

the Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, and at the Government Test House, Alipore, during 1922-30, and has worked under Sir C. V. Raman, publishing several research papers on light scattering and Raman effect. He was elected a Fellow of the Indian Academy of Sciences in 1934. Dr. Venkateswaran joined the Indian Patent Office in 1930 as an examiner of patents and was successively special officer for trade marks (1940), assistant registrar (1940-44) and deputy registrar (1944 to date). He has been prominently associated with the enactment of the trade mark legislation in India, and his most important book, "The Law of Trade and Merchandise Marks" (1937), besides being a legal text-book, presents a complete case for trade mark legislation in India. The new Patents Bill is now before the Indian Parliament, and there is a proposal to combine the Patent Office and the Trade Marks Office again, as was the case before their separation in 1943 owing to certain administrative reasons. Although it is now more than fifteen years since trade mark legislation was enacted in India, India has not yet joined the International Convention for Industrial Property and there is no reciprocal arrangement for trade marks between India and other members of the British Commonwealth. It is understood that the Government of India is now actively considering the question of taking early steps to join the International Convention.

Charles P. Daly Medal of the American Geographical Society : Dr. J. K. Wright

DR. JOHN KIRTLAND WRIGHT, geographer-historian, has been awarded the Charles P. Daly Medal of the American Geographical Society for his outstanding contributions to the field of geography through his administrative services, writing and research. Dr. Wright joined the staff of the American Geographical Society in 1920 as librarian, and served in that capacity until 1938, when he became director; in 1949 he resigned his post as director, and since then has devoted his time to research and writing. He was president of the Association of American Geographers in 1946, and during 1949-52 was chairman of the Commission (of the International Geographical Union) on the International Map of the World. The Daly Medal was established in 1902 in accordance with the will of Judge Charles P. Daly, eminent New York jurist and president of the American Geographical Society during 1864-99, and is awarded from time to time (thirty-seven times during the past fifty-one years) for "valuable or distinguished services or labors".

British Abstracts of Medical Sciences

As far back as 1915 the Physiological Society decided that an abstracting service for physiology was essential. It would be no over-statement to-day to say that such a service is absolutely vital for further progress. So voluminous has the literature become that no medical scientist can keep abreast of the publications in his field. With this in mind, a Committee representing the Anatomical, Biochemical, Endocrinological, Nutrition, Pharmacological and Physiological Societies decided that the cessation of *British Abstracts AIII* was unfortunate and that every effort should be made to continue this valuable abstracting service. As a token of goodwill and to ensure that a new journal would be launched, a sum of approximately £3,000 was subscribed by some of the above Societies. This enabled a start to be made,

and the January 1954 issue of *British Abstracts of Medical Sciences* was published on January 20. Of the twelve monthly issues, seven have already appeared. The December issue will be an author and subject index, the work for which is already well in hand.

The *ad hoc* Committee of the above Societies decided that for success and security of the enterprise some form of legal entity was essential. This has been done, and the organization responsible for the continuance of *British Abstracts of Medical Sciences* is Biological and Medical Abstracts, Ltd., with registered offices at the Lister Institute. The Council of Management is made up of four representatives of the Physiological Society, two of the Biochemical Society and one each of the Anatomical, Endocrinological, Nutrition and Pharmacological Societies. The editorial office is also at the Lister Institute, where a full-time staff are engaged in the day-to-day running of the journal. In addition, there are twelve honorary specialist editors, chosen by the supporting societies, who supervise abstracting in their respective fields. Indicative abstracts of all significant papers in anatomy, biochemistry, endocrinology, experimental biology, experimental medicine, microbiology, odontology, pathology, pharmacology and physiology are prepared from more than six hundred journals published throughout the world by a large group of helpful abstractors. Every endeavour is made to publish these abstracts within six months of the appearance of the journal. Realizing that abstracts are of little value unless they (and the necessary indexes) are promptly produced, the Council hopes to reduce the time of publication still further. The composition and printing of abstracts is costly, so the price of £10 per annum, including postage, is made possible by the devoted labours of men whose aim is the advancement of their science.

Protection against Betatron and Synchrotron Radiations

THE recommendations made by the National Committee on Radiation Protection, which are published in the United States as National Bureau of Standards Handbooks, serve as guides for protection against general hazards of radiation sources. The development in recent years of high-energy electron accelerators, some of which are now being built commercially, and their widespread use in hospitals and elsewhere make it necessary to provide the operators of these accelerators with a handbook warning them of the potential radiation hazards both to themselves, to patients in hospital and to the public, and of the appropriate precautions that should accordingly be taken. Handbook 55, "Protection against Betatron-Synchrotron Radiations up to 100 Million Electron Volts" (pp. 52. Washington, D.C.: Superintendent of Documents, 1954; 25 cents), prepared by Subcommittee 5 of the National Committee on Radiation Protection, deals with high-energy electron accelerators of the betatron and synchrotron types. The hazards resulting from the various radiations produced by the sources are considered, together with those due to certain associated effects, such as noise, electricity and ozone production. Since the experimental data relating to protection requirements for these sources are far from complete, and thus measurement techniques and systems of units are not well established, the handbook includes an initial section in which definitions of the various