

testing: the subscription is 5 guineas per annum. Each member society will be asked to nominate a representative who would take part in meetings of the Committee. Applications, for the time being, should be made to the secretary of the Joint Committee on Materials and their Testing, Mr. R. Main, at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

Society of Instrument Technology

THE Society of Instrument Technology is setting up a special section devoted to data-processing systems. This section will hold its first meeting in London on October 10, when a paper on "A System for Handling Wind-Tunnel Data" will be presented by J. F. M. Scholes, of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Bedford. Further meetings will be held on November 14 ("A Digital Plotting Table", by J. Morrison, of Dobbie, McInnes, Ltd.); January 28 ("Digital Codes and Coding", by M. P. Atkinson, of the National Physical Laboratory); and on April 29, when a joint meeting on "Scanning and Logging", with papers by D. H. Whiting and J. Dunkley, of Imperial Chemical Industries, and J. Churchill, of Sunciv Controls, Ltd., has been arranged.

Initial emphasis will be on systems for handling experimental data, and for industrial monitoring and control. The section will be concerned with system design as well as with the detailed design of equipment; it will also deal with the use and organization of systems and with design-study work. The literature on data-processing techniques and application is scattered and much existing knowledge remains unpublished; one of the section's first tasks will be to obtain papers that review the present stage of development, for publication in the quarterly *Transactions* of the Society. Membership of the section is open to all members of the Society, who may also join the other special group, the Control Section. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Society of Instrument Technology, 20 Queen Anne Street, London, W.1. The secretary of the Data-Processing Section is Mr. W. T. Bane, 137 Kenilworth Court, London, S.W.15.

Australian Biochemical Society

THE Australian Biochemical Society was founded in 1955 under the presidency of Dr. M. R. Lemberg. Its objects are simply the advancement of the science of biochemistry. The first annual conference was held in Sydney in 1956. At the second conference, held at the University of Melbourne during June 5-8, one hundred and fifty members from all parts of Australia attended, and the fifty-three papers presented evoked stimulating discussion. The papers covered a wide variety of topics; the general quality of the work indicated that Australia has undoubtedly kept pace with modern developments and is, in fact, among the leaders in some important fields of biochemistry. University, government, industrial and independent research institutions were well represented in the list of original contributors. A special evening lecture entitled "Phenyl Thiocarbonyls in Protein Analysis" was given by Dr. Pebr Edman, formerly of the University of Lund, Sweden, and recently appointed John Holt director of biochemical research at St. Vincent's School of Medical Research, Melbourne. Another evening session was devoted to a general discussion on the role of the clinical biochemist and the organization of biochemistry in

hospitals. Prof. V. M. Trikojus, Melbourne, was re-elected president for 1957-58.

Finance for Research on Wool

IN the debate in the House of Commons on July 11, when the Draft Wool Textile Industry (Export Promotion Levy) Order, 1957, and the Draft Wool Textile Industry (Scientific Research Levy) Order, 1957, were approved, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, Mr. F. J. Erroll, explained that the purpose of the latter Order was to increase the yield of the research levy from about £155,000 to about £200,000; it is also intended to make some minor changes in the range of persons liable to pay the levy in order to bring it more into accord with present conditions and current developments in the industry. Mr. Erroll said that the additional money is required for capital expenditure by the Wool Industry Research Association and to meet increased costs since the levy was introduced; further, the Wool Textile Research Council also wishes to increase its research grants. In welcoming the two Orders, Mr. H. Rhodes expressed the opinion that methods of research used in the textile industry need re-casting and that there is too much duplication of effort. Research associations, he said, are spending small amounts on the same work because there is not enough liaison. He suggested that the original conception of research, as outlined when the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research was established, is now obsolete and that there is too much complacency. Problems common to the whole range of the textile industry should be investigated in one place with adequate resources, and the research stations should continue their day-to-day work for the firms they serve.

"Chymia"

THE publication of "Chymia", an annual devoted to the history of chemistry, will be resumed in the spring of 1958 with Vol. 5. The publication is now sponsored jointly by the Edgar Fahs Smith Collection of the University of Pennsylvania and the Division of the History of Chemistry of the American Chemical Society. The editor-in-chief is Henry M. Leicester, College of Physicians and Surgeons, San Francisco, California, to whom all articles for publication, which must be in English, should be submitted.

University Interchange

THE British Council has issued a report on "University Interchange between the United Kingdom and other European Countries, 1948-56" (pp. 56. London: The British Council, 1957). The report traces the development of certain schemes which the United Kingdom has undertaken in order to foster interchange visits between members of British universities and those of other European countries. Among these is the scheme for arranging short visits for university teachers; during the period under review 580 visits were received from foreign scholars, while 405 members of British universities went overseas. More than one-quarter of these were from the University of London; the four Colleges of the University of Wales sent one between them. So that interchange would not take place merely between scholars of established reputation, provision has been made to enable young workers engaged in original research to visit colleagues engaged in similar work in other countries. At present this scheme involves inter-