

point emerges from these pages, namely, the way in which the Society is advised on the various branches of science by means of its sectional committees. These are eight in number and are as follows: mathematics; physics; chemistry; engineering sciences; geology; botany; zoology; and physiology and medical sciences. The first six have nine members each and the last two twelve. It is worth noting that the full title of the Royal Society is the Royal Society of London, for Improving Natural Knowledge. The fact that it exists for improving natural knowledge is a *sine qua non*; the "of London" would seem to-day to be merely significant of the *venue* of its meetings, for the Society is the premier national scientific body, being open to all members of the British Commonwealth and the Republic of Ireland.

### The Piltown Flints

At a meeting of the Geological Society held at Burlington House on February 24, Mr. A. T. Marston exhibited a number of flints which he had attempted to stain with chromic acid or potassium dichromate in order to assist appreciation of the condition of the Piltown flint recently described by Drs. Oakley and Weiner (*Nature*, December 12, 1953). Mr. Marston pointed out that though some of these flints would not stain at all, others became deeply stained. In the latter case, however, the stain was very difficult to remove. As the stain on the Piltown flint had apparently been easily removed by acid, Mr. Marston queried whether it had indeed been artificially produced, and also inquired whether there was any possibility that traces of chromium might exist naturally in the ferruginous Piltown gravels. Dr. Oakley then exhibited specimens of flint from Piltown, and described tests that had been made on all the flints illustrated in the original paper by C. Dawson and A. Smith Woodward. All these flints had a ferruginous stain which was easily removed by acid, in contrast to other 'natural' flints from the Piltown area collected at the same time, which had a heavy ferruginous stain that was not removed by acid. In one of the flints illustrated in the original paper (B.M.(N.H.) E. 606), the presence of chromium had also been demonstrated. Dr. Oakley believed that the illustrated flints had been stained artificially with a ferruginous solution, and in one case a chromic solution had also been used in order to make the flint less red, and so resemble more closely the 'natural' flints.

### New Journal of the Medical Faculty of Zagreb

A NEW and attractively produced journal entitled *Radovi Medicinskog Fakulteta u Zagrebu* (Vol. 1, pp. 146+7 plates; 1953) has been started by the Medical Faculty of Zagreb, under the direction of Prof. F. Kogoj. It contains articles on a variety of subjects, most of which have summaries in English or French. Drs. B. Gušić and Z. Krajina write on otitis of suckling infants, and Dr. B. Milojević on his experience of the treatment of chronic suppurative otitis media by the endaural approach to the middle ear, an operation for which it is claimed that it shortens the period spent in hospital and makes possible direct approach to the middle ear cavity, so that the structures of this part of the ear are preserved and most cases recover their hearing. Drs. Lj. Božović and L. Rabadžija discuss the reactions of the eosinophil blood cells in rats adapted to adrenalin and histamine, and Drs. J. Vesnjak-Zmijanac and V. Beličević report on influenza in

Zagreb during 1950-51. Dr. N. Allegretti considers the function of the insular apparatus and insulin in relation to the anterior lobe of the pituitary gland, the thyroid and the adrenal cortex, and Drs. E. Rosenzweig and F. Zerzavy discuss about eighty-eight cases of brow-presentations at birth. An article by Dr. V. Bezjak on the classification of fungi isolated from man in Zagreb is the first report on these organisms in Yugoslavia. The early diagnosis and modern therapy of malignant tumours of the upper jaw and nose is discussed by Drs. B. Pegan and M. Špoljar; Dr. A. Brnobić writes on the etiology of two cases of professional allergic eczema, one caused by silkworm larvæ, and Dr. Z. Jurin-Mratović on the treatment with penicillin of seventeen cases of scleroderma and chronic acrodermatitis. The good wishes of medical men will readily go to this promising new journal. The language difficulty will probably restrict its usefulness in Britain; but the English and French summaries give the gist of the articles, and those who wish to read them in full can probably arrange to have them translated.

### Society for the Bibliography of Natural History

THE annual general meeting of the Society for the Bibliography of Natural History was held at the Geological Museum, London, S.W.7, on March 4. Mr. V. A. Eyles addressed the meeting on "Bibliography and the History of Science". The first part of the third volume of the Society's *Journal* was issued at the end of December 1953, containing ten articles, of which one is an appreciation of the late Dr. C. Davies Sherborn, first president of the Society. The following were elected officers of the Society: *President*, Dr. J. Ramsbottom; *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer*, Mr. A. C. Townsend, British Museum (Natural History), London, S.W.7; *Management Committee*, A. G. Davis, W. N. Edwards, F. C. Fraser, F. J. Griffin, W. T. Stearn, C. Kirke Swann.

### Physical Society Exhibition

THE Physical Society's thirty-eighth Annual Exhibition of Scientific Instruments and Apparatus will be held in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, London, S.W.7, on the following dates: April 8, 9 and 12, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; and April 10 and 13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The morning of April 8 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.) will be reserved for Fellows of the Society and the press only. This year the Exhibition is confined to the main building of the College, Imperial Institute Road. Three discourses (each at 6.15 p.m.) will be given as follows: April 8, "Electrical Contacts", by Prof. F. Llewellyn Jones; April 9, "An Artificial Talking Device", by Mr. W. Lawrence; and April 12, "The Study of Surface Micro-topography by Optical Methods", by Prof. S. Tolansky. Orders for the usual "Handbook" (6s., or 7s. 3d. by post) and all matters relating to the Exhibition should be addressed to the Physical Society, 1 Lowther Gardens, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7.

### Society for Analytical Chemistry

THE eightieth annual general meeting of the Society for Analytical Chemistry was held on March 3 in London, when the financial statement and report of the Council for the past year were submitted and approved. The membership of the Society was reported as being 1,646, an increase of 54 since last year. In addition to the eight ordinary meetings of the Society (six in London and one each in Glasgow