

which may be concerned with investigations in any part of the country. As the new Laboratory also became responsible for the work on salmon and sea trout which had been carried out by the Scottish Home Department or by its pre-war predecessor, the Fishery Board for Scotland, it was soon evident that its title was inadequate. Further, as trout investigations developed, it became clear that work was also needed on other freshwater fishes in Scottish waters, such as pike and perch, because of their relationships with the trout populations which were the original objectives of the Laboratory's studies. For these reasons, it has been decided to change the name of the Laboratory, as from the beginning of April, to the Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory.

This change in title does not imply any change in the scope of the work carried out by the Laboratory; the new title indicates this scope more accurately. It is primarily a fisheries laboratory, but the work carried out at Pitlochry is not exclusively concerned with fish. Attention is also paid to other parts of the freshwater community, and some idea of the relative effort expended can be gained from the distribution of scientific and experimental officer staff among the specialist subjects connected with fisheries work. Thus, of the thirteen members of staff in these grades, seven are directly concerned with work on fish, three with chemical investigations, two with bottom fauna studies and one with botanical work. The results of the Laboratory's investigations will continue to be published in the "Freshwater and Salmon Fisheries" series, issued by H.M. Stationery Office for the Scottish Home Department, and members of the staff will continue to contribute papers to the appropriate scientific and technical journals.

Radioactive Materials

ISOTOPE Catalogue No. 4, "Radioactive Materials and Stable Isotopes", issued by the Isotope Division of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, Berks, is an extremely informative and up-to-date description of the methods of preparation of radioisotopes; radioactive standards; the various isotope services including those at the Establishment and elsewhere in Great Britain; facilities for high-intensity ionizing radiations; health hazards and radiation protection; and the conditions of sale, charges, and organizations overseas through which radioactive materials may be obtained. Section 10 of the Catalogue covers 140-odd pages and gives details of the radioactive materials produced from piles which are available. Each page is devoted to a single isotope of one of the elements, and the information given includes the half-life; the types of radiation emitted and their energies; the production process and other isotopes produced; the target material and its excitation cross-section; the specific activity produced in the target element and the price for the irradiation unit. Some radioactive isotopes can be produced by bombardment in the Harwell cyclotron, if they cannot be produced by other means. The charge is £10 per hour, and irradiations can usually be arranged with one week's notice. The section dealing with special sources contains data sheets for cobalt-60, indium-192 and thulium-170; details of the various forms and containers which can be supplied; and advice on the handling and most suitable applications of these sources. In the concluding sections the conditions governing the packaging and transport of radioactive

materials are outlined, and details are given of the stable isotopes helium-3, carbon-13 and oxygen-18 which are not electromagnetically separated, together with an inventory of the electromagnetically enriched stable isotopes which are normally held in stock and immediately available. The (provisional) future programme includes elements of atomic numbers 31, 57, 63, 66, 68, 70, 72, 73 and 81.

Nature Reserves

STEADY progress is again recorded by the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves in its Handbook for 1956. Much of the time of the Society was taken up in acting as joint host and organizer of the fifth General Assembly of the International Union for the Protection of Nature which was held at Edinburgh during June 20-28, 1956. A report on the Assembly is included in the Handbook and shows that much more scientific knowledge is needed for the effective management of nature reserves. Also included is one of the papers presented to the Assembly, by L. K. Shaposhnikov, which describes the role of the *zapovedniks* (natural parks) of the U.S.S.R. in solving problems for the protection of Nature. Another paper, by R. J. Elliott, gives an account of nature reserves in the North of England and particularly of the national nature reserve at Roudsea Wood. The Handbook may be obtained from the Secretary of the Society, c/o British Museum (Natural History), London, S.W.7, price 5s.

Gifts to the University of Bristol

THE University of Bristol has received a gift from the Bristol Aeroplane Co. of £10,500 towards the purchase of a Collins helium liquefier for the Department of Physics. The University has also received a grant of £3,700 per annum for two years from August 1957 from the Nuffield Foundation to the Department of Psychology, as a renewal of the grant made by the Foundation to the Unit for Research on Employment of Older Workers, and a gift of £1,000 from the Royal Society for the purchase of microscopes for the Department of Physics.

Science Masters' Association: Scottish Branch

THE Scottish Branch of the Science Masters' Association will hold its annual general meeting in the Zoology Department, University of Edinburgh, during April 8-10, with Prof. M. Swann, professor of natural history and zoology in the University, as president. Prof. Swann will speak on "The Antagonism of Old and New in the Teaching of Biology". Among the topics for discussion are: the teaching of science in a junior secondary school; the training and prospects of laboratory technicians; the historical development of units of length, mass and time; and the teaching of electrolysis in schools. The secretary for the meeting is Mr. L. de St. Paer, Loretto School, Musselburgh, Midlothian.

The Night Sky in April

FULL moon occurs on April 14d. 12h. 09m. U.T., and new moon on April 29d. 23h. 54m. The following conjunctions with the Moon take place: April 5d. 04h., Mars 3° N.; April 12d. 14h., Jupiter 6° N.; April 18d. 03h., Saturn 0.3° S. In addition to these conjunctions with the Moon, Mars is in conjunction with Aldebaran on April 3d. 03h., Mars being 6.8° N. There will be an annular eclipse of the Sun on April 29-30, invisible at Greenwich. Mercury will be