

Applied Biology in the National Research Laboratories, Ottawa

THE Division of Applied Biology, National Research Laboratories, Ottawa, has now been in operation for twenty years and has already issued some five hundred publications. Its chief concern is research into the use of agricultural products as food or as industrial raw materials, problems connected with the productive or medical aspects of the subject being left to other organisations. The investigations undertaken cover a wide field and include those of a long-term fundamental nature as well as those for immediate industrial application. The results of the Division's activities are now being published as quarterly reports, the first of which was issued for the period January-March 1949. Each report will include a detailed account of some aspect of the work which has reached a reasonable state of completion, and will describe the chief features of the work in progress in the various fields of inquiry, such as food preservation, industrial utilization of agricultural crops and wastes, fats and oils, seaweed products and the application of statistics.

Infra-Red Heating Jackets

A NEW type of flexible heating jacket with a very wide range of uses, the 'Stabilag' infra-red heating jacket, has been marketed by Electricals, Ltd., Newcastle upon Tyne, 2. The jackets are moulded to fit any shape or size of apparatus and consist of a closely pitched heating element stitched to a fabric of woven glass in such a way that the heat is distributed evenly over the entire surface. They are normally supplied with an aluminium outer cover, although steel, stainless steel or copper can be supplied if desired, and are available for laboratory or industrial purposes. They provide a completely safe form of heating for inflammable liquids and can be used in conjunction with various types of control gear to give controlled heating to within 0.1° C. up to 500° C.

Guide to the Science Museum, London

ONE of the last administrative acts of the late Dr. H. Shaw, director of the Science Museum, South Kensington, London, S.W.7, was to publish an admirable outline guide to the exhibits (pp. 36+6 plates; London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1950; 6d. net). The booklet gives just that information which the average visitor requires, and is not overburdened with facts. A sketch map indicating the environs of the Museum and a plan of the galleries, together with a comprehensive index, quickly enables the visitor to discover the objects he seeks, or enables the individual with no particular object in mind to make an intelligent tour of the building. The objects for illustration have been selected with care, and the production is worthy of one of the foremost national museums in Great Britain.

Congress of Animal Technicians

A CONGRESS of animal technicians, organised by the Laboratory Animals Bureau, took place at the Royal Veterinary College, London, during March 30-31. More than four hundred technicians from all parts of Great Britain attended on one or both days. On March 30, at the congress, the Animal Technicians Association was formed under the presidency of Dr. A. S. Parkes; the honorary secretary is Mr. A. E. Mundy, Research Institute, Royal Veterinary College, Royal College Street, London, N.W.1, from whom

details of the new Association can be obtained. On March 31 three scientific and technical papers were presented: "Management of Small Animal Colonies to produce Large Numbers of Litter Mates for Controlled Experiments", by Mr. G. Porter, chief technician, Rowett Research Institute, Bucksburn; "The Effect of Controlled Artificial Illumination on Rat Breeding", by Mr. R. A. Hall, chief technician, Allen and Hanburys, Ware; and "Infection in Laboratory Animals", by Dr. H. J. Parish, clinical research director, Wellcome Research Laboratories, Beckenham. On both days a programme of scientific films was presented. There was also a trade exhibition at which were represented more than thirty firms engaged in the manufacture of animal house equipment, materials, appliances and accessories. Full details of the proceedings of the congress will be published in the *Journal of the Animal Technicians Association*. The Laboratory Animals Bureau will be organising a similar congress in 1951 at a provincial centre.

International Congress of Mathematicians

AN International Congress of Mathematicians will be held at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, during August 30-September 6, under the auspices of the American Mathematical Society. This Congress was originally intended for 1940, but was postponed owing to the War; consequently it will be the first international gathering of mathematicians to be held since the Congress in Oslo in 1936. The usual joint meeting of the American Mathematical Society, the Mathematical Association of America, and the Institute of Mathematical Statistics will be cancelled this year in favour of the Congress. The programme of the Congress is arranged primarily on the basis of conferences in four different fields, at which there will be both formal lectures and informal open discussion; the four conferences and the subjects to be considered are: *algebra*—groups and universal algebra, structure theory of rings and algebras, arithmetic algebra and algebraic geometry; *analysis*—algebraic tendencies in analysis, analysis and geometry in the large and extremal methods and geometric theory of functions of a complex variable; *applied mathematics*—partial differential equations, statistical mechanics and random processes in physics and communication; and *topology*—homology and homotopy theory, fibre bundles and obstructions, differentiable manifolds, and topological groups. In addition, there are seven sections of the Congress at which short papers may be contributed and at which a small number of half-hour addresses will be given (by invitation); these sections are: (1) algebra and theory of numbers; (2) analysis; (3) geometry and topology; (4) probability and statistics, actuarial science, economics; (5) mathematical physics and applied mathematics; (6) logic and philosophy; and (7) history and education. The official languages of the Congress are English, French, German, Italian and Russian. All communications should be addressed to the International Congress of Mathematicians, Low Memorial Library, 531 West 116th Street, New York City 27.

Nuclear Physics Conference in Great Britain

THE Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell is organising a nuclear physics conference to be held at Harwell and Oxford during September 7-13. The proceedings will be divided into two parts: the first concerned primarily with the use of high-energy