

Archiv für Meteorologie, Geophysik und Bioklimatologie

A NEW Austrian journal, *Archiv für Meteorologie, Geophysik und Bioklimatologie*, began publication last September under the editorship of Dr. W. Morikofer (Davos) and Prof. F. Steinhauser (Vienna). It is divided into two series, (A) meteorology and geophysics, and (B) general and biological climatology (including their agricultural and micro aspects) and radiation phenomena. The issues will be of variable size, published (not at regular times) according to the material available; they will be combined into (probably annual) volumes each of about 400 pages. One part of each series appeared in September, (A) of 141 pages, price £1 5s. 6d., and (B) of 114 pages, price £1 3s. 0d. The first issue of series A contains seven articles and one note, all in German, but with abstracts in English (not always grammatical) and French. The authors are Courvoisier (barometric pressure variations), Defant (internal tidal waves), Reuter (heat balance of snow cover), Burkard (arctic ionosphere), Bouet (pluviology), Eckel (energetics of water-mixing), Toperczer (methodicity of land magnetic surveying), and Gotz (note on auroral photography). The paper and printing are up to the known high standard of the publishing firm of Springer (now in Vienna), but an annoying and unnecessary inconvenience and waste of time are imposed on the reader by the fact that the pages are uncut; this practice has long been abandoned by many publishers, and it is difficult to see why any should continue it.

Journal of Geophysical Research

FROM March 1949 the journal *Terrestrial Magnetism and Atmospheric Electricity* will appear under the new title *Journal of Geophysical Research*. The change of name marks the transfer of editorship from Dr. J. A. Fleming to Dr. Merle A. Tuve, who is also a successor of Dr. Fleming in his other former capacity as director of the Department of Terrestrial Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Dr. Fleming, who has been associated with the journal almost since its inception by L. A. Bauer in 1896, becomes honorary editor; the journal, aided by a subsidy (which will be continued and somewhat increased) from the Carnegie Institution of Washington, was published on Dr. Fleming's own financial responsibility for more than twenty years, and he gave to it generously also of his time and effort. It is hoped that other organisations, both national and international, will assist the journal financially in future, and that, with the aid of a page charge in cases where contributors' papers are sponsored by institutions, it will be possible, despite the great increase in costs, to continue to publish the journal at the very moderate subscription-rate hitherto charged namely, 3 dollars 50 cents for the four numbers per year. The change of title indicates a widening of the scope of the journal, though the scope has long transcended the limits implied by the title now discontinued. All who know the journal in its old form will wish it success under its new title and auspices.

Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science

THE annual report for the year 1947-48 of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science covers the year ending March 31, 1948, and in addition to the usual financial statement and balance sheet there are appended lists of books added to the library during the year, periodicals received by sub-

scription or exchange, members of the Council and of the Committee of Management and a report on the scientific work of the Association. In the latter Prof. K. Banerjee reports on R. K. Sen's continued study of the extra Laue reflexions of benzil, while over-exposed Laue photographs of pyrene have been taken by M. N. Dutta at 30-100° C. which show that the intensities invariably increase with temperature for all the different spots. M. Ganguly has found that very clear reflexions of the low-angle scattered X-radiation can be obtained by a crystal which is very slightly mis-set from the position for reflecting the direct beam. B. S. Basak has undertaken the complete determination of the structure of phenanthrene crystals by the Fourier analysis method, and, with A. K. Rai Choudhury, has made X-ray diffraction studies of beryllium-aluminium and tin-aluminium systems. X-ray studies of samples of Indian coals have been made by N. N. Gupta, and the mechanism of the formation of juteinite, a plastic from jute waste, is being studied by J. C. Maitra. B. K. Banerjee has continued to study the dispersion of metals and salts in glass, and Dr. A. Bose has undertaken a systematic investigation of crystal paramagnetism to determine whether group structure formed by the internal fields in the solid state persists in solution. A. Dutta has undertaken a systematic study of the magnetic and electric properties of semiconductors, such as tungstenite.

Prof. S. C. Sirkar reports on B. M. Bishui's investigation of the polarization of Raman lines of ethylene dibromide in various solvents and on his further work on the Raman spectra of 1:1-dichloroethane. The Department of Physical Chemistry only commenced work on October 1, 1947, but Prof. S. R. Palit reports that investigation has already been initiated on several problems in polymerization, on surface-active agents and metallic soaps in organic solvents with reference to solubility, surface tension, electrical and similar properties, on the kinetics of halogenation of sodium acetate in glacial acetic acid, sodium propionate in propionic acid, etc. Potentiometric studies in non-aqueous media have also been undertaken, as well as the synthesis of styrene, methyl methacrylate, etc., for high-polymer studies.

New York Academy of Medicine

Now that Great Britain is committed to the National Health Service, it is interesting to find that neither the retiring president of the New York Academy of Medicine, nor its incoming president, nor the Academy itself, can support, at present at any rate, compulsory national medical insurance in the United States. Dr. George Baehr, the retiring president, referred, in his valedictory address to the Academy delivered on January 6 last, to the report, published in 1947, of the four-year study made by the Academy's Committee on "Medicine and the Changing Order". He reminded his audience that the Academy recognizes the need for changes; but, after serious consideration, has decided definitely to oppose compulsory national medical insurance at the present time. Instead, it considers that a medical service with prepayment of fees can be attained more efficiently and with much less risk by Federal grants to State and local areas; such a service would be adaptable to the varying needs of the States and their political subdivisions and also to rural and urban areas. The Academy favours voluntary efforts because they are more flexible and experimental; but