

Silver Jubilee of the Indian Chemical Society

The Journal of the Indian Chemical Society is now so well known that many will perhaps be surprised to learn that the Society is only twenty-five years old. The silver jubilee was celebrated at the annual meeting held in Allahabad on January 3 last, when messages of congratulations were received from sister societies in other countries, fittingly headed by one from the oldest Chemical Society, that of London, which recently celebrated its centenary. As was natural, many tributes were paid to the first president, the late Sir Prafulla Chandra Ray, to whom more than to anyone else must be given the credit for the development of chemical research in India. Some account of India's contributions to chemical science is given in a jubilee publication which contains photographs of the past presidents and honorary fellows. In the course of his address, the president, Prof. P. Ray, wisely laid particular emphasis on the importance of fundamental scientific research and to the lack of inspiring teachers and investigators in the schools and universities. According to Prof. Ray, the situation in this respect has recently become worse owing to the departure of many university teachers to take up administrative posts in Government departments. This is a danger present not only in India. Prior to delivering his address, the president announced the election of five honorary fellows, among whom we were glad to note the name of Sir Robert Robinson. We feel sure that, when the Society celebrates its golden jubilee, its fellows will look back with pride and thankfulness to those who served it during its first twenty-five years.

Men, Managers and Machines

In his monograph "Scientific Management" (Monographs on Higher Management, No. 9, Department of Industrial Administration, Manchester Municipal College of Technology; May 1948), Mr. G. Chelioti urges that the essence of management is the art of getting things done through the agency of other human beings, and that management itself is incapable of becoming a science. He regards science as the foundation and the provider of the tools of industry, and the technician as the primary servant of science in industry; but he points out that the technician cannot manage human beings by means of his technology and that the manager dealing with a technical problem becomes a technologist for the time being. In urging this clear separation of the two functions of dealing with human beings and with technical problems or machines, Mr. Chelioti maintains that the undue domination of industry in the nineteenth century by the new element of modern technology, and the failure to regard industry as the servant of humanity and to consider sufficiently the human beings employed, was responsible for the revolt of the human spirit against subordination to the machine which we are still experiencing in spite of a more enlightened managerial outlook. Mr. Chelioti also reminds us that the current attitude of society was at least as much responsible for the revolt as the contemporary employers or managers, and his words should be carefully weighed in the discussion of the question of human relations in industry to-day.

Fungi as Human Pathogens

It is fortunate in Great Britain there are relatively few outbreaks of human disease caused by fungi. Such maladies are, however, much more

common in the warmer parts of Europe and in the United States, where considerable study has been devoted to the diseases and their causal agents. Results of these investigations are published in the journal *Mycopathologia* (Dr. W. Junk, den Haag, Holland). The subject brings its own problems, particularly in naming and classification, some of which are discussed in a paper by T. Benedek (4, Fasc. 3; Dec. 1948). It is concluded that the dermatophytes cannot well be classified by the usual methods of botanical mycologists, and that it is preferable to retain the four form genera originally suggested by Sabouraud. This retains the tradition of the Fungi Imperfetti, where species are classified merely from the form of their asexual spores until the sexual forms are discovered. Mycologists will also find, in the same number of *Mycopathologia*, useful papers on the yeast flora of grapes, must and wine (R. Ciferri and O. Verona), and of the 'vegetation waters' separated from olive oil (R. Ciferri, O. Verona and F. Luparini). The blastomycetic microflora of fermenting tobacco is described by M. Giovannozzi. An investigation of antibiotic substances against Gram-negative micro-organisms has been made by G. Magni and A. Villa, and G. Magni has studied the biological significance of the pseudomycelium of asporogenous yeasts. W. J. Nickerson and O. F. Jillson also discuss the interaction of pathogenic fungi in culture, with reference to cell division in the dimorphism of pathogenic fungi. Specialist papers on mycopathology also appear; it is in no invidious sense that they are not reviewed here in detail. There are far more general mycologists than mycopathologists in Great Britain; but the former will nevertheless find much of interest in *Mycopathologia*.

Taxonomy of the Fungi

In the issue for June 1948 of the *Transactions of the British Mycological Society* (31, Parts 3, 4) there are several papers which help to clarify the systemic positions of many fungi. A. A. Pearson and R. W. G. Dennis have reviewed the validity of the 1,870 specific epithets contained in the latest authoritative work on Agarics (Rea's "British Basidiomycetes"). They have excluded synonyms, names attached to inadequate descriptions, and other variants of doubtful nomenclature, leaving a total of 1,234 species. Boletales have similarly been reduced from 70 to 47. The valid species are listed with short notes (pp. 145-190), and field mycologists should be grateful to the authors for the removal of such an incubus. This clarification has involved a re-examination by R. W. G. Dennis of several little-known agarics from the herbaria of Berkeley, Cooke and Massee; 29 of these are described in relation to the shorter list (pp. 191-209). Special groups of fungi have also been studied. The late T. Petch provides a revised list of British entomogenous fungi (pp. 286-304), including a new species, *Verticillium menisporoides*, found on spiders in Suffolk. Fungi which are associated with lichens have not hitherto been investigated very intensively. W. Watson lists (pp. 305-339) a large number of these, with notes on their characters and distribution. The Society's "List of Common British Plant Diseases" is kept up to date by the publication of emendations. A collection of these, designed to supplement the third edition of the List, appears in the present number of the *Transactions* (pp. 340-342). A new species of *Pyrenophora* from Italian ryegrass is described by