

H. H. Paine. Letters to the Editor and Notes and News are given reasonable space, and there is a further article, "The Control of Reverberation in Theatres and Concert Halls", by Prof. P. R. Kirby. An account of the Oudtshoorn meeting of the South African Association completes the number. The editor of *South African Science* is Dr. H. B. S. Cooke, of the Department of Geology, University of the Witwatersrand, who is to be congratulated on the first number of a journal which is clearly needed in such a rapidly developing area as South Africa.

The Indian Archives

The Indian Archives, the first number of which, dated January 1947, has just been received, is a welcome addition to periodical literature on documentation and to the specialist journals of India; its high quality is assured by the fact that it is published by the Imperial Record Department at New Delhi on behalf of the Indian Historical Records Commission. Since the establishment of the Imperial Record Department in 1891 and the Records Commission some thirty years later, much has been achieved, as reference to their many publications will show, in the collection and systematic classification, calendaring and indexing of the Government of India's extant records and in the technical work of their proper care and preservation. But much remains to be done. There are still many districts in India with an untold wealth of valuable archives in charge of unqualified keepers, and some Provinces and States without central record offices. India is not the only country that has in the past been indifferent to the value of its historical records. There, as elsewhere, healthy signs exist of an awakening of the public conscience, and the new journal is intended not only to stimulate this but also to serve as a clearing house for scientific knowledge on matters of archival interest and as an advice and information centre for Indian archivists. The editorial board proposes to print important articles on archival subjects from the foreign press as well as original contributions and papers dealing with India's special problems. This first number has a very interesting selection; it is well produced and will be well received by all concerned with archives and their keeping. It is to appear quarterly.

A New Mycological Periodical

THE well-known periodical *Annales Mycologici*, beginning in 1903, ended with its forty-second volume. The premises of the publisher were destroyed in an air attack in April 1945, and H. Sydow, the editor and founder of the journal, died in the following year. Dr. F. Petrak, the eminent mycologist of the Vienna Museum, has decided to re-start the journal with the title *Sydowia*. It will retain its international character and will appear twice a year, each number containing 12-15 sheets. The first number is to be published this year and will include some papers by Petrak which were contained in Nos. 3-6 of Vol. 42 of the *Annales*, the whole edition of which was destroyed. Mycologists are invited to send original articles for publication in English, French, German, Italian, Latin or Spanish. The price of each volume will be 40 Swiss francs. The publisher is Ferdinand Berger, Horn, Nied.-Österreich; the editor, Dr. F. Petrak, Botanische Abteilung des Naturhistorischen Museums, Vienna, Austria. British mycologists will wish Dr. Petrak success in his venture.

Chymia

THE great interest shown in the United States in the history of science is to find a further expression in the inauguration towards the end of this year of an annual publication on historical chemistry, entitled *Chymia*. It is anticipated that each volume will contain about a dozen articles of some four to five thousand words each, written in various languages and contributed by leading authorities from all over the world. It is appropriate that *Chymia* should be sponsored by the Edgar Fahs Smith Memorial Collection at the University of Pennsylvania, for it was in this University that the first American chair of chemistry was established in 1769, in the Colonial period, and filled by Benjamin Rush, one of Joseph Black's earliest pupils at Edinburgh. The editor-in-chief of *Chymia* is Prof. Tenney L. Davis, with a board of five other American editors and a group of consulting editors of international repute, representing, to date, the United States, Great Britain, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Holland, Germany, the Argentine, Brazil and China. The British contributors to the first volume are Prof. J. R. Partington, Prof. John Read and Dr. F. Sherwood Taylor. The secretary of the editorial board is Miss Eva V. Armstrong, curator of the Edgar Fahs Smith Collection, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Publication in Britain will be undertaken by the Oxford University Press.

Summer School in Physical Chemistry at Cambridge

DESIGNED to bring industrial research into closer contact with academical research, an eight-day course of lectures and class work was opened in the Department of Physical Chemistry at Cambridge on August 16. The pressure of applications induced the organisers to accommodate 180 rather than the 100 applicants originally contemplated. An unexpectedly high number of representatives came from university colleges, technical colleges and schools. Many officers attended from the research departments of the Ministry of Supply, and some from the Services. The majority were drawn from industrial organisations, headed in by a group of twenty-six from various sections of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. Prof. Norrish's inaugural lecture on the history of chemistry at Cambridge was followed by eighteen lectures given by him and his staff and devoted in equal numbers to molecular structure, its quantum interpretation, its optical investigation and its bearing on pure liquids and solutions; polymerization, oxidations, explosions, photochemical reactions and nuclear chain processes; the mechanism of friction, wear and lubrication, and the induction of chemical change by impact. The course was characterized by a friendly exchange of difficulties between those attending the school and those responsible for it, and by the variety of new experimental techniques available for trial. The final meeting was attended by the Vice-Chancellor and addressed by Mr. A. V. Alexander, Minister of Defence.

