

### Anglo-American Co-operation in Textile Technology

By arrangement between the American Textile Research Institute and the Textile Institute in Great Britain, the Abstracts Section of the *American Textile Research Journal* has been discontinued, and in future subscribers to that publication will receive instead the Abstracts Section of the *Journal of the Textile Institute*. Such an arrangement will make available in the United States a broader survey of general literature relating to textiles, and in return the American Textile Research Institute is seeking to make arrangements to supply abstracts of United States patents to the *Journal of the Textile Institute*. This collaboration is indicative of a further development in the already close co-operation which exists between British and American textile technologists.

### Aslib Guide to the Textile Industry

No. 4 of the "Aslib Guides to Sources of Information in Great Britain" has been recently published and is entitled "Textiles and Allied Interests" (pp. 50; London: Aslib, 1949; 12s. 6d. net; to members, 10s.). Section 1 deals with the relevant libraries, loan services, museums and with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and Section 2 details the organisations in Great Britain which are the main sources of information. Section 3 lists publications, arranged as periodicals, printing abstracts or lists of references; directories, annuals and yearbooks; and periodicals in general. There are separate indexes to the libraries and other organisations and to publications.

### Science in South Africa

THE attractive brochure which was prepared primarily for the information of delegates to the African Regional Scientific Conference held in October 1949 has now been made available for sale on a limited scale to the public ("Science in South Africa." Pp. 176. Pretoria: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, 1949. 10s.). Prepared under the aegis of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the book tells the story of scientific achievement in South Africa and tells it extraordinarily well. All the major South African contributions to various sciences are described in seventeen well-written chapters and are accompanied by much interesting information about the history of the sub-continent, which has in the past received little attention. In a book of 176 pages, it is surprising how much detail has been included without over-compression. The illustrations are numerous and of high standard. It is unfortunate, therefore, that such a well-prepared book should not have been clothed in stiff covers. The South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research would perform a valuable service by preparing another edition of this book, provide it with boards and allow it to be sold freely to the general public at a price less than the present one.

### International Chemical Conventions in New York in 1951

A LARGE gathering of chemists and chemical engineers is expected to assemble in New York in September 1951, when the following events are due to take place: during the week beginning September 2, the seventy-fifth anniversary meeting of the American Chemical Society; September 8-9, the Sixteenth Conference of the International Union of

Pure and Applied Chemistry; September 10-13, the Twelfth International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry. The Union Conference will also meet in Washington during September 14-15 (and possibly 16), when the delegates will be able to participate in the fiftieth anniversary celebration of the founding of the National Bureau of Standards. The International Union, which normally meets every two years for setting up uniform chemical standards, is a continuing body, the members of which are made up on a national basis through an official government agency; the president is Dr. Hugo R. Kruyt, of The Hague. International Congresses, on the other hand, are held every four years, each being independently organised in the host country. The purpose of the Congresses is to enable leaders in the various branches of chemistry and chemical engineering to exchange information and report on progress. The 1951 Congress is being sponsored by the Division of Chemistry and Chemical Technology of the United States National Research Council, of which Prof. W. A. Noyes, jun., University of Rochester, is president. Prof. A. B. Lamb, of Harvard University, has been appointed chairman of the organising committee for both the Congress and the Union Conference. An appeal has been made to raise 250,000 dollars which will be used to aid foreign visitors, especially those from countries where there is a dollar shortage.

The origin of the American Chemical Society goes back to 1874 when a pilgrimage was made by leading American chemists to the grave at Northumberland, Pennsylvania, of the English immigrant, Joseph Priestley, on the centenary of his discovery of oxygen. This led to the formation in New York, on April 6, 1876, of the American Chemical Society, and for a number of years the activities of the Society were confined solely to New York. By the end of the nineteenth century local sections were formed in other cities, and the membership gradually grew in numbers from 230 in 1876 to 14,808 in 1926. To-day it is one of the largest professional associations of scientific workers in the world, with a membership of more than 63,000. In 1937, in recognition of its long service of advice and assistance to the government and the nation, the Society was given a charter by Congress as a national organisation.

### Sixth International Congress of the History of Science

UNDER the auspices of the International Academy and the International Union of the History of Science, the Netherlands branch of the Union is organising the Sixth International Congress of the History of Science, which will be held in the University of Amsterdam during August 14-21. The Congress will be divided into five Sections: (1) history of mathematics, physics, astronomy, geography and geology; (2) history of chemistry, mineralogy, pharmacy and biology; (3) history of applied science and technology; (4) history of medicine; (5) general problems, methods and philosophy of science. Section 4 will be, at the same time, the Twelfth Congress of the International Society of the History of Medicine. All papers to the Sixth Congress (preferably written in English or French) must be submitted not later than May 1 and be limited to a maximum of three thousand words and two plates. Some will be printed in the *Archives Internationales d'Histoire des Sciences*, and later the full Transactions of the Amsterdam Conference will be published in one volume during 1951. All papers should be accompanied by a sum-