

Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, from the Danish Heath Society, from the Swiss Forest Research Institute, Zurich, from the Meteorological Office and from colleagues on the forestry staff at Edinburgh. The results, if put into force, should provide a different type of shelter belt in Britain both in density and quality of timber. The Bulletin should prove of use in Colonial countries where shelter belts on a larger scale are very much needed for the improvement of agricultural crops and stock.

#### Biochemistry and the International Union of Biological Sciences

A COMMITTEE of the Section of Biochemistry of the International Union of Biological Sciences has recently been formed. It is essentially a co-ordinating committee between the International Union of Biological Sciences and the International Union of Biochemistry. It is assumed that this committee will be specifically concerned with chemical biology within the framework of the Unions federated in the Council of Scientific Unions. An important function of the committee will be to make proposals for international symposia to both Unions. It is hoped that a full committee meeting will shortly be held, perhaps during the fourth International Congress of Biochemistry in Vienna in September 1958. The committee as at present constituted consists of M. Florin (Liège, *president*), O. Lindberg (Stockholm), R. Brunel (Toulouse), F. Lynen (Munich), P. Boyer (Minneapolis) and T. W. Goodwin (Department of Biochemistry, University of Liverpool, *secretary*).

#### Conference on Salt Marshes

THE Marine Institute of the University of Georgia has organized a Conference on Salt Marshes, to be held at Sapelo Island during March 25-28, 1958. The Conference is being sponsored jointly by the National Science Foundation and the Marine Institute. It will be international in character. Its purpose is to bring together scientists who are working on, or interested in, salt marshes, for discussion of research on this particular environment. An invited group of about twenty-five people will participate in the Conference; invitations will be extended on request to a limited additional number of persons who wish to attend at their own expense. The Conference is under the direction of Dr. Alfred C. Redfield, of Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Further information can be obtained from Dr. Robert A. Ragotzkie, University of Georgia Marine Institute, Sapelo Island, Georgia.

#### Low-Temperature Physics Conferences

THE sixth international conference on low-temperature physics will be held in Leyden during June 23-28, 1958, in connexion with the fiftieth anniversary of the first liquefaction of helium by Kamerlingh Onnes. Further information can be obtained from Dr. J. van den Handel, Kamerlingh Onnes Laboratory, Leyden, The Netherlands. A conference of the First Commission of the International Institute of Refrigeration will be held in Delft during June 17-20, 1958. At this meeting technical aspects of low temperatures will be discussed as well as scientific subjects. The secretary of the Delft conference is Prof. B. S. Blaisse, Mijnbouwplein 11, Delft, The Netherlands.

#### Announcements

MR. R. F. HAYMAN, industrial gas officer of the Gas Council, has been appointed chairman of the Industrial Gas Development Committee of the Council in succession to Mr. W. H. Tarn, whose term of office as chairman of the Committee expired on December 31.

DR. H. O. J. COLLIER has been appointed director of pharmacological research at Parke, Davis and Co., Ltd., Hounslow, Middlesex, from February 1. For the past twelve years, Dr. Collier has been head of the pharmacology department at Allen and Hanburys, Ltd., Ware, Herts.

RECOMMENDATIONS for the Meldola Medal, which will be awarded to the chemist who, being a British subject and less than thirty years of age on December 31, 1957, shows the most promise, as indicated by his or her published chemical work; and for Beilby Memorial Awards, given to young British investigators in science to mark appreciation of records of distinguished work, should be made by February 28. Further information can be obtained from the Royal Institute of Chemistry, 30 Russell Square, London, W.C.1.

THE Society of Protozoologists is to publish "A Catalog of Laboratory Strains of Free-living and Parasitic Protozoa", with sources from which they may be obtained and directions for their maintenance. This will appear as an integral part of the February issue of the *Journal of Protozoology* (5, No. 1). Reprints, which will be sold at a nominal cost, can be ordered from Dr. D. M. Lilly, Society of Protozoologists, St. John's University, Department of Biology, Jamaica 32, New York.

May and Baker, Ltd., state that from time to time they still receive empty Winchester quart bottles containing small amounts of sodium wire. Although all bottles that have been used for ether are examined before washing, it is difficult to detect such small pieces of sodium. This practice has resulted in several incidents, potentially serious, in the bottle-washing plant. In the interests of safety, any residual sodium metal used to dry the ether should be carefully and completely decomposed with a low-boiling alcohol before return to the supplier. Drying in this way is not necessary with the very dry grade of ether now available when required.

THE tenth British Mathematical Colloquium will be held in Reading during March 26-28. Further information can be obtained from J. E. Reeve, Department of Mathematics, The University, Reading.

THE Anniversary Meeting of the Chemical Society will be held in Bristol during March 31-April 2. There will be symposia on "Developments in Aromatic Chemistry", "Applications of Electron and Nuclear Resonance in Chemistry" and "Recent Work on the Inorganic Chemistry of Sulphur". Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, The Chemical Society, Burlington House, London, W.1.

IN *Nature* of December 28, 1957, p. 1448, reference was made in the article entitled "Lubrication and Wear" to an international discussion on the subject twenty years ago under the chairmanship of "the late Dr. H. J. Gough". We are glad to learn that a mistake was made and that Dr. Gough is still alive.