

years to the Division of Plant Industry, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, in Canberra, where he set up the new research section on soil microbiology and initiated a number of important lines of work. Nutman's researches at Rothamsted and at Canberra have concerned the formation and functioning of nodules on leguminous plants. He has shown that the number of nodules and their effectiveness in fixing nitrogen are controlled not only by the bacterial strain but also by genetically controlled factors in the host plant, different genes functioning at different and specific stages in the course of nodule development. He has also shown that nodule and lateral root initiation are correlated, and that their origin and growth are affected by inhibitors found in the apices of nodules and lateral roots, and by substances secreted by the roots.

### Annals of Physics

ONE of the most recent additions to the now rather long list of new physics periodicals is the monthly journal, *Annals of Physics* (New York: Academic Press, Inc.), which commenced publication in April and of which the three numbers constituting Vol. 1 (8 dollars; single issues, 3 dollars each) are now available. Vol. 2 will cover the period July–December 1957. Each number contains some five to six original contributions of high standard and on widely different aspects of physics, but almost all so far of a theoretical or mathematical nature. It is the stated intention of the editors, P. M. Morse, B. T. Feld, H. Feshbach and R. Wilson, that the *Annals* shall provide a medium for original work of broad significance, in which the author will be able to give attention to clarity and intelligibility, so that his paper may be read by the widest possible group of readers. It is because they believe that opportunities for presentations of this kind are somewhat limited to-day that the new periodical has been started. It is difficult, however, to distinguish how the various articles in Vol. 1 differ from those to be found in other conventional physics journals, except perhaps that they are occasionally somewhat longer and some may be classed as of semi-review character. The introduction of some papers on purely experimental or technical aspects would help to make the *Annals* more attractive to the general physicist. The format and presentation are excellent. All the contributors to Vol. 1 are members of laboratories in either the United States of America or Canada.

### Proceedings of the Physical Society

SINCE the beginning of 1949 the *Proceedings of the Physical Society* have been published in two sections, Parts A and B, and these have been available for purchase separately. From time to time the Advisory Committee has altered the distribution of subjects as between A and B—at one time A was mainly devoted to theoretical and B to experimental work. However, recently, it has become evident that the maintenance of the distinctive characteristics of the two separate sections was becoming progressively more difficult and that it was inevitable that those who received only one section could not have even specialist interests covered satisfactorily. The Council of the Physical Society has therefore decided to recombine the two sections of the *Proceedings* as from January 1958. It is emphasized that the single

issue will contain all the papers that the two separate sections would have contained, and the total content will not be diminished. For convenience of reference and binding, the *Proceedings* will be indexed every six months. The cost to Fellows of the Society for the whole *Proceedings* will be two guineas (£2 11s. previously) and to non-members twelve guineas (nine guineas formerly).

### Training Overseas Engineers in Britain

MORE than 150 engineering firms in Great Britain are taking part in the Federation of British Industries Overseas Scholarship Scheme. The scheme provides training with British engineering firms—usually for two years—for selected graduate engineers from the Commonwealth, South and Central America and the Middle East, and is likely to be extended later to include countries in South-East Asia. Its objects are to assist developing countries by increasing their supply of trained engineers and to stimulate the export of British engineering equipment by the spread of British technical knowledge overseas. By March 31, 147 overseas scholars of the Federation from twenty different countries had come to Britain; of these, sixty-five were still here at that date, and eighty-two had returned home after completing their training. Many more awards have been made since then, and the 181st scholar arrived in England recently. Recent arrivals include the first overseas scholars from South Africa and from Jordan. Sir Edward Thompson, chairman of John Thompson, Ltd., Wolverhampton, has succeeded Sir Arthur P. M. Fleming as chairman of the Overseas Scholarships Committee of the Federation of British Industries.

### Courses in Higher Technology

THE London and Home Counties Regional Advisory Council for Higher Technological Education has prepared a useful bulletin describing special courses in advanced technology which are to be held in the London and home counties region during the next few months. These courses are not connected with those which prepare for examinations and are usually not described in technical college prospectuses. They are generally part-time (usually evening) courses, but full-time courses which are specially arranged and are of not longer than three months duration are also included. The enterprise of most of the colleges concerned is highly commendable. Brighton, for example, has arranged courses dealing with nuclear power stations, jig and tool design, and automatic screw technology; Ealing has a course on transistor technology; Hammersmith has thought of its African and West Indian students by arranging a special course for them dealing with environmental hygiene. Analogue computers form the subject of a course at Hatfield and digital computers one at Hendon; the latter college is to be congratulated for its wide range of courses in management studies. The whole bulletin radiates enthusiasm and enterprise and should be made use of by every managing director and commercial executive in the London area. A similar bulletin describing courses which are to be arranged in the spring and summer of 1958 will be ready in December. Each bulletin costs 3s. and may be obtained from the Secretary, Regional Advisory Council, Tavistock House South, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.