

Indonesian Museums

MR. J. IRWIN has recently summarized the conclusions drawn during a six-month Unesco mission to Indonesia in an article in the July issue of the *Museums Journal*. After a rapid survey of the present position, he was convinced that the most urgent problem was the lack of trained personnel. It was thus recommended that potential candidates should first receive a basic training course in Indonesia—probably a year at the Djakarta Museum—and then be awarded a travelling fellowship in Europe or America to specialize in some particular aspect relevant to Indonesia's specific needs. Mr. Irwin further considered that if museum development is to receive substantial support from the authorities it must play a positive part in the major national aim of fostering a consciousness of the Indonesian motto, "Unity in Diversity". To this end about thirty acres of land near the capital has been purchased for a national museum, and around the periphery it is planned to erect spectacular examples of traditional domestic architecture brought from the main cultural regions of Indonesia. Each of these houses is to be set in its own botanical setting and furnished in its own traditional way. This part of the scheme illustrates the diversity of Indonesian culture, while the unity would be shown in a modern functional building sited in the centre of the park, illustrating the links in Indonesia's cultural development. The whole project has been designed to be completed in ten years, and the acquisition of the land for 1,250,000 rupees is an indication that the authorities are keen to accept the recommendations of the Unesco report.

Mathematics in Industry

THE alarming shortage of competent mathematical teachers in British schools is already responsible for a shortage of good young mathematicians available for industry. As the language of science, mathematics is a major pillar of any technological economy, and the Mathematical Conference for Schoolteachers and Industrialists held at Trinity College, Oxford, during April 8–18 was based on this brute fact. The "Abbreviated Proceedings" (pp. 112. London: *Technology*, Times Publishing Co., Ltd., 1957. 2s. 6d.) therefore contains matter of national interest and importance, meriting the attention of parents, administrators and politicians. Industrialists expounded their mathematical needs and the wide variety of mathematical applications; research scientists helped to bridge the gap between pure mathematics and technology; teachers considered how content and exposition of a school curriculum might be modified to provide an adequate preparation for industrial mathematicians without thereby losing sight of the concept of mathematics as a part of general culture and education. Teachers present at the conference spoke warmly of the great stimulus and encouragement received, and hoped that further meetings may be arranged.

Nature Conservancy Awards for 1957

THE Nature Conservancy announces the following awards of research studentships for postgraduate training in ecology, tenable for periods up to three years at the universities shown: *Botany*, Miss B. C. Barrett (Durham–Newcastle), Miss D. C. Munroe (London), Miss C. M. D. MacDonald (Oxford), E. I.

Newman (Cambridge), G. A. M. Scott (University College of North Wales, Bangor); *Zoology*, J. M. Cherrett (Durham), L. M. Cook (Oxford), I. E. Efford (Oxford), J. E. C. Flux (Aberdeen), J. F. Peake (London).

Announcements

DR. NICHOLAS KURTI, of the Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford, is the first recipient of the Fritz London Award, which will be given biennially for distinguished research in low-temperature physics and chemistry as a memorial to the late Fritz London, of Duke University, North Carolina. Arthur D. Little, Inc., industrial research consultants of Cambridge, Mass., is sponsoring the tribute this year and will sponsor the award again in 1959.

THE next meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held during December 26–30 in Indianapolis. Further information can be obtained from the A.A.S., 1515 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington 5, D.C.

THE Plastics and Polymer Group of the Society of Chemical Industry is to hold a symposium in London during April 15–17, 1958, on "The Physical Properties of Polymers". The symposium will be devoted to recent advances in the fundamental investigation of mechanical and electrical processes in polymers, and to the physical testing of plastics, rubbers and fibres, with particular reference to dynamic and relaxation methods. All inquiries and offers of contributions to the symposium should be made to the honorary recorder, Mr. K. H. C. Bessant, c/o The Distillers Co., Ltd., Great Burgh, Epsom, Surrey.

A COURSE of lectures on "Observations of Dislocations in Metals and Inorganic Crystals" will be given in the H. H. Wills Physical Laboratory, University of Bristol, during March 24–29, 1958. The lecturers will be Prof. F. C. Frank, Dr. J. W. Mitchell, Dr. J. F. Nye, Dr. N. Thompson and other research workers. Those attending can be accommodated in Wills Hall, one of the halls of residence of the University. Further information can be obtained from the Director, Department of Adult Education, University of Bristol.

AN International Conference on High Polymers will be held at the University of Nottingham during July 21–24, 1958. Proceedings will be divided between two sections meeting simultaneously, the main subjects to be discussed being: *A*, reaction mechanisms and kinetics, heterogeneous polymerization (including trapped or inactive radicals), production of graft and block co-polymers; *B*, physical, thermodynamic and mechanical properties. Those wishing to present a paper should submit an abstract of 200–300 words in English, French or German, not later than December 15, 1957, to the International High Polymer Conference, The University, Manchester 13. The organizing committee will make up its programme by selection from these abstracts, and will invite the authors to prepare their completed papers not later than March 1, 1958. The full proceedings of the Conference, including the discussion, will be published in the *Journal of Polymer Science*.