

pumped from a river or the amount of compensating water to be discharged from their reservoirs. The Ministers are required to consider the interests of all concerned with the conservation or use of the water for agriculture, fisheries, industry, navigation, etc. Comparatively little potable water is used by the Atomic Energy Authority.

Committee for Biological Acoustics

In 1956 an International Committee for Biological Acoustics was set up at a conference in the United States to act as a focus for research on human and animal acoustics. The growing interest in this field in Great Britain has created a demand for a national committee, which has now come into being. Its constitution is as follows: *Chairman*, Prof. R. J. Pumphrey, Department of Zoology, University of Liverpool (who is also the British representative on the International Committee); *Secretary*, Dr. P. T. Haskell, Anti-Locust Research Centre, London; *Members*, Dr. E. C. Cherry, Department of Electrical Engineering, and Mr. D. Leston, Department of Zoology, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London; Dr. F. C. Fraser, Department of Zoology and Dr. D. R. Ragge, Department of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History); Dr. L. Harrison-Matthews, Zoological Society of London; Dr. J. W. S. Pringle, and Dr. W. H. Thorpe, Department of Zoology, University of Cambridge.

The committee hopes to arrange meetings on biological acoustics in collaboration with established biological societies, will maintain close liaison with the International Committee, and is also investigating the possibility of setting up a British collection of recorded animal sounds. A necessary first step will be to ascertain the present extent of interest in and the range of research on biological acoustics in Britain, and it is proposed to compile a list of all those interested in the field. Anyone interested in any aspect of human or animal acoustics should send his name and address, with brief comments on his research and field of interest, to Dr. P. T. Haskell, Anti-Locust Research Centre, 1 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

The Egyptian Journal of Geology

In these days when the output of scientific literature challenges the ability of the worker in even the most specialized fields to keep himself informed about current research, news of the publication of yet another scientific journal must sometimes be received with mixed feelings. This will not, however, prevent geologists from wishing success to the Geological Society of Egypt, which in 1957 published the first number of the *Egyptian Journal of Geology*, which is to be produced in future twice-yearly. Egypt is a country of considerable mineral wealth and with many features of geological interest; the new *Journal* will provide a useful forum for her geologists, and it is good that the results of their work should be made readily available to the scientific world at large. In the current issue, three of the four articles are concerned with specifically Egyptian problems of stratigraphy, micropalaeontology, and mineral resources; the fourth deals with the more general subject of the serial character of igneous rocks. The articles are printed in English with Arabic summaries in this issue, but the editors invite contributions written in any language employing Latin or Arabic characters. An otherwise excellent format is marred by the adoption of a tall, narrow type-face which gives an

impression of elegance but is trying to read. The *Journal* is published at Tager Building, Elhami Street, Kasr El Doubara, Cairo, and costs 50 P.T. (10s.).

Current Research on Orthoptera

THE number of workers now engaged in research on Orthoptera is large and the field of work is very extensive, often resulting in unnecessary duplication of work and in restriction of exchange of ideas. A questionnaire was sent out by the Anti-Locust Research Centre, London, in 1956 to institutions and scientists all over the world known to be engaged in research on Orthoptera, asking them to provide information on the subjects of their research. Of 250 questionnaires sent out, 215 were returned by workers in thirty-seven different countries. As a result, a list of workers and their addresses, indicating the nature of their current work, has been issued by the Anti-Locust Research Centre, under the title "Current Research on Orthoptera", for circulation among all those known to be engaged in research on Orthoptera. The fields of research covered have been divided into seven sections (the figures in brackets showing the number of projects listed in each case) as follows: taxonomy and faunistics (51); anatomy and morphology (26); physiology (biochemistry and metabolism) (37); physiology (nervous system and sense organs) (21); behaviour (46); ecology, biogeography and general biology (76); and pest control (35). When a scientist is engaged in research related to more than one section, separate cross-indexed entries have been made, so that any one section contains a complete list of all known workers in that field. The arrangement within each section is alphabetical. All those listed will receive "Current Research on Orthoptera", further numbers of which will be issued as new or revised entries accumulate. All inquiries and any information for inclusion in the list should be addressed to the Anti-Locust Research Centre, 1 Princes Gate, London, S.W.7.

Swedish Forest Research

Scots pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) and Norway spruce (*Picea abies*) form the chief commercial species of the Swedish forests and source of annual revenue obtained from them; it is to be expected, therefore, that these species should be considerably studied in the Forest Research Institute at Stockholm. In the report of the Forest Research Institute of Sweden (Vol. 46. Pp. 572. Stockholm: Statens Skogsforskningsinstitut, 1957) two interesting papers are printed: "Germination Analyses by the X-ray Method of *Picea abies*" and "Seed Development of *Picea abies* and *Pinus sylvestris*". The X-ray experiments on the spruce here described are a continuation of work previously carried out at the Institute. The method of predicting the germinative properties of a seed from its X-ray photograph is based on the close correlation between these properties and the morphological characteristics of the seed's embryo and endosperm. The seed was harvested with great care, mostly from northern localities where the less developed seed types are found more frequently. The paper gives full details of the methods employed, with photographs. In the second paper, on the seed development of the two species, the aim of the investigation was to establish the time of fertilization and to follow embryo development during summer and early autumn. The material was collected from trees growing in the vicinity of Stockholm. The