

School, Walsall, and Jesus College, Cambridge, he read botany, zoology and chemistry for Part I of the Natural Sciences Tripos, and zoology (specializing in entomology and experimental zoology) for Part II. He graduated B.A. in 1936 and M.A. in 1941. In 1937 he was attached to the old Agricultural Advisory Service at the School of Agriculture at Cambridge, and on the discontinuation of the Service he was appointed successively University demonstrator (1946) and University lecturer (1947). In these roles and as director of studies in agriculture at Jesus College he has been closely concerned with undergraduate and postgraduate education. His research work has been chiefly on plant nematodes. As adviser to the Committee for Sugar Beet Research and Education since 1946, he has attracted to his side an active research team for working on sugar beet pests, principally the sugar beet eelworm, *Heterodera schachtii*. The use of 'microplots', each a few square feet in area, has facilitated adequate mixing and sampling of field soils and has yielded valuable data on changes in the population of beet eelworm under various agronomic conditions. Other lines of work have dealt with the host ranges of this and other eelworms, and the effects of different levels of soil moisture on the hatching and migration through the soil of *Heterodera larvæ*.

#### Mycology and Bacteriology at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovoth:

Dr. Esther Hellinger

DR. ESTHER HELLINGER, who is retiring from her post as chief mycologist and bacteriologist at the Daniel Sieff Research Institute, now part of the Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovoth, is one of the band of enthusiastic scientists who have done so much for plant pathology and industrial mycology in Israel. Her investigations have covered a wide field and have all been concerned with problems of practical importance. Her first task was examining experimental shipments of grapes to Britain, every facility for this work being given in London by the late Sir Edwin Butler at the Imperial Bureau of Mycology (now Commonwealth Mycological Institute). In 1926 she went to Palestine again and worked under Dr. I. Reichert at the Agricultural Experiment Station, Tel Aviv, on a number of local plant diseases. During 1928-31 she undertook the investigation of the wastage of citrus and other fruits then causing so much concern to exporters, a project financed jointly by the Empire Marketing Board and the Palestine Government. Her association with Dr. Reichert continued in 1932, and a number of joint papers were published by them chiefly on citrus and banana storage diseases. Late in 1932 Dr. Weizmann invited her to join his staff at the Daniel Sieff Research Institute as chief mycologist and bacteriologist, and she then turned her attention to studies on fermentation processes and the retting of flax. Dr. Hellinger's contribution to science is considerable both in quantity and quality, and it is to be hoped she will long enjoy her well-earned retirement.

#### New Polarographic Laboratory of the Cambridge Instrument Co., Ltd.

THE Cambridge Instrument Co., Ltd., has recently built a small extension to its research department, which is to be used exclusively for work in polarographic problems and techniques, and on November 16 Prof. J. Heyrovský, of Prague, formally opened the building. The Cambridge Instrument Co., Ltd.,

is a pioneer among makers of polarographs in Great Britain, the earliest instruments being sent out just before the Second World War, and Dr. G. Jessop, of the Company's research department, has done a large amount of work on the development of polarographic instruments and techniques. During recent years the volume of original and outside consultant work has so increased that the new polarographic research laboratory has become necessary. The laboratory will be in the charge of Mr. W. J. Parker, and its specialized services will be available for advice and help to firms and to research workers interested in this subject.

#### Institution of British Agricultural Engineers

THE Institution of British Agricultural Engineers has moved into new premises at 6 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1, and all future sessions of the London open meetings of the Institution will be held there.

A new local centre of the Institution has been inaugurated, covering the counties of Monmouthshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Wiltshire, Somersetshire and Dorsetshire (east of Bridgwater to Dorchester). It will be known as the Western Centre, and its meeting places will be in Bristol and Chippenham.

#### Unclassified Reports on Atomic Energy

UNCLASSIFIED reports on atomic energy have hitherto been made available to the public by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority at the Science Museum Library in London and the Sheffield Central Library. To provide for the increasing demand for such documents, particularly from industry, they will now also be sent to the following libraries: Central Library, Birmingham; Mitchell Library, Glasgow; Central Library, Liverpool; Central Library, Manchester; Central Library, Newcastle. Documents deposited in these libraries are freely available to the public, and the libraries have agreed to supply photostat copies at their usual rates on request. The documents are also sent to the copyright libraries and to the Patent Office Library, and some are on sale through H.M. Stationery Office. A monthly list of Authority documents available to the public in depository libraries (including those on sale through H.M.S.O.) is to be issued from the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell on behalf of all Authority establishments. This list will also include papers published in the scientific and technical press, and an indication of whether reprints of these papers are available. Requests to be put on the mailing list should be sent to the Librarian, Atomic Energy Research Establishment.

#### Digital Computers of the United States National Bureau of Standards

SINCE 1946, the United States National Bureau of Standards has been actively engaged in the general field of electronic digital computers, largely for other agencies of the United States Government. The computer programme has been conducted jointly by the Electronics and the Applied Mathematics Divisions of the Bureau: the Electronics Division in Washington, D.C., has been concerned with the development and construction of the two computers (SEAC and DYSEAC), components research and development, and various technical and advisory services; and the Applied Mathematics Division has conducted research on numerical analysis of import-