

and the application of ultra-violet for rapid photo-printing. The radiation is also used for its germicidal properties in sterilizing atmospheres and in the brewing, bottling and other food industries. Fluorescence of materials under ultra-violet radiation has many applications, such as the testing of fabrics (particularly for invisible oil-spots before dyeing), in forensic medicine and for partition chromatography. The addition of fluorescent tracers in plumbing systems, etc., for observing leaks and flows is of great importance, since the detection of one part in 10^8 can be achieved. Most of the above-mentioned work can be done with lamps of the extra-high pressure type (mercury-filled at pressures of 6,000–2,000 mm. of mercury) and high pressure type (2,000–600 mm.), the rays of which do not affect the skin or eyes and can be refracted by glass lenses and prisms. The spectrum for the high-pressure type is almost continuous at about 2800–3200 Å., and the extra-high type is the same but with the wave-length energies displaced slightly towards the long end. For certain work, particularly for geological purposes, low-pressure discharge tubes (10–0.1 mm. pressure and almost monochromatic at 2537 Å.) are used, and the radiation from these burns the skin and can only be refracted by quartz. Specimen lamps of all three types were shown, both mains-driven and battery-portables for field work being included.

Proposals for International Collaboration in Applied Spectroscopy

At a meeting held in Paris on October 1, the need for an international organisation to promote spectrochemical analysis was discussed. The meeting followed the eleventh congress of the *Groupement pour l'Avancement des Méthodes d'Analyse Spectrographique des Produits Métallurgiques*. Besides the members of the French committee, spectroscopists representing groups in England and Switzerland were present, with others from Holland and Belgium. Discussion originated in an Italian proposal to form an international society of spectroscopists based on individual membership, and on a French proposal to form an international federation of regional or national societies of spectroscopists. It was reported that the International Council of Scientific Unions might sponsor a mixed commission on spectroscopy to co-ordinate the activities of physicists and astronomers interested in spectra, but that this body is not likely to concern itself with applied spectroscopy. After considering all these proposals, those present decided that in the first place it would be wise to work for a fuller interchange of information and speakers simply between societies in various countries organised to deal with emission or absorption spectra as applied to analysis. A list of such societies or groups and of their secretaries is to be compiled, and will be published in *Spectrochimica Acta*. This journal, which during 1946–49 was published in the Vatican City, is to be published in London from 1950 onwards. The editor, Ernest van Someren, of 4 Churchfields, Broxbourne, Herts, England, would like to receive the names of spectroscopic societies and of their secretaries, and hopes to be of service in keeping them in touch with the activities of other similar groups.

University of Birmingham: Appointments

The following announcements have recently been made by the University of Birmingham. Appointments to the Sir Josiah Mason Lectureship are as

follows: 1950, Prof. I. Schapera, professor of social anthropology in the University of Cape Town; 1952, Dr. H. I. P. Hogbin, reader in anthropology, University of Sydney. The title of reader in palaeontology has been conferred on Dr. H. B. Whittington, lecturer in geology.

The following have been appointed to lectureships in the subjects indicated: F. R. N. Nabarro, metallurgy; Dr. G. F. J. Garlick, physics; Dr. M. Krook, mathematical physics; Dr. J. H. Turnbull, chemistry; Dr. W. S. Norman, chemical engineering; J. Walker, physics; Dr. Elsie A. G. Knowles, industrial statistics (Department of Engineering Production); H. Grisbrook, tool engineering and metrology (Department of Engineering Production). Research fellows have been appointed as follows: D. J. Desmond and L. A. Ferney, to be Tube Investments research fellows in the Department of Engineering Production; K. B. Mather, to be I.C.I. research fellow in physics; Dr. D. W. Wake-man, to be I.C.I. research fellow in metallurgy.

Royal Society: Officers for 1950

At the anniversary meeting of the Royal Society held on November 30 the following were elected as officers and Council for the ensuing year: *President*, Sir Robert Robinson; *Treasurer*, Sir Thomas Merton; *Secretaries*, Sir Edward Salisbury and Sir David Brunt; *Foreign Secretary*, Prof. E. D. Adrian; *Other Members of Council*, Brigadier R. A. Bagnold, Prof. G. L. Brown, Prof. H. Davenport, Prof. F. G. Gregory, Sir Cyril Hinshelwood, Prof. R. P. Linstead, Prof. G. F. Marrian, Prof. H. S. W. Massey, Prof. F. E. Simon, Sir William Stanier, Sir George Thomson, Dr. H. G. Thornton, Prof. C. E. Tilley, Dr. F. M. R. Walshe, Dr. V. B. Wigglesworth, Prof. S. Zuckerman.

British Glaciological Society: Officers for 1950

The following have been elected officers and members of committee for 1950 of the British Glaciological Society: *President*, G. Seligman; *Vice-President*, J. M. Wordie; *Honorary General Secretary*, A. H. Bolitho; *Honorary Treasurer*, T. H. Best; *Meetings Secretary*, D. S. Brock; *Members of Committee*, D. L. Champion, Miss J. Clarke, J. Hartog, Prof. S. E. Hollingworth, W. V. Lewis, Prof. G. Manley, Dr. N. A. Mackintosh, Dr. N. E. Odell, Dr. B. B. Roberts, Dr. K. Sandford, Prof. A. Stephenson and W. H. Ward.

Announcements

The Manchester Federation of Scientific Societies' Christmas Lecture for Young People (thirteen to seventeen years of age) will be delivered by Prof. F. C. Williams at the University of Manchester at 3 p.m. on December 28 and 29. The lecture, which is entitled "Electrons in Control", will be illustrated by experiments.

The Royal Microscopical Society has established a cinemicrographic film library in order to make available films dealing with subjects which come within the range of the Society's activities. Hitherto, many excellent films, made in academic research institutions, have not been accessible for educational purposes. The collection, though at present not large, includes films by Comandon, Canti, Michel and Hughes. Further particulars, such as the fee for hiring these films, can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, Royal Microscopical Society, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.