

applied problems of the industry and maintaining contact with the Advisory Service and the farmers.

Giornale di Microbiologia: New Italian Journal of Microbiology

THE editorial board of a new Italian journal, the *Giornale di Microbiologia* (edited from the Istituto di Patologia, Via Sant'Andrea delle Dame 8, Napoli; 2,500 lire per vol. for home subscribers, and 3,000 lire for foreign), intends to collect, from the international field, only original papers which have general microbiological importance and which will interest not merely people concerned with curative and preventive medicine, but also biologists and biochemists. Specialization, says the preface to this first issue, increases, but there is also a technical and theoretical integration of the various branches of science, and works of synthesis and analysis are needed more by microbiology than by the older, more precisely delimited, sciences. This first issue begins with a paper by H. Schmidt, of the Behring Institute for Experimental Therapy, Marburg, on the problem of allergy. R. Haas and H. Wolff, of the same Institute, contribute a paper on the culture of three strains of the influenza virus on ferret kidney cells. P. Lépine, of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, writes on vaccination for poliomyelitis. E. Baldacci and A. Grein, of the Institute of Plant Pathology, University of Milan, discuss the form of the spore of *Actinomyces* as studied by the electron microscope and the classification of the forms seen; this paper is illustrated by remarkable photographs.

T. Scotti and P. Zocchi contribute a paper, also illustrated by photographs, on the structure of the mycelium of *Streptomyces aureofaciens*. R. Tulasne, T. Terranova and J. Lavillaureux, of the Institute of Bacterial Biology of the Faculty of Medicine, Strasbourg, claim that B-vitamins, especially riboflavin, can be used instead of horse serum or ascitic fluid to obtain either L-forms of certain Gram-negative bacteria or stable cultures of L-colonies already formed. A paper by C. Castagnoli, P. Donini and F. Graziosi, of the Institute of Physics and the Microbiological Institute, University of Rome, discusses some biophysical aspects of inactivation of the BM phage through decay of assimilated phosphorus-32. M. Teti, of the Institute of General Pathology, University of Naples, discusses the effects of ultra-violet radiation on a non-inductable lysogenic strain of *Escherichia coli*; and G. Cavallo, of the same Institute, reports on the sensibility to non-ionizing radiation of a temperate phage obtained from a lysogenic strain of *Micrococcus pyogenes*. The issue ends with a paper, illustrated by photographs, by G. A. Maccacaro and A. Angelotti, of the Institute of General Pathology, University of Milan, on their electron microscope study of the filaments of *Escherichia coli*. All the papers have short English summaries. The journal is well printed and attractively produced, its photographic illustrations being particularly commendable.

Radio Noise of Terrestrial Origin: Report of the International Commission

THE eleventh General Assembly of the International Scientific Radio Union was held in The Hague during August 23–September 2, 1954 (see *Nature*, 176, 451; 1955), and Part 4 of the proceedings dealing with the meetings of Commission 4, on Radio Noise of Terrestrial Origin, under the chairmanship of Mr. J. A. Ratcliffe, has now been

published (pp. 60; from the General Secretary of the Union, 42 Rue des Minimes, Brussels; 60 Belg. fr., 8s. 8d., or 1.20 dollars). In accordance with the practice of this Union, the reports of national committees on work related to the Commission are published in full, but reference to the other scientific papers submitted is limited to a list of titles and authors. A paper presented by Mr. Ratcliffe deals with the question: "What are the most easily measured characteristics of Terrestrial Radio Noise from which the interference to different types of communication systems can be determined?" This question, which was discussed at a joint meeting with Commission 6, on Radio Astronomy, defines the scope of an investigation of great scientific and practical importance; and a working party was set up to examine the problem in more detail. Some of the recommendations made at the Assembly contain suggestions for continuing research on atmospheric during the forthcoming International Geophysical Year and for the preparation of revised charts showing the general level of atmospheric noise all over the world and its variation with time and season. In view of the great importance of this work to radio communication, the Union maintains close co-operation with the International Radio Consultative Committee in this field.

History of Polish Science

DESPITE the difficulties of finance and printing, the output of scientific books and periodicals in post-war Poland has been remarkably large and the standard of the publications impressively high. Apart from numerous new journals and text-books devoted to advances of modern science, the Polish Academy of Science has brought out during the past few years several new monumental monographs devoted specifically to the history of scientific developments in ancient and modern Poland. The most recent addition to this series is Vol. 2 of the "Studies and Materials from the History of Polish Science" ("Studia i Materjaly z Dziejów Nauki Polskiej"). Pp. 881. Warsaw: Polska Akademia Nauk, 1954). Of the eighteen papers which compose this volume, about half are devoted to Polish science of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Three essays deal exclusively with Copernicus (Kopernik) and contain a most interesting and striking analysis of his ideas and their influence on the development of modern physics and mathematics.

Modern Development of Commercial Pesticides

A HANDSOME illustrated brochure, entitled "Fifteen Years of Geigy Pest Control", has been published by the Geigy Co., Ltd., Manchester (pp. 150; n.p.), which gives a clear account of Geigy's work on products for pest control and the way it developed out of mothproofing agents into insecticides, seed disinfectants, timber preservatives, etc. The brochure displays the many purposes for which dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane and like products are now used and also describes its pharmacology and toxicology, its physics and chemistry, and mode of action. Besides describing these DDT insecticides and their importance, the brochure outlines recent work in this field by the Geigy Co., including that on repellants, the control of resistant flies and mosquitoes, systemic insecticides, selective acaricides, rodenticides, and on weedkillers such as 'Gesin' and the parathion preparation 'Etilon' which originated outside Geigy's laboratories. This part of the