

Health Education

THE Central Council for Health Education was formed in 1927 when a group of medical officers of health and other responsible men from local authorities met to consider what could be done in preventing as well as in curing illness. The report for 1948-49 describes what the Council achieved in its twenty-first year and what it plans to do in improving the nation's health. Under the National Health Service Act local authorities now have much wider opportunities for health education, and, on their behalf, the Council is hoping to develop its activities by providing them with more exhibition material and other visual aids. Believing that it can best help local authorities by arranging instruction for "natural health educators" rather than by large-scale propaganda aimed at the general public, the Council proposes to arrange more courses for health visitors, nurses, midwives, sanitary inspectors, food handlers and youth leaders. Among special activities undertaken by the Council during 1948-49 was the focusing of nation-wide attention on food hygiene and means of improving the national diet. During the coming year it is hoped to arrange certain health-education campaigns in industry.

Effect of Ultrasonics on Crystal Development

A PAPER by Franco A. Levi on the action of ultrasonics on the formation of metallic crystals through electrolytic deposits, which has recently appeared in *La Ricerca Scientifica* (Rome, August 1949), is devoted to a description, with two diagrams, of the apparatus utilized and the results obtained. The ultrasonics were generated in water by a piezoelectric crystal, and it was shown that these rendered the deposits less adhesive and in diminished quantity, and, in addition, altered the structure of the crystals that were formed. Such modifications could not, however, be observed when the ultrasonics acted after the formation of the crystals. The conclusion is that, while the conditions of the experiment in the first instance were favourable for the production of large crystals and a regular and extensive crystalline formation, the intervention of ultrasonics during the formation of the crystals disturbed the crystal growth and was responsible for a fine structure in the deposits.

Russian Periodicals: Translated Contents Lists

THE Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is issuing a series of "Translated Contents Lists" of Russian scientific and technical periodicals (see *Nature*, November 5, 1949, p. 777). This list is the outcome of the co-operation of several organisations; but most of the periodicals mentioned are available in the Science Museum Library, South Kensington, London, S.W.7. The Intelligence Section of the Department is prepared to assist in the location of a particular part of a periodical where difficulty arises, and it is stated that it may be possible to lend periodicals, of which translated contents lists are required, to organisations which are prepared to assist but do not themselves receive the periodicals. A recent number (No. 4; pp. 59; September 1949) covers the contents of twenty-three periodicals in such varied fields as biochemistry, electrical engineering, medicine, radio-technics, technical physics, chemistry, mathematics and surgery. The keeper of the Science Museum Library issues an invitation to all organisations preparing translations of Russian

scientific and technical articles to forward one copy of each translation to the Science Museum Library. Translations accepted will be catalogued and listed in the list of accessions of the Library.

New Portuguese Medical Journal

THE first issue (pp. 104; August 1949) of the *Revista da Associação Médica de Minas Gerais*, published under the direction of Dr. Aulo Pinto Viegas, with the help of a distinguished group of Brazilian medical men, contains nine original articles, shorter contributions under the heading "De Rebus Pluribus", one book review and some abstracts of articles in other journals. Among the subjects discussed in the original articles in this first issue are the endocrine activity of the seminal epithelium, pulmonary tuberculosis as a complication of diabetes mellitus, red-cell sedimentation, cysts of the lung and the bacteriological diagnosis of the salmonellosis. All these are in the Portuguese language without summaries in English. A publication like this, which will give to the world the experience of South American medical men on a variety of subjects, cannot fail to be useful. Four numbers of the journal will be published each year, and correspondence should be addressed to Caixa Postal 260, Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Chemisches Zentralblatt

AN announcement from Verlag Chemie, Weinheim and Berlin, states that the *Chemisches Zentralblatt*, which has been appearing in two parts, will as from January 1950 be published in its traditional form in one issue and will cover all chemical literature. This abstract journal was for many years the most complete of its kind, and gave more information than could usually be found elsewhere. It also abstracted more publications and dealt with aspects of chemistry not covered in other abstract journals until more recently. The new annual price will be DM. 250.

Automatic Control Mechanisms

DURING the Second World War great advances were made in the design and use of automatic control mechanisms for gunnery and radar, and now with the special requirements of new industrial processes, etc., a need is felt for some organisation devoted to encouraging progress in this subject. Engineering societies discuss some of its aspects on occasion; but the difficulty appears to be that the fundamentals of control are common to all branches of engineering and overflow into mathematics, physiology and psychology. On the initiative of certain members of the government inter-departmental Technical Committee on Servo-mechanisms, an attempt is now being made to bring together those who are interested in the scientific, technical and educational aspects. A sub-committee has been formed, and the Society of Instrument Technology has been approached with the view of forming a control section within the framework of the Society. This has been welcomed by the Society, and it is proposed that the section should cover the theory and practice of closed-loop control systems, including servo-mechanisms, regulators and process controllers, and also problems of the human operator as a controller and when part of a larger control system. An inaugural meeting will be held on March 28, at 6.30 for 7 p.m., at the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Manson House, Portland Place, London, W.1, when three