

ancillary technical established and 25,317 unestablished. The grand total was 448,192 men and 245,809 women, and of these only 12,608 men and 31,115 women were part-time.

#### Annual Conference of the Science Masters' Association

FOR the first time in the forty-nine years of the history of the Science Masters' Association, the annual conference for 1950 will be held in Scotland, at the King's Buildings, University of Edinburgh, during January 3-6. The presidential address, by Sir Edward Appleton, principal and vice-chancellor of the University of Edinburgh, will be devoted to "Radio Waves of Extra-Terrestrial Origin", and Prof. C. H. Waddington will give a public lecture on "Science and Human Affairs". Other speakers and their subjects will be: Prof. J. Ritchie, "Civilization and Wild Life"; Prof. G. F. Marrian, "Recent Advances in the Study of Hormones of the Animal Body"; Dr. J. Paton, "Optical Properties of the Atmosphere"; Mr. J. P. Stephenson, "Science Teaching and Education"; Sir James Learmonth, "The Background of Modern Surgery"; Prof. J. Macmurray, "Science in Religious Education"; Mr. E. G. Dymond, "Exploration in the Upper Atmosphere". The general public will be welcome to attend the evening lectures and scientific workers the morning lectures. Laboratory space has been set aside for members to display ideas and devices for teaching science, and there will also be manufacturers' and publishers' exhibitions. University demonstrations and several excursions and visits have been arranged. The local secretary for the Edinburgh conference is W. A. J. Musson, 10 Hope Place, Musselburgh, and the annual-meeting secretary is W. G. Rhodes, 318 Granville Road, Sheffield, 2.

#### Fourth World Power Conference

IN connexion with the Fourth World Power Conference to be held in London during July 10-15, 1950 (see *Nature*, 162, 988; 1948), a provisional programme has recently been published together with a supplementary booklet containing the titles of papers and names of authors, corrected to October 27. Most of the pages in the provisional programme are taken up with details of the tours in the United Kingdom, each of which will last about a week, beginning on July 17 after the Conference. Other new points of interest are: the technical sessions will take place in the buildings of the Institutions of Civil, Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, with headquarters and reception and information offices in the first-named Institution; the working languages of the Conference will be English and French, and possibly a third language; and the halls will be equipped for simultaneous interpretation. The general secretary, Mr. C. H. Gray, will deal with all questions involving policy, presentation of papers and other technical matters, and such correspondence should be addressed to him at 201 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2. All other queries, including administrative problems, should be referred to the Office of the Fourth World Power Conference, 414 Cecil Chambers, 76/86 Strand, London, W.C.2.

#### Joint Engineering Conference, 1951

THE Councils of the Institutions of Civil, Mechanical and Electrical Engineers have decided to hold, in London, a joint engineering conference during June 4-15, 1951, to coincide with the Festival of Britain which is to be held that year. The theme of the

conference will be to place on record the achievements of British engineers and will afford an opportunity for the engineers of the world to discuss the future trends of developing the great sources of power in Nature for the use and convenience of man. The conference will also underline the interdependence of all branches of engineering, for none of the great developments in the past hundred years would have been possible without the constant and ever-growing co-operation of the members of the three major engineering institutions in Great Britain. Mindful of the importance of maintaining the high standard and technical efficiency of British engineers in the future, the conference will also discuss the development of the system of education of engineers in Great Britain. The detailed arrangements of the conference are being prepared and will be announced later.

#### American Societies for Experimental Biology

THE Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology will hold its thirty-fourth annual meeting during April 17-21, 1950, at Atlantic City, New Jersey with headquarters at the Hotel Traymore. Affiliated societies are: American Physiological Society; American Society of Biological Chemists; American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics; American Society for Experimental Pathology; American Institute of Nutrition; and American Association of Immunologists. Attendance will be open to members of the constituent societies and their associates and to interested biologists in all countries. Those wishing to read papers at the meeting should submit the titles and abstracts to the secretary of the appropriate society not later than January 10, 1950. Further information can be obtained from the Federation Secretary, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D.C.

#### Announcements

A TINE Tammes Prize of 500 guilders (about £46) is being offered for 1950 and 1952. That for the former year will be awarded for a study on the cytogenetics of a group of species of Phanerogams, and the other for a study on genes and their chemical activity. The prize-winning papers and others of sufficient merit will be published in *Genetica*. Manuscripts for the two prizes should be submitted before December 1, 1950 and 1952, respectively, to Prof. M. J. Sirks, Genetisch Instituut, Huis de Wolf, Haren (Gron.), Netherlands, from whom further details can be obtained.

A SHORT vacation course on wool, organised by the International Wool Secretariat, and specially designed to assist teachers in all types of schools and training colleges, will be held during January 2-6, 1950, at the London County Council Technical College for the Distributive Trades, 107 Charing Cross Road, London, W.C.2. The course will be concerned with all aspects of wool, with lectures on wool-growing and marketing, the historical and geographical development of the wool trade, the science of wool, wool cloth manufacture, design and construction, judgment of quality, and the development of fashion, and there will also be some handicrafts demonstrations. Further information can be obtained from the Department of Publicity, International Wool Secretariat, Dorland House, 18-20 Regent Street, London, S.W.1.

ERRATUM. In "Line-Broadening in Solar Flares" (*Nature*, December 3, p. 964), lines 5 and 6, for " $H\alpha$ ,  $H\beta$ , etc., show smaller widths than  $H\gamma$ " read " $H\beta$ ,  $H\gamma$ , etc., show smaller widths than  $H\alpha$ ".