

Production and Control, a monthly publication, the first number of which appeared last October (London: Leonard Hill Technical Group; 50s. a year). It is designed to fill the gap between highly specialized publications and the general technical press, in order to meet a long-felt need for a means of exchanging information between engineers and executives who have no time to follow the literature on any subject but their own. The first two numbers contain a number of interestingly written articles on problems of the automatic factory, and a vast range of equipment is described. There are also short digests of relevant articles in other journals, and of relevant patent specifications accepted, notices of forthcoming events, an editorial, "news briefs" and a cartoon. The new journal, therefore, not only provides interesting material for higher management interested in automation, but also brings together a great deal of information useful to development engineers working in the field. The format and arrangement of material are both good, and it is noteworthy that the American practice of mixing up advertisements and text has been avoided. It must, however, be emphasized that the number of journals dealing with automation in one form or another is now so great that it is quite impossible for any one man to read them all, although the amount of new and useful information available is probably not more than could be covered by a single journal, allowing for cross-references to and abstracts of specialized articles in periodicals covering other fields. Eventually, therefore, there may be a marked reduction in the number of journals purporting to cover the field of automation, and, from the engineer's point of view, the sooner this happens the better.

Fisheries and Animal Husbandry in Japan

A LINKING of fisheries and animal husbandry may indicate a new and broadly based view of the development of natural resources or a 'marriage of convenience' possible only when traditional barriers have been removed by catastrophe. The University of Hiroshima established its Faculty of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry in 1949 at Fukuyama, on the shores of the Inland Sea and with a cattle-raising hinterland, and the Faculty began to issue a journal in 1955. From the first number it is difficult to visualize the proposed scope of work of the Faculty; its contents no doubt reflect the interests of staff rather than suggest an outline of its programme. T. Irie reports a study by X-rays and histochemical techniques of the crystal structure and texture of otoliths of the marine teleost *Pseudosciaena*; T. Fujiyama describes the life-history of and cytological studies on the monoecious plant *Prasiola japonica* Yatabe. Both these papers are in English. Y. Anagama contributes an extensive review, in German, of research on vitamin C in milk and milk products, in conjunction with the results of his own work. Two papers in Japanese, with brief English summaries, complete the number; of these the first, by S. Ono, describes the system and methods of selling calves by auction practised in Japan, while the second is a long account by M. Ikeda of "Studies on Properties and Agricultural Development of Alkali Soil in Manchuria", with numerous tables and text figures of which the legends are also in English, and 141 references of which only those of Oriental origin bear dates later than 1938. The journal is well printed and the illustrations, line drawings and plates, are clearly reproduced. In its present

form and content it would seem more acceptable to central reference libraries than for circulation to specific interests; as an addition to the mass of literature in these fields it can be welcomed in so far as it gives a medium of publication for this group of workers.

Bulletin of Polish Medical History and Science

POLISH medical literature comprises at present no less than thirty-nine periodicals, but only a few of these reach medical men and scientists outside Poland. It is for that reason that the Polish Medical Alliance, an organization with editorial offices in Chicago, decided to "present to the English-speaking physician the outstanding research works, both past and present, along with a résumé of the accomplishment of Polish medicine". The first issue of the *Bulletin of Polish Medical History and Science* (Vol. 1, No. 1; July 1956. Pp. 48. Polish Medical Alliance, 2424 N. Kedzie Avenue, Chicago 47, Ill. 1.50 dollars) contains, apart from abstracts from numerous papers which appeared in Polish journals, three original articles, of which the first, on "Nicolaus Copernicus, Physician and Humanitarian", has been written by the chief editor, Dr. Alexander Rytel.

Alchemy and Early Chemistry

THE October issue of *Ambix, the Journal of the Society for the Study of Alchemy and Early Chemistry*, contains an appreciative obituary of the late Dr. F. Sherwood Taylor (who was editor from the inception of the journal in 1937) by the chairman, Dr. E. J. Holmyard. The new editor is Mr. D. Geoghegan. The number includes several interesting articles. The first, by Dr. Sherwood Taylor, is on the alchemical work of Isaac Newton and gives a transcription of a manuscript written by Newton which is apparently an attempt to form an intelligible body of doctrine from a number of quotations from alchemical authors, of which it mainly consists. Prof. Lynn Thorndike contributes a study of some alchemical manuscripts at Bologna and Florence. There are short articles on John Hariot's secret script by E. Seaton, and on J. B. Hunyadi by Sherwood Taylor and C. H. Josten. An article on "Chymeutike, the real Hellenic Chemistry", by Procopios D. Zacharias, is a concise but detailed summary of publications by Prof. M. K. Stephanides, of Athens, which are otherwise available only in Greek. It attempts to put further back the beginning of chemistry, but is in error in saying that the famous Leyden Papyrus was found by Maspero (it was sold by collectors to Anastasy) and in dating it in the third century B.C. (it is dated by experts as A.D. 346). Stephanides suggested that the name 'chemistry' comes from the Greek *chymeia*, meaning 'preparing a chyma', and that the practice arose from the washing of auriferous sands in Egypt. The theory was based on old Greek philosophical ideas, Heraclitus and Democritus being connected with the development; the "Hellenic chymeutike has no connection whatever with Alchemy". Esoteric alchemy is represented in this number of *Ambix* by some reviews of books, including two on Lull, from the writings attributed (probably wrongly) to whom, it is said, much of English alchemical tradition seems to be derived.

Two Palaeolithic Sites in Lower Austria

VOL. 7 of the "Mitteilungen der Prähistorischen Kommission der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften" (Vienna, 1954-55) contains an