

general. Bibliographies of noteworthy applications with recommendations as to how these applications may best be carried out using Unicam equipment will be a special feature, and in this connexion the assistance of the newly-constituted Technical Liaison Department will be most valuable. The contents of the first issue of *Spectrovision* consist of an article directing attention to a recent advance in clinical analysis—the determination of uric acid—using an enzyme preparation, “Uricase Leo”; an article entitled “Spectrophotometry”, by Prof. N. S. Bayliss (University of Western Australia), which was compiled originally to give students a grounding in the physical principles of absorption spectroscopy, together with an indication of check procedures; two brief articles on accessories; and a small specialized bibliography, consisting of sixteen items, dealing with the determination of iron by colorimetric and spectrophotometric methods.

Probability Theory in the U.S.S.R.

A NEW journal, *The Theory of Probability and its Applications*, is now being published in Moscow by the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. under the principal editorship of Prof. A. N. Kolmogorov (available in Britain from Collet's Holdings, Ltd., 44-45 Museum Street, London, W.C.1, £1 5s. post paid, for four issues). The first of the quarterly issues for 1956 has now appeared and contains ten long papers and five shorter notes. Eleven of the articles are in the Russian language, with English, French or German summaries, while the remaining four articles are in English, French or German, with Russian summaries. The topics discussed include ‘strong’ Markov processes and semi-groups of operators (E. B. Dynkin), ordered sets of probability distributions (H. Cramér), sequences of chance events (A. Khintchine), ‘Monte Carlo’ methods and linear integral equations (V. S. Vladimirov) and stochastic processes the sample functions of which are distributions (K. Urbanik). The journal is handsomely produced and will be much appreciated. The effort made to overcome the language barrier will be welcomed.

Zoological Nomenclature

THE International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature gives notice that, as from April 30, 1957, it will start voting on the following cases involving the possible use of its plenary powers for the purposes specified against each entry. Full details of these cases were published on October 31, 1956, in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (12, Pt. 10): (1) *Encrinurus* Emmrich, 1844, and *Odontochile* Hawle and Corda, 1847, designation of type species for; *punctatus* Wahlenberg, 1821 (*Entomostracites*), validation (Class Trilobita); (2) *Cupido* Schrank, 1801, designation of type species for (Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera); (3) *jurtina* Linnæus, 1758 (*Papilio*), grant of precedence to, over *janira* Linnæus, 1758 (*Papilio*); *Epinephelidi* Tutt, 1896, suppression of (Class Insecta, Order Lepidoptera); (4) *venulosa* Laurentus, 1768 (*Hyla*), determination (Class Amphibia). A proposal is also made for the adoption of the following declaration: determination of the relative precedence to be accorded to two or more names for family-group taxa published in the same book and on the same date. Comments should be sent as soon as possible in duplicate to Francis Hemming, Secretary to the Commission, 28 Park Village East, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

Halley Tercentenary Exhibition

IN November Sir Edward Bullard and Mr. C. A. Ronan arranged on behalf of the Royal Society a private exhibition at Burlington House to commemorate the tercentenary of the birth of Edmond Halley (1656-1742). In order to provide facilities for a wider public to see this exhibition, the majority of the material is being displayed during December 31 to January 20 in the Mineral Gallery of the Natural History Museum, London. The Museum is indebted to the Royal Society, Cambridge University Library, National Maritime Museum, Royal Astronomical Society and to the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, which have lent material for the purpose of the present exhibition; as well as to Sir Edward Bullard and Mr. C. A. Ronan for their personal contributions.

International Conference on Scientific Information

THE National Science Foundation, the National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council and the American Documentation Institute are jointly to sponsor an International Conference on Scientific Information to discuss the organization and dissemination of scientific information, with special emphasis on storage and retrospective search. The conference will be held in Washington, D.C., early in November 1958. Persons wishing to submit papers for this conference should communicate not later than January 31, 1957, with the Executive Secretary, Dr. A. F. Thomson, National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D.C., indicating the general subject-matter it is proposed to cover.

Conference on Biophysics

A STEERING committee of some fifty scientists, representing various aspects of biophysical research in the United States, has organized a national biophysics conference to take place in Columbus, Ohio, during March 4-6. The conference will cover studies which employ the approach of physics in biological measurement and theory, at levels of organization from molecules and cells to complex systems and psychophysics. Inquiries should be addressed to Dr. H. P. Schwan, School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia 4, Pennsylvania.

Oversea Service Division, Colonial Office

THE following appointments have recently been made in the Oversea Service Division, Colonial Office: G. D. Badger (senior agricultural officer, Uganda), assistant director of agriculture (field), Uganda; R. Henderson (agricultural officer, Federation of Malaya), senior agricultural officer (grade B), Federation of Malaya; H. M. James (senior agricultural officer (grade B), Federation of Malaya), senior agricultural officer (grade A), Federation of Malaya; N. Lamont (senior agricultural officer, Fiji), deputy director of agriculture, Fiji; A. S. MacDonald (agricultural officer, Sierra Leone), agricultural officer, Uganda; R. J. M. Swynnerton (deputy director of agriculture, Kenya), director of agriculture, Kenya; W. B. Tevendale (senior geologist, Geological Survey Department, Gold Coast), deputy director of Geological Survey, Geological Survey Department, Gold Coast; W. A. Sands (scientific officer, attached to the Commonwealth Institute of Entomology), scientific officer, West African Inter-Territorial Secretariat; J. L. Taylor (staff surveyor, Kenya), superintendent of surveys, Kenya; M. L. Burdin (veterinary research