

in charge of the Nuclear Physics Research Branch. After graduating from Queen's University, Ontario, Dr. Sargent went to the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, and was awarded his Ph.D. in 1932 for work on beta-rays emitted by radium and similar substances, in the course of which he discovered an important relation now known as "Sargent's Law". He received the M.B.E. in 1946 in recognition of his research during the Second World War.

International Conference on Phenomenology

AN international conference on phenomenology, held in Brussels during April 12-14, enabled a number of philosophers interested in the work of Edmund Husserl and his school to come together in congenial surroundings. Delegates attended from the following countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States. The discussions were noteworthy for the high level of the papers presented, and for the friendly (but by no means uncritical) atmosphere which characterized the whole of the proceedings. The main items included the problem of intentionality, the comparative positions of Descartes and Husserl, scientific knowledge, language, and free-will. Those taking part were particularly gratified at the opportunity of visiting the Husserl-Archiv at the University of Louvain, and of seeing for themselves something of the bibliographical work in progress. Some idea of the magnitude of the task could be gained even from so brief a visit. To Dr. H. L. van Breda is due not only the appreciation of the visitors for such a well-conducted symposium: they all realized how much the whole learned world is indebted to him and his colleagues for carrying through the stupendous task of conserving, transcribing and editing these unique manuscripts.

Science Museum: Past and Future

A SPECIAL exhibition, entitled "Science Museum: Past and Future", was opened at the Science Museum, South Kensington, London, S.W.7, on April 20, and will continue to be shown during the normal Museum hours (weekdays and Bank Holidays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sundays, 2.30-6 p.m.) throughout the Festival of Britain. The exhibition tells the story of the development of the Science Museum, a story which began with the Great Exhibition of 1851, among the many consequences of which was the setting up of the South Kensington Museum of Science and Art in 1857; in 1909 the Science Museum began a separate existence and continued to develop into the institution as it is known to-day. A part of the display shows the kind of exhibit which will be found in the new galleries to be opened when present building operations are completed, or later when it becomes possible to build the upper floors of the new Centre Block. A dominating feature of the Exhibition is a group of three large pictures: the Museum in 1857; the Museum district of South Kensington as it appeared from the air recently; and an artist's impression of the Science Museum as it may one day appear when the building, as originally contemplated, extends from Exhibition Road to Queen's Gate. An illustrated handbook, "A Short History of the Science Museum", is on sale at the Museum, price 1s.

Law of Copyright

IN a Parliamentary written answer, Mr. Wilson, President of the Board of Trade, states that he has appointed a committee "to consider and report

whether any, and if so what, changes are desirable in the law relating to copyright in literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic works, with particular regard to technical developments and to the revised International Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works signed at Brussels in June 1948, and to consider and report on related matters". The committee consists of Lord Reading (chairman), Dr. T. E. Allibone, Mr. J. L. Blake, Mr. G. Bristow Cooke, Miss B. A. Godwin, Sir Henry Gregory, Mr. E. M. Hugh-Jones, Mr. J. P. Lamb and Mr. F. E. Skone James. The secretary to the committee is Mr. H. W. Clarke, of the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, London, W.C.2.

Applications of Statistics to Archaeology

IN "Some Applications of Statistics to Archaeology", a publication of the Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte (pp. 37+19 figs.; Cairo: Government Press, 1950; P.T. 120), after stressing the scant development that has succeeded the pioneer efforts in such a direction made by the late Sir Flinders Petrie almost three-quarters of a century ago, Oliver H. Myers describes the use of statistical methods in the treatment of archaeological data under the following four headings: the relationship of stone and pottery in a stratified site; the sizes of sherds from surface sites in the desert; the hardness of ancient pottery; and the statistical examination of surface sites. The techniques employed include correlation and regression, tests for the significance of the difference between two observed means and, under the fourth heading, elementary combinatorial theory. Although the results of the last depend on some rather arbitrary assumptions and should therefore be treated with reserve, the author has shown that there are problems in archaeology that lend themselves admirably to statistical treatment, and he has established his point by example rather than by precept, an approach likely to be effective in attracting the attention of archaeologists unfamiliar with the methods of statistics. In such a connexion it may be pointed out that the footnote on p. 32 relating to tests for the significance of a correlation coefficient would probably confuse a beginner. Again, the fact should perhaps be indicated that the test of the significance of the difference between two observed means given on p. 16 is an approximate one (due to Cochran and Cox), to be used under suitable conditions, instead of the exact *t*-test, when it is desired to avoid the assumption of the homogeneity of the variances. In the example that illustrates the method, however, the variances are almost identical and the use of the *t*-test would be justified.

Joint Consultation

A BROADSHEET offering a practical approach to joint consultation in industry has been produced by a study group on behalf of the Institute of Personnel Management. The broadsheet deals only with joint consultation inside industrial establishments and is not concerned directly with that aspect of joint consultation which is part of the established machinery for the negotiation of wages and working conditions between employers and the trade unions. After a historical review of the development of joint consultative machinery in British industry since the First World War, a further section of the broadsheet discusses the reasons why joint consultation is necessary in industry. Then comes much useful and eminently practical advice on the means of intro-