

manager, Atomic Energy Authority (Industrial Group), Windscale, Cumberland.

Announcements

DR. LEE A. DUBRIDGE, president of the California Institute of Technology, has been elected a member of the Board of Trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York.

MR. T. D. WHITTET, chief pharmacist at University College Hospital London, has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Spanish Academy of Pharmacy, founded in 1589 as the Brotherhood of the Apothecaries of Madrid and one of the oldest pharmaceutical organizations in Europe.

REPLYING to questions in the House of Commons on May 15, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works, Mr. J. R. Bevins, said that the research associations as a whole spend about one-quarter of their budgets, or more than £1 million a year, on development. Several development companies have been formed by the research associations, and the Government is also starting some civil development contracts with scientific research associations.

THE Challenger Society is prepared to make small grants for research in marine biology or oceanography at a recognized laboratory during the year June 1956–June 1957. Applications, accompanied by details of the proposed research, should reach the Honorary Secretary, Challenger Society, British Museum (Natural History), London, S.W.7, before June 11.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Rheological Research in the Textile Industry", arranged by the British Society of Rheology, will be held at the British Rayon Research Association, Heald Green Laboratories, Wythenshawe, Manchester 22, during June 7–8. Further information can be obtained from Dr. A. S. Lodge at the Association.

THE summer conference and annual meeting of the Society for Applied Bacteriology will be held in Reading on July 16–18. In addition to the usual programme, there will be a whole-day excursion to the Microbiological Research Department of the Ministry of Supply at Porton. Further information can be obtained from the honorary secretary, G. Sykes, Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., Microbiology Division, Standards Department, Nottingham.

THE eleventh annual physics congress of the Canadian Association of Physicists will be held in the University of Montreal during June 14–16. Included in the programme will be three symposia on the following topics: high-energy physics and accelerators; geophysics; and the teaching of high-school physics. Further information can be obtained from the Association, c/o the Department of Physics, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario.

THE Royal Institute of Chemistry has arranged a symposium on "Recent Advances in the Chemistry and Industrial Applications of Cereals", to be held in the University of St. Andrews during June 25–29. The three sessions will be concerned with the following topics: production of cereals; processing and testing of grain and grain products; and applications of cereals. Application forms and further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the Institute, 30 Russell Square, London, W.C.1.

AN international conference on "Chemical Engineering in the Coal Industry", sponsored by the National Coal Board, will be held during June 26–29 in the new laboratories of the Board's Coal Research Establishment at Stoke Orchard, near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. The conference will comprise four technical sessions: physical and chemical pre-treatment of coal; fluid bed carbonization; briquette carbonization; and liquid by-products. Seven papers given by British, French, German, Dutch and American workers will be read and discussed. English, French and German will be the working languages. Attendance will be by invitation only.

AN international congress on automation, organized by the Department of Mechanics of the Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers, Ministry of Public Education, will be held in Paris at the Conservatoire National during June 18–24. The aims of the congress are to consider certain aspects of general automation and its application to various scientific, technical, economic and psychological fields. It will be divided into three sections: general automation; applied automation; and automation and production. Further information can be obtained from the Secrétariat du Congrès International de l'Automatique, Chaire de Mécanique, C.N.A.M., 292 rue Saint-Martin, Paris 3^e.

UNDER the auspices of the International Institute of Embryology a congress on developmental biology will be held in the United States at Brown University during July 23–26, and will be followed by a conference on cytodifferentiation during July 27–31, sponsored by the International Union of Biological Sciences. Applications for both meetings should be sent as soon as possible to Prof. J. Walter Wilson, Department of Biology, Brown University, Providence 12, Rhode Island. Correspondence about the meetings should be sent to G. A. Norton, Developmental Biology Conference Series 1956, National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, Division of Biology, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D.C.

THE fourth of the annual courses arranged by the Italian Physical Society at the Villa Monastero, Varenna, Lake Como, will be held this year during July 15–August 4 and will be on the magnetic properties of matter. The course will be in English and French, and lectures will be given by the following: C. J. Gorter (Kamerlingh Onnes Laboratory, Leyden), C. Kittel (University of California, Berkeley), N. Kurti (Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford), L. Néel (Laboratoire d'Électrostatique et de Physique du Métal, Grenoble), M. H. L. Pryce (H. H. Wills Physical Laboratory, Bristol), E. M. Purcell (Harvard University), and J. H. Van Vleck (Harvard University). The fee for the course is 30,000 lire (or 25,000 lire for shared accommodation). Applications should be sent at once to the director of the course, Prof. L. Giulotto, Istituto di Fisica dell'Università, Pavia.

ERRATUM. In the article entitled Colonial Research in the British Commonwealth in *Nature* of March 3, on p. 418, reference was made to the work at the Freshwater Field Station at Birnin Kebbi, in Northern Nigeria; it was incorrectly stated that a study of marine invertebrate fauna was in progress. This work is being carried out at Freetown, Sierra Leone. Birnin Kebbi, on the River Sokoto, deals with freshwater investigations, mainly on the fish in the area.