

science and engineering graduates in Great Britain is 1.5 per cent of the number of men eligible for National Service, and that for one reason or another some 50 per cent of the latter are never called up.

Babel: An International Journal of Translation

THE first number of *Babel*, an international journal of translation, has appeared, published by the International Federation of Translators, with the support of Unesco, the Director-General of which contributes a foreword (1, No. 1; 1955. Pp. 40. From the Federation, 16 rue Pierre Charron, Paris; 5s. an issue, or 17s. annual subscription). It represents the results of the first efforts, after the phase of organization, of the Federation, which was founded in 1953. The most important article in the present issue is that of R. W. Sumpelt outlining the general policy of the Federation and its affiliated organizations with regard to scientific and technical translating and indicating some of the problems with which it is proposed to deal in *Babel*. These include the recording of scientific and technical terminology on an international scale; the improvement of dictionaries and other lexicographical aids; and research in semantics and linguistics to decide what terms would be improved by standardization, and whether standardization should further cope with entire patterns of expression and of thought. Questions on costs of translation will also be considered, and, besides authoritative studies on these and other subjects, reports on current activities and meetings of other organizations of interest to the Federation are also invited. The present issue outlines the translation programme of representative works of Unesco and includes an article by Dr. S. D. Limaye discussing some basic aspects of scientific translation in India and the building up of an Indian scientific vocabulary.

British Rainfall during 1953

UNDER the title "British Rainfall 1953" is published the ninety-third annual volume of the British Rainfall Organization and the thirty-fifth as a Meteorological Office publication (M.O. 588; pp. 216. London: H.M.S.O., 1955; 25s. net). Each volume in the series summarizes the rainfall measured during a year at more than five thousand stations, many kept by voluntary observers, in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The year was on the whole a dry one over most of the country, with amounts of less than 20 in. and less than four-fifths of the average over much of England and Wales. Over north-west Scotland, it was rather wet with up to six-fifths of the average. At Pontefract the total was only 15.43 in. against an average of 23.3 in. The low rainfall over England and Wales was due to the winter months at both ends of the year being dry; the summer was rather a wet one. January was notably dry with a general average of only 1.4 in. over England and Wales and was part of one of the driest winters on record. The heaviest fall in one day was one of 6.5 in. on November 26 at Cwm Dyli, Snowdon. Some very heavy falls of rain occurred in the heavy thunderstorms of June 26, on which day at Eskdalemuir, Dumfries, 2.09 in. was measured in half an hour—the heaviest known fall recorded in the country in that period of time—and 3.54 in. in fifty-five minutes; on the same day 1.72 in. fell in fifteen minutes at Nelson, Lancs. Mr. J. Grindley contributes a useful tabulation, county by county, of the very heavy rainfalls observed since 1860 in

periods up to two hours. They are those of, or exceeding, the "Noteworthy" category, which ranges from 0.43 in. in less than five minutes to 1.19 in. in two hours. These show the heaviest fall in ten minutes to have been 1.3 in. at Chagford, Devon, on September 23, 1927, in an hour 3.63 in. at Maidenhead, Berks, on July 12, 1901, and in two hours 4.8 in. at Churchstoke, Montgomery, on June 26, 1895.

Psychological Tests for Accident-Prone and Industrial Proficiency

MEMORANDUM No. 31 of the Medical Research Council, entitled "Psychological Tests for Accident Prone and Industrial Proficiency" (pp. 30. London: H.M.S.O., 1955; 2s. net), is a reprint of the Industrial Health Research Board reports (Nos. 38, 55, 68, 74 and 84) on accidents, and its appearance is very welcome. The author of the summary, E. G. Chambers, has studied this problem with the late Prof. Greenwood, Miss E. M. Newbold and Eric Farmer for many years. He notes in the introduction that the investigations reported have extended over fifteen years and have involved more than four thousand subjects and the use of more than thirty different tests. The object of the study was to discover what relationship existed between the test scores of the subjects tested and the recorded accidents. It was hoped that some idea would be gained of the measurable psychological qualities involved in proneness to sustain accidents, with the ultimate practical object of choosing tests to help in the selection of workers for dangerous occupations. Whenever possible, records of industrial efficiency were obtained so that the effect on the proficiency of selection for accident-prone could be demonstrated. The reports give details of the tests, together with the inter-relations of the tests and their prognostic value, and the present memorandum is a summary of the main conclusions described in the five reports beginning in 1924. No new material is incorporated, and the data are not treated in any new way. Of course, since the publication of these reports, statistical techniques have improved and now the experiments would be planned differently; but a fairly extensive knowledge of recent work makes one realize that the present-day techniques have done little to increase our knowledge. The subjects tested included dockyard apprentices, naval ratings, London and provincial bus-drivers and various groups of trainees. The tests included sensori-motor, aestheto-kinetic, mental and intelligence, physiological, and nervous stability tests. Details of the tests and the precautions taken are given. The outbreak of war in 1939 terminated this research.

Statistical Review of England and Wales

THE General Register Office has recently issued the "Text Volume" of the "Registrar General's Statistical Review of England and Wales for the Year 1952" (pp. 256, 8s. net) and the "Medical Tables, Part 1", for 1954 (pp. 375, 12s. 6d. net). (Both published by H.M.S.O., London.) There are few changes in the presentation of the tables: the most important is the inclusion of tuberculosis notifications in the table relating to notifiable diseases, data which have hitherto only been given in the annual reports of the Chief Medical Officer to the Ministry of Health. There have also been minor changes in the method of classifying hospitals for the chronic sick, which may affect the comparability