(Cape Town), A. B. Edwards (Melbourne), G. E. Hutchinson (New Haven, Conn.), E. Ingerson (Washington, D.C.), J. Orcel (Paris), N. W. Rakestraw (La Jolla, Cal.), C. G. Rossby (Stockholm), W. W. Rubey (Washington, D.C.), H. E. Suess (La Jolla, Cal.), K. Sugawara (Nagoya), H. G. Thode (Hamilton, Ontario), S. Tsuboi (Tokyo), A. P. Vinogradov (Moscow).

Nature Conservation

The sixth technical meeting of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources was held in Edinburgh during June 20–28. Previous accounts of the meeting have directed attention to the increasing importance of the Union as the 'World Parliament of Nature', the aims of which are to conserve renewable natural resources and areas of outstanding natural interest and to protect flora and fauna having scientific, historic or æsthetic significance (*Nature*, 178, 175; 1956). The Proceedings of the Edinburgh conference have now been published and includes full texts or summaries of most of the papers submitted together with the relevant discussions. To reduce the size of the Proceedings, the Société Nationale d'Acclimatation de France (57 rue Cuvier, Paris, 5e) has published a full account of the papers and discussion relating to the biological consequences of myxomatosis. Copies of the Proceedings may be obtained from the Nature Conservancy, 19 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1, 25*s*.

Serengeti National Park, Tanganyika

Proposals to partition the Serengeti National Park, Tanganyika, were first published in January 1956. Although these were reluctantly accepted by the Trustees of the Park, they were immediately opposed by the Tanganyika and Kenya wild-life societies, as well as by organizations in other countries. One of these was the Fauna Preservation Society, which later arranged for an ecological survey of the area to be carried out. This has now been done by Prof. W. H. Pearsall; details of his report and recommendations have been accepted by the Society and form the bulk of a recent issue of *Oryx* (4, No. 2; August 1957). Prof. Pearsall recommends that a national park, primarily for game preservation, be maintained in the central and western Serengeti, including the Moru area; that a national park for game, indigenous forest and water conservation be maintained in the Crater Highlands; that a connecting corridor with limited human access will be necessary between Ngorongoro Crater and the central plains, if the Ngorongoro Crater Camp is to be maintained as a tourist attraction; that arrangements be made for the early exclusion of pastoral occupation from the national parks; that systematic attempts be made to develop the Masai-occupied territories, particularly in regard to water (conservation and distribution) and grassland and range management; and that a research unit be set up to study the problems of game and habitat conservation. These recommendations have been submitted by the Society to a committee which has been set up by the Tanganyika Government to consider the Serengeti.

Phytopharmacy

A report has been issued of the eighth Annual Symposium of Phytopharmacy (*Mededelingen van de Landbouwhogeschool en de Opzoekingsstations van de Staat te Gent*, 21, No. 3; 1956. Pp. ii+293–642. Gent: Rijkslandbouwhogeschool, 1956). It contains articles of special interest on insecticides, fungicides, herbicides, nematicides, etc., and related topics, for example, toxicology of organic phosphorus insecticides. There are also contributions on topics of a more general character, for example, the present state of research on fungicides, and a discussion on the postulates, or canons, of Koch in their application to the problems of nematology. The control of insect pests in foodstuffs (for example, oat flakes in packets), by high-frequency electrical fields, is yet another subject on which some interesting and important information has been obtained. This procedure appears to have been successful, the commodity suffering no detectable alteration. The multi-resistance of the common house-fly, induced by selection with insecticides, is described and the probable mechanisms involved discussed in some detail. Several factors which may influence the occurrence of spray damage, that is, after the application of insecticidal or fungicidal sprays, are reviewed, and it is noted that many varieties of fruit trees show very considerable differences in susceptibility during the growing season, and that the greatest damage is sustained during the period of vigorous growth, in particular, immediately after flowering. It has been found that the penetration of a fungicide into a leaf, with consequential damage, may be promoted when the fungicide is mixed with an insecticide in which organic solvents are present. The present status of griseofulvin for the protection of plants has also been considered, the research findings to date being generally, and sometimes very, encouraging.

Sulphonylureas in Experimental and Clinical Diabetes

The sulphonylureas reduce the level of the blood sugar apparently by stimulating the production of insulin by the pancreas. They also increase the effectiveness of injected insulin. These drugs are active when given by mouth and seem to offer the possibility of an alternative to injections of insulin in the treatment of some forms of diabetes mellitus. Control of the diet is still necessary, and some, at any rate, of the derivatives produce harmful side-reactions. In February, the New York Academy of Sciences held a conference on the effects of the sulphonylureas and related compounds in experimental and clinical diabetes (*Annals N.Y. Acad. Sci.*, 71, 1; 1957), during which thirty-two papers were presented. Prof. B. A. Houssay was among the contributors, and the papers dealt both with the scientific and clinical aspects of the action of the drugs.

Properties of Materials at High Rates of Strain

The deformation of solids is a wide and fascinating subject, of interest especially to engineers, metallurgists and physicists. In particular, behaviour when the deformation is rapid is important in various ways. This aspect is being studied in a number of laboratories, and at the suggestion of the Scientific Advisory Council of the Ministry of Supply, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers held in London during April 30–May 2 a conference on "Properties of Materials at High Rates of Strain", which was apparently the first ever held on the subject. A rate of strain greater than about one per second was arbitrarily decided