Libraries and their Use

SOME of the papers read at the week-end conference of the London and Home Counties Branch of the Library Association held at Eastbourne in October 1946, which have now been issued as a separate reprint (Library Association, 68 Holloway Road, London, N.7. 5s.), although addressed

primarily to the public librarian, are of interest to those in charge of scientific or technical libraries and to those using such libraries for research or for other purposes. This applies particularly to the papers in the symposium on special materials in libraries, to which Dr. E. C. Willatts, of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, contributes some notes on the cataloguing, classification and handling generally of maps, plans and aerial photographs, and Miss D. Tayler, formerly of the Ministry of Information, on the like treatment of pictorial material. Mrs. L. Moholy surveys the various processes of documentary reproduction, including the photostat process and micro-copying techniques, and urges once more the establishment of central offices of documentary reproduction; while two papers by Miss Marie T. Slocombe and Miss Valentine Britten, both of the British Broadcasting Corporation, dealing with sound recordings and describing the B.B.C.'s Recorded Programmes Library and the formation and administration of a gramophone library, respectively, should interest a more limited number of scientific workers. An excellent paper on "Library Co-operation and Publicity", by C. A. Elliott, of the Bermondsey Public Libraries, makes many sound points which could well be laid to heart by the works librarian or the librarian serving a research organisation in industry or elsewhere. The two-fold responsibility is the same: to provide an adequate service and to make it accessible. As in the public library, there is the task of organising an efficient service to meet known needs, of removing all unnecessary hindrances and barriers between the reader and the source of information, and of making known, continuously and effectively, the existence of the service so that it is fully used.

Beilby Memorial Awards

FROM the interest derived from the invested capital of the Sir George Beilby Memorial Fund, at intervals to be determined by the administrators, representing the Royal Institute of Chemistry, the Society of Chemical Industry, and the Institute of Metals, awards are made to British investigators in science to mark appreciation of records of distinguished work. Preference is given to investigations relating to the special interests of Sir George Beilby, including problems connected with fuel economy, chemical engineering and metallurgy, and awards are made, not on the result of any competition, but in recognition of continuous work of exceptional merit, bearing evidence of distinct advancement in science and practice. In general, awards are not applicable to workers of established repute, but are granted as an encouragement to younger men who have done original independent work of exceptional merit over a period of years. The administrators of the Fund will therefore be glad to have their attention directed to outstanding work of the nature indicated not later than November 1. All communications should be addressed to the Convenor, Sir George Beilby Memorial Fund, Royal Institute of Chemistry, 30 Russell Square, London, W.C.1.

Information on Solar Activity by Radio

As the central station for international co-operation on solar activity, the Swiss Federal Observatory at Zurich is now giving monthly the daily sunspot (relative) numbers by the short-wave service of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation according to the following programme:

On the 4th of each month:

G.M.T.		wave-length		
(1)	07h.20m.	25.39	25.28	for Australia
(2)	15 05	19.60	16.87	„ the Far East
(3)	21 50	19.59		„ South America
(4)	22 30	25.28		„ North America
(5)	23 40	31.46	25.28 19.59	„ South America

On the 5th of each month:

G.M.T.		wave-length		
(6)	01h.40m.	31.46	25.28 19.59	for North America
(7)	03 05	31.46	25.28 19.59	„ North America

For this year, in October, emission 2 will be on October 3 instead of October 4. Emissions 3 and 5 are in Spanish, the others in English.

The Night Sky in September

New moon occurs on Sept. 14d. 19h. 28m., U.T., and full moon on Sept. 30d. 06h. 41m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: Sept. 10d. 11h., Mars 3° N.; Sept. 12d. 10h., Saturn 4° S.; Sept. 19d. 10h., Jupiter 0.6° N. Mercury and Venus are badly placed for observation during the month and Venus is in superior conjunction on Sept. 3. Mars, in the constellation of Gemini, is visible in the morning hours, rising a little before 0h. during the greater portion of the month. Jupiter, in the constellation of Libra, can be observed in the early part of the night, setting at 21h., 20h., and 19h. 20m. at the beginning, middle, and end of the month, respectively. Its stellar magnitude varies between -1.6 and -1.4 during September. Saturn can be seen in the constellation of Leo in the morning hours, rising at 3h. 05m., 2h. 20m., and 1h. 34m., at the beginning, middle, and end of the month, respectively, and is easily recognized by its yellowish hue. Only one occultation of stars brighter than magnitude 6 takes place: Sept. 28d. 01h. 42.5m., τ Aquar. (*D*), the latitude of Greenwich being assumed and *D* referring to disappearance. The annual equinox occurs on Sept. 23d. 21h.

Announcements

THE Committee of Privy Council for Medical Research has appointed Prof. N. Hamilton Fairley, professor of tropical medicine in the University of London, and Prof. J. H. Gaddum, professor of materia medica in the University of Edinburgh, to be members of the Medical Research Council as from October 1.

THE Paint Research Association will celebrate its twenty-first anniversary on Tuesday, September 23 and following days, and the Paint Research Station, Teddington, will be open to visitors. On September 25 Sir Thomas Merton will give a short address, followed by a lecture by Dr. D. A. Sutton entitled "Is Copal Varnish an Alkyd?"; on the next day Sir Lawrence Bragg will speak, and will be followed by a lecture by Dr. G. Herdan entitled "Paint and Mathematics". Applications to visit the Station should be sent to the Director, Paint Research Station, Waldegrave Road, Teddington, Middlesex.

THE twenty-second annual conference of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux will be held at the London School of Economics during September 20-21. The topics to be discussed include the effect of atomic energy developments on scientific and technical publication (Prof. R. E. Peierls); punched card systems in library work (Dr. J. W. Perry, Dr. W. E. Batten and Dr. G. M. Dyson); and format of periodicals (Dr. V. E. Parke, L. J. F. Brimble and L. G. Patrick). Particulars of the meeting can be obtained from the Secretary of the Association, 52 Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1.