

on the edge of the film. This fascinating method of approach might be applied to many other similar problems.

Geophysical Conference in South Africa

A THREE-DAY conference on geophysical subjects, organised by the Bernard Price Institute of Geophysical Research, of the University of the Witwatersrand, was held in July in Johannesburg. It was attended by some seventy-five scientific workers, mainly from the Witwatersrand and Pretoria, but including visitors from universities and other organisations in the Cape and Natal, and one or two from Rhodesia and the Belgian Congo. Thirty-eight papers were presented in two sessions running simultaneously. These covered the fields of meteorology, seismology, terrestrial magnetism, lightning, the ionosphere, gravity and geophysical prospecting methods, the last of which aroused much interest. Some interesting papers were read on behalf of members of the staff of the Department of Terrestrial Electricity and Magnetism of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. All these papers dealt with unpublished, or recently published, work by the authors, and some were accompanied by demonstrations of instruments, equipment, etc. The convention gave a good picture of the flourishing state of geophysical science in southern Africa, and of the considerable interest taken in the application of it to practical problems. Its success has led to the intention of repeating the venture in a few years time.

Pavlov Centenary Celebrations

A SERIES of lectures in celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Ivan Pavlov is being organised by the Pavlov Centenary Committee of the Society for Cultural Relations between the Peoples of the British Commonwealth and the U.S.S.R. On October 6 Dr. A. S. McPherson will read a paper entitled "Recent Advances in the Study of Conditioned Reflexes", and on October 13 Dr. B. H. Kirman will speak on "The Application of Conditioned Reflexes to Psychiatry", both lectures to be delivered at 7.30 p.m. at 14 Kensington Square, London, W.8. Mr. J. G. Crowther will speak on "Pavlov, Scientist and Man: his Place in the History of Civilization" at 7.30 p.m. on November 3 at the University of London Institute of Education, Malet Street, W.C.1. The celebrations will also include performances (date and place to be announced later) of a new Soviet biographical film, "Academician Pavlov", and a film "Mechanism of the Brain", made by Pudovkin in 1925. Series tickets costing 10s. (non-members 12s. 6d.) and single tickets (2s. 6d. and 3s.) can be obtained from the Secretary, S.C.R. Science Section, 14 Kensington Square, London, W.8, to whom all inquiries should be addressed.

Operational Research: Meetings at Manchester

THE Manchester Joint Research Council will be holding a series of six meetings devoted to operational research, to be held on Fridays at fortnightly intervals, at which prominent authorities will speak and the problems of applying the technique of war-time operational research to peace-time conditions in British industry will be discussed; the final meeting will be an open forum at which Sir E. Raymond Street, assisted by Prof. P. M. S. Blackett, will sum up. The meetings will be held in the board room of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, Ship Canal House, King Street, Manchester 2, at 11.30 a.m. during September 30–December 9, and the fee for

the series is 30s. Further details can be obtained from the joint honorary secretaries of the Council at the above address.

International Conference on Building Documentation

AN international conference on building documentation will take place during October 6–15, 1949, in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, under the auspices of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe at the request of its Housing Sub-Committee. Mr. R. Fitzmaurice, chairman of the E.C.E. Housing Sub-Committee, will be in the chair. Governments, international organisations and United Nations specialized agencies have been invited to send delegations of technical experts and of all the different groups of users of building documentation. The programme of the conference will deal with building documentation, defined as the recording, organisation and dissemination of information relating to building in all its aspects, and for this purpose the work will be divided between seven working parties which will consider respectively the scope and nature of the abstracts; organisation of an international abstracting service; adoption and adaptation of the universal decimal classification; filing systems; recommendations for building publications; official building publications; and terminology. The aim of the conference is to propose steps to be taken in order to promote efficient building documentation and, thereby, better building at less cost; in particular, the delegates will examine the need for an International Building Documentation Office and for an International Union of Building Documentation Committees, and the conditions under which such bodies could be set up to continue international co-operation. All recommendations agreed to at the conference will be sent to the Housing Sub-Committee so that the latter may forward them to Governments for implementation in their respective countries. All communications should be addressed to the Conference on Building Documentation, Economic Commission for Europe, Palais des Nations, Room 278, Geneva, Switzerland.

Announcements

MR. H. M. GARNER has been appointed chief scientist to the Ministry of Supply in succession to Sir Ben Lockspeiser. For the last three years Mr. Garner has been principal director of scientific research (air) in the Ministry of Supply.

DR. WILLIAM F. HESTER, formerly director of insecticide and fungicide research at the Rohm and Haas Co., Philadelphia, Pa., has been appointed administrator of the thirteen fellowships of Koppers Co. Inc., at the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, University of Pittsburgh. In his new position, Dr. Hester will be responsible for the research and development being conducted by ninety-eight scientific workers and their assistants at the Mellon Institute.

A LECTURE course on "Room Acoustics", arranged by the Acoustics Group of the Physical Society, will be given by Dr. R. H. Bolt on September 29, 30, October 3, 4, 5 and 7. These lectures are at 5 p.m. at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London, W.1, and admission is by ticket obtainable from the Secretaries of the Acoustics Group of the Physical Society, 1 Lowther Gardens, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7.