats was given an extensive trial and found to be quite reliable and to compare favourably with the results obtained by the oxytocic method. In addition, the Laboratory has the responsibility of acting as the national centre for the maintenance and distribution of certain international biological standards.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(Meeting marked with an asterisk is open to the public)

### Monday, April 13

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY (at Kensington Gore, London, S.W.7), at 5 p.m.—Discussion opened by Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close, F.R.S.: "The Map of the Pacific".

SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY (JOINT MEETING OF THE YORKSHIRE SECTION AND THE FOOD GROUP) (at the Hotel Metropole, Leeds). Subject: "Colours in Foods". 3 p.m.—Mr. D. J. T. Bagnall: "Comments on Coloured Foods". 3.45 p.m.—Prof. J. W. Cook, F.R.S.: "Physiological Aspects". 5.15 p.m.—Dr. D. A. Harper and Mr. N. Strafford: "The Rapid Spectrographic Determination of Minute Amounts of Arsenic, Lead, Copper, and other Heavy Metals in Food-Substances Colours and Medicinals".

### Tuesday, April 14

CHADWICK PUBLIC LECTURE (at the Royal Sanitary Institute, 90 Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1), at 2.30 p.m.—Mr. D. C. Graham: "Dangers from Rainfall in Urban Areas; Prevention of Flooding of Buildings and of its Insanitary Consequences" (Bosson Gift Lecture).\*

SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY (CHEMICAL ENGINEERING GROUP) (Joint Meeting with the Institution of Chemical Engineers) (at the Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1), at 2.30 p.m.—Discussion on "The Development of New Chemical Processes" to be opened by Mr. H. W. Cremer.

ILLUMINATING ENGINEERING SOCIETY (at the E.L.M.A. Lighting Service Bureau, 2 Savoy Hill, London, W.C.2), at 5 p.m.—Mr. J. N. Aldington: "Fluorescent Light Sources and their Applications".

### Wednesday, April 15

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS (at John Adam Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.2), at 1.45 p.m.—Mr. J. C. Dawes: "Making Use of Waste Products".

SOCIETY OF GLASS TECHNOLOGY (at Elmfield, Northumberland Road, Sheffield 10), at 2 p.m.—Annual General Meeting.

INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY (LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN COUNTIES SECTION) (at 30 Russell Square, London, W.C.1), at 6 p.m.—Dr. Hugh Nicol: "What the Plant does with its Materials".

### Thursday, April 16

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ASSOCIATION (in the Dome Lounge, Dickens and Jones, 224 Regent Street, London, W.1), at 1.20 p.m.—"Planning for the Family".

CHEMICAL SOCIETY (at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London, W.1), at 4.30 p.m.—The Rt. Hon. Lord Rayleigh, F.R.S.: Sir Joseph J. Thomson Memorial Lecture.

### Friday, April 17

ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS (at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London, W.C.1), at 11 a.m.—Symposium on the Pathology of the Hop (Speakers: Dr. W. Ware, Dr. W. G. Keyworth, Dr. A. M. Masee). 2 p.m.—Discussion on the Interpretation of Toxicity Data. (Speakers: Dr. H. Martin, Mr. A. F. P. Parker Rhodes, Dr. C. Potter, Mr. D. J. Finney.)

## APPOINTMENTS VACANT

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments on or before the dates mentioned:

LECTURER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS—The Registrar, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea (April 22).

HEAD OF THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT AND VICE-PRINCIPAL OF THE WEST HARTLEPOOL TECHNICAL COLLEGE—The Chief Education Officer, Education Offices, Park Road, West Hartlepool (endorsed "T.C.") (April 25).

LECTURER IN BIOCHEMISTRY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY—The Secretary, The University, Edmund Street, Birmingham 3 (April 25).

ASSISTANT PHYSICIST in the Physics Department of the Radiotherapeutic Research Unit of the Medical Research Council—The Director, Radiotherapeutic Research Unit, Hammersmith Hospital, London, W.12 (April 27).

SKILLED WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR familiar with modern machine tool practice, at the Medway Technical College, Senior Departments, Gillingham—The District Education Officer, Fort Pitt House, New Road, Rochester.

FEMALE ASSISTANT PHYSICISTS—The Ministry of Labour and National Service, Appointments Department, Section B/E, Sardinia Street, London, W.C.2 (quoting B673E).

FEMALE ASSISTANT CHEMISTS—The Ministry of Labour and National Service, Appointments Department, Section B/E, Sardinia Street, London, W.C.2 (quoting B667E).

## REPORTS and other PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

### Great Britain and Ireland

National Institute of Economic and Social Research. Report for 1940-1941. Pp. 15. (London: National Institute of Economic and Social Research.) [103]

### Other Countries

Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. Forest Leaflet No. 1: Synthetic Tall Oil. By T. P. Ghose and B. S. Verma. Pp. 4. (Dehra Dun: Forest Research Institute.) 2 annas; 3d. [33]

U.S. Department of Agriculture. Circular No. 606: Observations on the Biology and Control of the Treehopper *Heliria praealta* (Fowler) in Orchards of the Pacific Northwest. By M. A. Yothers and Paul B. Allen, Jr. Pp. 13. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) 10 cents. [63]

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections. Vol. 101, No. 6: Beetles of the Genus *Hyperaspis* inhabiting the United States. By Th. Dobzhansky. (Thomas Lincoln Casey Fund.) (Publication 3642.) Pp. ii+9+6 plates. (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution.) [63]