

in the corona, Meldahl has formulated a hypothesis—admittedly rather speculative though partly based on observational data—leading to his “Characteristic Curves” for the sun regarded as a centrifugal fan, and this is explained in two illustrations and also at length in the text. Deductions with this hypothesis as a basis seem to explain a number of phenomena associated with eclipses of the sun at various times; it will be interesting to learn whether the hypothesis is supported by observations of the eclipse of February 25, 1952.

Research Developments by British Thomson-Houston Co., Ltd.

AN interesting illustrated article appears in the May–June issue (23, No. 3) of *B.T.H. Activities*, in which Mr. L. J. Davies, the director of research, reviews the work of the British Thomson-Houston Research Laboratory during 1951. New materials for use at high temperatures and new glasses, including a new phosphate glass for sodium-vapour discharge-lamps and tellurite glasses of unusual properties, have been developed, and the work of the Physical Analysis Group has been expanded considerably. The creep properties of alloys for steam turbines and gas turbines have been the subject of special interest and study. Work on the applications of lead sulphide photocells has resulted in the development of an infra-red radiation pyrometer for the measurement of surface temperatures down to 150° C. Other instruments developed were infra-red photoelectric relays and a halogen vapour leak detector. Single-crystal germanium has received considerable attention, and a new *p*–*n* junction-type germanium rectifier capable of handling considerable power has been produced. Improvements have been made in valves for marine radar, and new glass toroids of reduced size but which allow full use to be made of the magnetic flux available have been devised for use in betatrons and proved successful. A 2-MeV. impulse generator has been erected in the heavy plant factory at the Company's works at Rugby. It incorporates specially designed aluminium electrodes which together with the generator form a standard of capacitance for use with impulse voltages up to two million. The article concludes with a description of some very interesting developments in electroluminescence and in lamps of the high-pressure gas and vapour, fluorescent, germicidal and other types.

Libraries of the University of Leeds: Report for 1950–51

THE annual report of the librarian of the University of Leeds for the session 1950–51 (pp. 12; from the University; 1951) records a total of 337,787 volumes and 151,645 pamphlets in the collections at June 30, 1951. Accessions during the year totalled 14,435 volumes, 3,042 pamphlets and 25,883 parts of periodicals, a decrease of 8 per cent on the previous session. Catalogue additions totalled 47,774, an increase of 19 per cent; loans to readers, 78,358, an increase of 10 per cent; and inter-library loans totalled 1,294 books borrowed and 1,495 books lent, increases of 31 and 10 per cent, respectively. On a quinquennial visit on November 15, the University Grants Committee saw the Brotherton Library, and the Medical Sub-Committee the Medical Library. A revised list of periodical holdings in the Brotherton Library is being prepared for the British Union Catalogue of Periodicals, and when this list is com-

plete, in about two years time, it may be published separately as a handlist of periodicals in the University Library. In view of the forthcoming revised edition of the Short Title Catalogue of English books, 1475–1640, a list has been prepared of the items in the Catalogue which are possessed by the Library and also of a few items possessed by the Library which are not in the first edition of the Catalogue. The use made of the Medical Library has further increased in spite of serious difficulties due to inadequate accommodation. The library of the Institute of Education moved in August 1950 to more commodious quarters in University House, and the Library of the Department of Textile Industries became a sectional library under the central library administration from September 1. A new departmental library was started during the session in the Department of French, and the Library of the Department of Adult Education and Extra-Mural Studies will be incorporated as a section of the University Library from the beginning of the next quinquennium.

Society for Visiting Scientists: Annual Report for 1951–52

THE report of the Secretary of the Society for Visiting Scientists, to the fifth general meeting, on July 24, refers to the reduction from £4,000 to £2,000 of the grant from the British Council, necessitated by the reduction of the Government grant to the latter body. The task of raising a sum of £4,000 for the financial year, starting on April 1 this year, has been undertaken by the honorary treasurer, Prof. A. Haddow, mainly by an appeal to industry (from which £900 has already been received). The Society is now registered as a charity, and four organizations have already signed a deed of covenant with the Society. Some saving has been effected by the reduction of the Society's activities. With the co-operation of the Science and Engineering Department, the Student Department and the Welfare Department, an Overseas Science Students Association, with a membership of 120, has been founded to welcome postgraduate science students from overseas and to bring them into closer contact with the scientific life of Great Britain and with one another. This Association is affiliated to the Society for Visiting Scientists. Prof. A. V. Hill is succeeding Sir Harold Spencer Jones as president of the Society, which has a membership of 1,900, but the report emphasizes that membership of British scientific workers is not increasing as much as is desired.

Reference List of Cultures of Protozoa

THE Society of Protozoologists is establishing a centre of information for available cultures of free-living and parasitic Protozoa and algal flagellates maintained in various laboratories in the United States and other countries. This system will relieve the scientific worker who has isolated, or is maintaining, the cultures of the need to give technical information every time that a culture is requested. Those who are willing to co-operate in the formation of this reference list and are willing to send cultures to other investigators should request from the Committee on Cultures of Protozoa a data card for each species that is being maintained in their laboratory. On each card pertinent information regarding the origin of the culture, procedures for maintenance, key references and other essential data will be