

sequent lectures on "The Warblers" by Mr. Wagstaffe and "The Yellow Wagtails" by Captain C. Grant (British Museum) dealt in detail with the classification of these groups of birds. Practical work was not neglected and Mr. Wagstaffe demonstrated the making of cabinet skins for study purposes and the preparation of bird lice for microscopical examination. An extensive series of specimens from the Liverpool and British Museums' collections illustrated some of the more critical races of British birds, and changes in colour in cabinet skins.

On the evening of December 29, Mr. W. B. Alexander (chairman, Bird Observatories Committee of the British Trust for Ornithology) gave a talk on "Bird Observatories". The next evening was spent in the City Library, where a special exhibition of rare and historical works on birds had been arranged. This included the four elephant folios on "The Birds of America" by J. J. Audubon. Mr. A. K. Wiffen (Liverpool College of Art) gave a lecture on methods of illustration and colour reproduction. Finally, on December 31 a party of the younger members braved severe weather in an excursion to Hilbre Island, where birds of thirty-five species were seen.

British Plastics Exhibition and Convention

A BRITISH Plastics Exhibition and Convention will be held in Olympia, London, W.14, during June 6-16. The Exhibition is being organized, with the approval and co-operation of the British Plastics Federation, by *British Plastics*. Arrangements for the Convention are being made by a committee on which are represented the Federation, the Plastics Institute and the Plastics and Polymer Group of the Society of Chemical Industry. A special feature of general public interest will be the exhibit of the properties and applications of plastics, entitled "The Story of Plastics", which is being sponsored jointly by the organizers, the British Plastics Federation and the Council of Industrial Design. Subjects for discussion at the fifteen sessions of the Convention have been arranged. Morning sessions, from which the public will be excluded, will be devoted to scientific and technical papers on subjects such as progress in materials, developments in plant and equipment and fabrication techniques. In the afternoons there will be papers of a more general kind, dealing with various applications of plastics—in the chemical and textile industries, in building and architecture, in transport and in packaging, and a 'housewives' quiz'. Films will be shown every evening except Saturdays.

Forthcoming Chemical Meetings in the United States

A NUMBER of meetings relating to chemistry will be held in the United States during September on the following dates: 3-7, in New York, meeting of the American Chemical Society; 8-9, in New York, meetings of the executive committee of the council and commissions of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry; 10-13, in New York, Twelfth International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry; 14-15 (and, if necessary, 16), in Washington, D.C., continuation of the International Congress; and, on September 14, the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the National Bureau of Standards. The headquarters for these events will be the Hotel Statler, New York, and the organizing secretary is Dr. Harry L. Fisher, National Research Council,

2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D.C. Two copies of the titles and abstracts (400 words maximum, in English) of all papers must reach Dr. Fisher by March 1, and the closing date for the complete manuscripts is May 1; the papers may be in English or French, but English is preferable. To help British chemists who may wish to take part in the International Congress, the Royal Society British National Committee for Chemistry has set up a sub-committee consisting of Sir David Brunt, Dr. L. H. Lampitt and Dr. D. C. Martin, the assistant secretary of the Royal Society. All inquiries should be addressed to Dr. Martin at the Royal Society, Burlington House, London, W.1.

American Societies for Experimental Biology

THE thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, during April 29-May 3. The headquarters hotels will be the Statler, for the American Physiological Society, the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and the American Society for Experimental Pathology; and the Cleveland, for the American Society for Biological Chemists, the American Institute of Nutrition and the American Association of Immunologists. Information on hotels can be obtained from the secretary of any one of the constituent Societies or from Dr. M. O. Lee, Federation Secretary, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D.C. All inquiries referring to exhibits by members and by industrial laboratories should be sent to Mr. Steven K. Herlitz, 280 Madison Avenue, New York 16, N.Y. An office of the Federation Placement Service will be maintained during the meetings for the convenience of applicants for positions and employers, and forms relating to this, to be completed by April 15, can be obtained from the Placement Service, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C.

Announcements

PROF. J. B. SPEAKMAN, professor of textile industries in the University of Leeds, has been awarded the honorary fellowship of the Textile Institute—the highest honour within the Institute's gift—in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the chemistry and physics of wool fibres and protein fibres generally. There have been only nine previous awards of honorary fellowships since their institution in 1928.

THE Royal Aeronautical Society is offering the following scholarships for students: Royal Aeronautical Society Charter Scholarship(s), of value up to £300 a year; and Geoffrey De Havilland Memorial Scholarship(s), of value approximately up to £120. Both awards are initially for one year, with possible extension for another year. Applications should be completed before June 1 and sent to the Secretary of the Society at 4 Hamilton Place, London, W.1.

THE Royal Society of Arts is offering a prize of £500 and a gold medal as part of the Society's celebrations of the Great Exhibition of 1851, for the best means of promoting the production or the economic utilization of food in Britain. The judges will be Sir Frank Smith (chairman), Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade, Sir John Russell, Sir James Turner (president, National Farmers' Union) and a nominee of the president of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. The closing date for the competition is March 1.