

Conference in London on Applied Mass Spectrometry

A CONFERENCE on applied mass spectrometry, organized by the Mass Spectrometry Panel of the Hydrocarbon Research Group of the Institute of Petroleum, will be held during October 29-30 at the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London, W.C.2. The main object of the conference is to bring together American, British and European workers in the field of applied mass spectrometry so as to discuss problems of current and future interest. The majority of papers are designed to interest those who use mass spectrometers in their daily work; but all the papers on the first day will be devoted to subjects in analytical chemistry where mass spectrometry has proved particularly valuable, and it is hoped that these papers will give rise to discussions of the relative merits of mass spectrometry and other methods. There will be eighteen papers in all, submitted by workers in Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland and the United States, and these will cover three fields as follow: quantitative analysis of gases, liquids and solids, including the continuous monitoring and control of product composition by mass spectrometry; applications to the study of molecular structure, free radicals, and electron-molecule collision processes; and recent developments in instrumentation and computing techniques. The fee for the conference is two guineas. Registration forms and further information can be obtained from W. J. Brown, c/o Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., Trafford Park, Manchester 17.

National Weed Control Conference

A NATIONAL Weed Control Conference will be held during November 3-5 at the St. George's and Norfolk Hotels, Cliftonville, Margate, under the presidency of Sir James Scott Watson, chief scientific and agricultural adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Conference is being organized by a committee representing the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Agricultural Research Council, the National Farmers' Union, the British Agricultural Contractors Association (representing spraying contractors) and the Association of British Insecticide Manufacturers (representing herbicide manufacturers). The aim of the Conference is to promote an interchange of views between those engaged in research and advisory work, on one hand, and farmers and others concerned with the subject, on the other, and special emphasis will be laid on chemical means of control in agricultural and horticultural crops. The formal papers will cover the following topics: the cost of weeds and potential value of herbicides (Dr. E. Holmes, Dr. F. R. Tubbs, Dr. J. Philp and Mr. M. V. Laurie); herbicides and grassland management (Dr. William Davies and Mr. G. Maxwell Davies); machinery and application problems (Dr. H. G. H. Kearns, Mr. Cameron Gifford and Dr. W. E. Ripper); weed seeds (Mr. F. R. Horne); weed control in farm ditches and on highways (Mr. C. V. Dadd and Mr. E. C. Boyce). In addition, reports will be presented by research workers from a number of stations on weed control in cereals, grassland, sugar beet, lucerne and forest nurseries and on wild oats, crop-desiccating agents and a new herbicide. The Conference will be residential, and the fee is £8 15s., including a copy of the proceedings. Provisional programmes and application forms may be obtained from the Conference Treasurer, Mr. W. A. Williams,

Association of British Insecticide Manufacturers, 166 Piccadilly, London, W.1.

British Celanese Ltd. Research Studentships

BRITISH CELANESE LTD. announces the award of research studentships in chemistry, tenable for two years from October 1 at the institutions mentioned, as follow: Mr. V. A. Atkinson (Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London), Mr. C. A. Baker (Merton College, University of Oxford), Mr. J. C. Maynard (University College, University of London) and Mr. W. Whyte Kerr (University of Glasgow).

Announcements

H.M. THE QUEEN has appointed Prof. T. M. Knox, professor of moral philosophy in the University of St. Andrews and chairman of the University Court, to be principal of the University of St. Andrews.

THE seventh Charles Chree Medal and Prize of the Physical Society will be presented to Prof. J. Bartels, of the University of Göttingen, in recognition of his valuable work in the field of geomagnetism, at a meeting of the Society to be held in the Science Museum, London, on October 23. Prof. Bartels will deliver a lecture on "Chree's Influence on Present-day Geophysics".

DR. A. GLUCKSMAN, of the Strangeways Research Laboratory, Cambridge, will deliver the third Douglas Lea Memorial Lecture at a meeting of the Hospital Physicists' Association at 8.15 p.m. on September 25 at the Hammersmith Hospital, Ducane Road, London, W.12. He will speak on "Radiosensitivity at Different Levels of Biological Complexity".

MR. J. SAVAGE, deputy head of the Physics Department of the British Iron and Steel Research Association, has been appointed head of the Department in succession to Mr. M. W. Thring, who is going to the University of Sheffield as professor of fuel technology (see *Nature*, May 9, p. 820). Mr. Savage has been closely associated with the Association's work on continuous casting since 1947. He was educated at the University of Nottingham, and for a time was in charge of spectrographic research at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough.

Two useful booklets have been compiled by the Royal Institute of International Affairs (London and New York). One is a new revised edition of "World Production of Raw Materials" (Information Papers No. 18; pp. 104; 1953; 7s. 6d. net); in this publication, after some preliminary tables on raw materials, their geographical distribution, and trends in production and uses, there follow tables of statistics giving the output for the most important producing countries in pre- and post-war years, so far as these figures are available. The other booklet is entitled "Springs of Canadian Power", and is also a Chatham House Information Paper (pp. 59; 1953; 3s. 6d. net); it gives an objective picture of Canada's place in the industrial world, with a particularly useful section on the St. Lawrence seaway, and there are several sketch maps.

ERRATA. "Phagotrophy in *Oxyrrhis marina* Dujardin", by M. R. Droop (*Nature*, August 8, p. 250): paragraph 3, line 5, for "with particulate nutrients" read "without particulate nutrients".

"*Bact. coli* as a Food Supplement" (*Nature*, August 22, p. 351): the author's name should be "R. S. Roberts" and not "L. P. Roberts" as printed.