However, as a general guide, intending authors (even senior ones) could not do better than consult "Notes on Preparation of Illustrations", prepared by the editorial office of the *Biochemical Journal* (price 1*s.*, from the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, Chelsea Bridge Road, London, S.W.1). This gives simple instructions, and goes on to consider a typical graph. It shows the graph drawn incorrectly, then as it should have been drawn, and finally as it would appear when published. The points discussed are really based on common sense alone; but the pamphlet does emphasize in a particularly direct way the essentials of the matter, and its acquisition by departments and/or individuals for the modest outlay of a shilling is a worth-while investment.

Stress Analysis Group of the Institute of Physics: Annual Conference

THE summarized proceedings of the ninth annual conference of the Stress Analysis Group of the Institute of Physics, which was held in the University of Sheffield during September 28–30, are printed in the January issue of the *British Journal of Applied Physics* (7, 1; 1956). The opening lecture was delivered by D. G. Sopwith (Mechanical Engineering Research Laboratory, East Kilbride), who spoke on the application of stress analysis to the design of some engineering components. Dr. Sopwith outlined the pattern that any design investigation should follow and emphasized that the stress analyst's task is not finished until the results are presented in a form such that the designer can apply them directly to the particular problem under consideration. Four papers by members of the Engineering Department of the University of Sheffield dealt with the measurement of residual stresses in cold-drawn tubes; the effect of tensile overstrain on the yield criterion for mild steel, brass and copper; extrusion under drop-hammer impact; and stress-strain characteristics of metal at high rates of strain, respectively. D. A. Drew (Rolls-Royce, Ltd., Derby) discussed the measurement of aircraft engine vibration in flight and pointed out that, though great accuracy is not vital, the measuring system has to be capable of dealing with frequencies up to 15 kc./s. Other papers dealt with strain gauges; the use of the resistance-network analogue for solving plane stress problems; machining stresses in turbine blades; and the application of the frozen stress method of photo-elastic analysis using 'Araldite' resin models to the study of the stresses in the T-junction of a branched pipe. In addition, a series of short papers presented by R. G. Boiten (Institut T.N.O. voor Werktuigkundige Constructies, Delft), describing the work of his organization, are of particular interest; they included descriptions of the photoelastic bench at Delft, work on prefabricated strain gauges, and a new type of brittle lacquer the raw material of which consists of plumber's resin.

Refugia Indicated by Pollen Profiles

C. H. HEUSSER has given an account of some interesting pollen profiles in the Queen Charlotte Islands, British Columbia (*Canadian J. Bot.*, 33, 5, 429; 1955). In all, five peat sections were examined from muskegs in different islands of the group with the primary purpose of reconstructing the post-glacial plant succession and associated climatic and physiographical alterations. A secondary purpose was to support or disprove the geological and zoological data favouring the existence of refugia in which biota survived from pre-glacial or inter-glacial times. The oldest pollen record tends to support this contention. The record is older than any derived from sections heretofore studied on the north-west coast. Twenty-three plant entities are represented in the bottom sediments below the lodgepole pine maximum which in these other sections marks the oldest peat. In addition, 27 per cent of the coniferous pollen at the base of the section is constituted of climax forest trees, thus implying the presence of long-established forest when pollen sedimentation began. The number and kinds of pollen in the basal peat favour the interpretation that vegetation persisted in refugia through at least the last glaciation. The pollen profiles further corroborate earlier findings for changes in land–sea level relations and for the following post-glacial climatic sequence: early cool-moist, warmer and drier (thermal maximum), and late cooler and wetter.

The Neurohypophysis: Symposium in Bristol

THE Colston Research Society, Bristol, has arranged since 1948 annual symposia on subjects appropriate to each of the Faculties in turn of the University of Bristol, and this year the symposium, to be held during April 9–12, will be on "The Neurohypophysis". The subject is one which appeals to a diversity of scientific interests, and the list of invited speakers includes anatomists, biochemists, pharmacologists, physiologists and zoologists. Besides eight speakers from Great Britain, there are three speakers from the United States, two from Sweden and one each from Canada, Chile, France, Germany and Switzerland. The symposium will be under the direction of Prof. H. Heller (Department of Pharmacology, University of Bristol), and Sir Henry Dale will open the proceedings. On April 10 the Society will hold its annual reception, at which the principal speaker will be Sir Lionel Whitby. Further information can be obtained from Dr. R. J. Fitzpatrick, Department of Pharmacology, University of Bristol.

Oversea Service Division, Colonial Office

THE following appointments have recently been made in the Oversea Service Division, Colonial Office: E. W. Momber (assistant director of agriculture, Northern Region, Nigeria), deputy director of agriculture, Northern Region, Nigeria; T. A. Phillips (principal of the School of Agriculture, Northern Region, Nigeria), deputy director of agriculture, Eastern Region, Nigeria; S. T. Hoyle (principal scientific officer, Nyasaland), senior principal scientific officer, Nyasaland; Miss F. M. Roberts (principal scientific officer, Jamaica), principal scientific officer, plant pathologist, Kenya; W. H. Foster, senior scientific officer (botanist and plant breeder), Northern Region, Nigeria; A. M. M. McFarquar, agricultural economist, Western Region, Nigeria; P. Thomas, cocoa soil survey officer, Gold Coast; D. R. Younger, manager, Yumdum Experimental Farm, Gambia; C. F. Hutchison, assistant bacteriologist, Jamaica; J. E. Clarke, entomologist, Game and Tsetse Control, Northern Rhodesia; D. G. Coursey, scientific officer (chemist), Federation of Nigeria; M. G. R. Hart, scientific officer, Sierra Leone; D. W. Brocklesby, veterinary research officer (protozoologist), East Africa High Commission; R. I. C. Hyam, veterinary officer, Northern Rhodesia; W. R. Nunn and L. D. Tennant, veterinary officers, Uganda; D. J. Skinner, veterinary officer, Kenya; Miss M. de Vere Allen, laboratory technologist, Kenya.