

Two Indian Plant Diseases

THE issue for June 1948 of the *Proceedings of the Indian Academy of Sciences* (27, B, No. 6) contains two contributions to the phytopathology of southern India. M. S. Balakrishnan (pp. 161-173) describes a new species of *Pythium* (*P. indicum*), causing a fruit rot of *Hibiscus esculentus*. The fungus has filamentous sporangia, the typical sexual reproduction of *Pythium*, and has a wide host-range, including maize and *Petunia*. K. V. Ramakrishnan (pp. 174-193) has studied isolations of *Piricularia* from four host species—*Oryza sativa*, *Eleusine coracana*, *Setaria italica* and *Digitaria marginata*. No difference in morphology has been found between the four isolates; but their physiology varies somewhat, particularly in the width of host-range, the most favoured sources of carbon and nitrogen, the optimum temperature, and the enzyme status.

Earthquakes during February 1949

SIXTEEN strong earthquakes occurred in the world during February. The strongest and deepest was probably that which occurred on February 2 from a focus some 200 km. deep beneath the Aleutian Islands. This had strength $7\frac{1}{2}$ on the instrumental scale. The next most intense was probably that on February 13 (strength 7) from the Kermadec Islands region. The shock, however, which gave the greatest amplitudes at Durham ($500\ \mu$) occurred on February 23, from an epicentre, according to E. Peterschmitt and P. Baltenberger, of Strasbourg, in the Tien-Sehan highlands (latitude $42\frac{1}{2}^\circ$ N., longitude 84° E.) and had strength $6\frac{3}{4}$. The earthquake on February 5 with epicentre near latitude 40° N., longitude 30° E. in Anatolia was felt at Eskishir, Kütahya, Bozüyük and Bursa, and destroyed property in the epicentral region. European earthquakes occurred on February 3, 17 and 19 in the Karnische Alps (felt in Frioul, Italy), in the Basses Alps (Barcelonnette) and southwest of Winterthur, respectively. The earthquake of February 28 occurred in the region of the Sandwich Islands in the South Atlantic Ocean. Movement during the month appears to have been confined to the well-established seismic zones on the earth. Instrumental reports have been received from the central stations of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey (in co-operation with Science Service and the Jesuit Seismological Association), Strasbourg and Zurich, and from individual stations at De Bilt (Netherlands), Durham, Stuttgart, Toledo and Uccle (Belgium).

New Zealand State Scholarships for Science Graduates

Six national research scholarships given annually to science graduates by the Government of New Zealand on the recommendation of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have been awarded to the following: Mr. J. H. Brown, of Auckland University College, for research in biochemistry with a medical and endocrinological bias, the award being tenable at the Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry, Middlesex Hospital, London; Mr. R. H. Thornton, of the Canterbury Agricultural College, for research in soil microbiological techniques, the award being tenable at Rothamsted Experimental Station, or the Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, Aberdeen, or Department of Agriculture, Canada, whichever is available; Mr. R. N. Brothers, of Auckland University College, for research in sedimentary petrology;

Mr. P. G. Harris, of Victoria University College, Wellington, for research in geochemistry; Mr. W. B. Taylor, of Auckland University College, for research in statistics and statistical methods; Mr. C. B. Speedy, of Canterbury College, Christchurch, for research in light-engineering electronics. Each scholarship has a tenure of two years and a value of £250 a year with additional grants for books and university fees. They may be used at approved university colleges in New Zealand and elsewhere; but where facilities are available in New Zealand, every encouragement is given for the courses to be undertaken in the Dominion.

British Scientific Instrument Research Association

ON March 25 the British Scientific Instrument Research Association moved from 26 Russell Square, London, W.C.1 (now required by the owners, the University of London), to new headquarters at 17 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7. The March issue of the *Bulletin* of the Association records that the Russell Square premises were first occupied in November 1918, and that, from that date until October 1946, when the new laboratories at 'Sira', Chislehurst, Kent, were opened, the laboratories and all the activities of the Association were housed at Russell Square. Since the occupation of the new laboratories, the Russell Square premises have been the headquarters of the Association, the home of the Information Department and of the Optical Computing Department, and more recently also the offices of the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers' Association.

Conference on Electron Microscopy at Delft

DURING and since the War, a very active school of electron microscopy has grown up in the Technical University of Delft, under the direction of Dr. J. B. Le Poole. In addition to furthering the applications of the instrument, his work on its technical improvement has been of great importance, and has led to the development of a commercial model by the Philips concern. In view of Dutch interest in this field, the Applied Physics Section of the Netherlands Physical Society is arranging a Conference in Electron Microscopy, which will be held at Delft during July 4-9. Its intention is to bring together specialists from other European countries and from America, to which end an international sponsoring committee has been set up. Both this and the working committee are under the presidency of Prof. H. B. Dorgelo, Technical University, Delft. A programme has been arranged, covering all the main technical aspects and applications of the electron microscope. In each session the opening paper is to be given by an invited speaker, followed by short contributions from others. The chief topics are: image formation and contrast (E. G. Ramberg, Radio Corporation of America), preparation techniques (D. G. Drummond, Shirley Institute, Manchester), resolving power and apparatus (M. E. Haine, A.E.I. Research Laboratories, Aldermaston). The general lecture on microscopes will be given by Dr. Le Poole, and that on applications by Prof. W. T. Astbury. Accommodation is being found in Delft and The Hague by the working committee, and party travel at reduced rates is being arranged from Great Britain. Application forms for accommodation and travel can be obtained from Dr. V. E. Cosslett, Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, to whom offers of contributed papers from Britain should also be sent, as early as possible.