journal of organic chemistry, and there can be no doubt that its success could make an important contribution to the generation of free and close contact between organic chemists throughout the world. That this objective can be achieved is indicated by the content of the first issue of 176 pages, which includes sixteen papers, two notes, and two preliminary communications. The origins of the papers are: U.S.S.R., four; Israel, three; Great Britain, three; and one each from South Africa, Japan, the United States of America and Hungary. Some of these papers do not differ in style from those which usually appear in the national journals, but it is hoped that authors will take advantage of encouragement by the editorial board to submit papers which also include a review of earlier work. This is very desirable because the reader can then appreciate more easily the importance and interest of the new results. The reviews by Prof. Fodor on "Recent Developments in the Synthesis and Stereochemistry of Tropane Alkaloids" and by Academician Nesmeyanov on the "Stereochemistry of Electrophilic and Homolytic Substitution at Olefinic Carbon" are timely and well illustrate how the international character of this journal may be expected to develop. Of the sixteen papers, two are in French, two are in German, and the rest are in English. The promise that future publications will contain papers based on researches which have already been described in other languages or in rather inaccessible journals is important. The quality of presentation of papers in *Tetrahedron* is excellent, and the reproduction of conformational diagrams and structural formulæ is very good, apart from those on pp. 28 and 29, containing oxygen atoms located near a six-membered ring, which are ambiguous.

Acta Embryologiae et Morphologiae Experimentalis

THE first number of a new journal, *Acta Embryologiae et Morphologiae Experimentalis* (Vol. 1, No. 1), appeared in February. It is published in Palermo under the editorship of D. A. Minganti, of the Department of Zoology of the University of Palermo, assisted by a committee of five, which includes members from that University and others from Milan and Rome. It is to be devoted, as the title implies, to papers on all aspects of experimental embryology and morphology. Papers are accepted in Italian, English, French and German, and, of the contributions in the present number, five are in Italian and five in English, each with a summary in the other language. With the exception of an account of a preliminary investigation of the succinic dehydrogenase and cytochrome oxidase in the sperm of sea urchins, the contents of the first issue are concerned with experimental investigations in the embryology and morphogenesis of various animals: chick, frog, toad, ascidians, sea urchins and *Aplysia*. The number contains 104 pages, about 9½ in. × 6¾ in., and is well illustrated by a number of tables, graphs, line and half-tone blocks. The paper, printing and general lay-out are very good, and although all the authors are Italian, the papers in English contain few noticeable mistakes, albeit the phraseology is sometimes awkward. It is published by G. Denaro, Via Maqueda, 177, Palermo, and the price is 12 dollars per volume of approximately 300 pages, but no information is given as to how frequently numbers will appear. Editor and publisher are to be congratulated on the first number.

Forest Research in the Sudan, 1950–54

THE Sudanese Forestry Research Unit is attached to the Gezira Research Farm situated at Wad Medani, the headquarters of the Gezira Cotton Organization. In Memoirs of the Forestry Division No. 7 (Agric. Publ. Committee, Khartoum, 1956), forestry research in the Sudan for 1950–54 is discussed. The investigations carried out in the period are mostly of a preliminary nature, the result of the work of a sylviculturist and an entomologist. Experimental work with an irrigated plantation had been commenced by the agricultural research officers, with the object of supplying firewood to the large community connected with the Gezira operations, firewood being very scarce and expensive in the few heavily populated towns of the Sudan. The species *Eucalyptus microtheca* has been found most suitable to the heavy, cracking, waterlogging or droughty soils of the Gezira, as these conditions resemble those in its Australian habitat. Other species are also being tried. Investigations into plantation work in the southern Sudan have shown that the teak introduced there grows rapidly and the early thinnings provide the poles so greatly in demand. *Cassia siamea* and *Cedrela toona* are also giving good results. In the Bahr el Ghazal Province investigations into the regeneration of the valuable *Khaya senegalensis* are being carried out; a hitherto unknown disease infesting the terminal bud has caused difficulty which has still to be solved. In connexion with the gum *Acacia senegal*, which provides a considerable revenue, the report is disquieting and disappointing. The sylviculturist writes: "The tapping and collection of gum in Kordofan (one of the chief regions of collection) is and will remain a peasant industry". Gum is purely a forest product and the trained forestry expert could certainly improve both outturn and tapping methods if the whole of the business were placed in his hands.

Phosphate on Bellona Island

THE Government of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate announces that the island of Bellona has been reopened to prospecting with effect from April 29. Phosphate has been proved by the Geological Survey Department, but not in as great a quantity as had been hoped. Some samples taken during pitting operations are high grade, and would be suitable for the manufacture of superphosphates. Full information and details can be obtained from the Senior Geologist, Geological Survey Department, Honiara, British Solomon Islands.

Meteorological Aspects of Atomic Energy

THE Executive Committee of the World Meteorological Organization decided, at its meeting in April 1956, that the Organization should advise its members and other international organizations on the meteorological aspects of the peaceful uses of atomic energy, and proceeded to set up a panel of four experts to study the matter. The results of the first year's work on the subject are described by the secretary-general, Mr. D. A. Davies, in the Organization's *Bulletin* for April 1957. The panel has pointed out that since modern instruments permit the detection of radioactivity even when present in minute concentrations, small quantities of a suitable radioactive tracer could be used for studying the large-scale air movements associated with the general circulation of the atmosphere. Other meteorological