

card can also be issued to students who have attended a university or other institute of learning for at least two years and have passed the usual examinations. The facilities and advantages offered are only a beginning. Until experience has been gained in the working of the scheme and to ensure that the advantages offered are not lightly granted, each country will issue only a limited number of cards. It is hoped gradually both to extend the facilities and to increase the number of holders.

The advantages and facilities offered in each country are printed in a handbook which will be issued with the card. The following examples, varying according to the country concerned, may be mentioned: free or reduced entry fees to museums and exhibitions; reduction in prices of tickets for concerts and theatrical performances; facilities for consulting libraries and archives; facilities for obtaining or prolonging residence permits; authorization to visit certain scholastic institutions and scientific establishments; admission to university restaurants; remission of fees at some educational and cultural institutions; facilities for obtaining foreign currency; and reduced transport rates. The card itself, which is identical in all five countries, is printed in the three languages, French, English and Dutch. It carries particulars of the holder, his passport number, photograph, etc., and an embossed stamp representing the Brussels Hôtel de Ville, and is valid for one year from the date of issue. The card will be issued free in the four Continental countries by the Ministries of Education (cultural identity card section), and in the United Kingdom by various authorities, a list of which can be obtained from the Foreign Office. In the case of scientific research workers not otherwise covered by any of the issuing authorities, application may be made to the Royal Society.

Technical and Technological Education

In his presidential address to the forty-first annual conference of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions on May 28, Mr. A. Taylor, of the Royal Technical College, Salford, after a passing reference to the hearing of revision of the Burnham salary scales on staff problems for the technical colleges and the danger of damage to education generally, urged that industrial leaders should give whole-hearted support in erecting the alternative educational ladder: primary school, technical secondary school, college of technology. Only in this way, he said, would industry be able to recruit the high-grade personnel it needs, and to this end more technical secondary schools should be created and encouraged to take their entrants at eleven plus, and to continue their training until an age corresponding to that general in grammar schools. Mr. Taylor pointed out that national colleges have been set up in aeronautics, horology, rubber technology, foundry practice, and heating and ventilating and refrigerating technology, though some were housed in existing colleges, and the progress of these experiments would be watched with interest. He said further that the Association must be prepared to give the maximum support to whatever scheme of award to students on completing their training is eventually agreed. Mr. Taylor, however, drew no distinction between the training of technicians and that of technologists, and appeared to visualize no inherent obstacle save that of time to the development of technical colleges generally into technical universities. After commenting on

the difficulties which attended the taking up of the scholarships offered to technical students by the Ministry of Education, of which in 1949 only 45 of the 100 awarded were taken up, Mr. Taylor referred to the need for more part-time teachers for evening work, so that the full-time teachers could devote more time to the increasing number of day students. For such teachers the technical colleges must look to industrial executives who have the right qualifications and experience. The quality of these part-time lecturers, he said, is a vital factor in technical education, and the Association's executive has given much time and thought to framing suitable salary scales for such teachers.

Education and Training of Laboratory Technicians

OF late it has become apparent in Great Britain that an increasing number of well-trained technicians are required for science laboratories of all types. In conjunction with this there is the need for laboratory technicians to be trained on the broadest lines and on a national basis, and for a certificate of proficiency to be instituted which will be a proof of status and be recognized throughout the country. In order to achieve this, the City and Guilds of London Institute has recently prepared regulations and syllabuses for a Laboratory Technicians' Intermediate Certificate Examination which will come into force at the beginning of the new academic year. The details for a Final Certificate Examination are still in the course of preparation. The Intermediate Certificate necessitates a three-year part-time course of approximately 180 hours a year at a recognized technical college or institute. Entrants for the course must be not less than sixteen years of age and have attained a reasonable standard in English, mathematics and science. The curriculum consists of three sections: science and drawing; general laboratory technique and organisation, including workshop practice; and specialized laboratory techniques. The first two sections are common for all students, while in the last only the one relevant part is taken. These specialized parts are: physics; chemistry; biology; combined physics, chemistry and biology; physiology and pharmacology; anatomy; animal housing; mechanical engineering; electrical engineering; and metallurgy. Further details of the whole scheme can be obtained from the Director, Department of Technology of the City and Guilds of London Institute, 31 Brechin Place, South Kensington, London, S.W.7.

British Chytrid Fungi

THE morphology and life-history of seven species of aquatic Synchronitriaceæ have been described by Hilda M. Canter (*Trans. Brit. Mycol. Soc.*, 32, Pt. 1, 69; 1949). They are mostly species of the genera *Micromyces* and *Micropryopsis*; but *Endodesmium formosum* is a new species in a new genus. It was found parasitic on *Netrium oblongum*, *Cylindrocystis crassa* and *C. brebissonii* growing in a sphagnum bog. *Micromyces laevis*, growing on *Mougeotia* sp., *Micropryopsis intermedia*, in *Zygnema* spp., and *Micropryopsis mirabilis*, parasitic in *Closterium* spp., are also described as new species. Another paper by the same author (*ibid.*, pp. 22-29) records two species of chytrids new to Britain—*Olpidium hyalothecæ* on *Hyalothea mucosa* and *H. dissiliens*, and *Olpidium utriculiforme*, a parasite on *Closterium* spp. A two-stage parasitism is described in yet a third paper