

American Phytopathological Society

THE American Phytopathological Society is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year, and a series of outstanding symposia by internationally-known scientists is being presented at the meeting of the Society with the American Institute of Biological Sciences in August. A book of approximately 1,000 pages entitled "Plant Pathology—Problems and Progress 1908–1958", containing more than sixty symposium papers, will be published by the American Phytopathological Society in the winter of 1958. The papers in this volume are primarily basic in content and apply to many phases of the biological and physical sciences. Further information can be obtained from the American Phytopathological Society, P.O. Drawer 1106, New Haven 4, Conn.

University News :

Birmingham

PROF. F. H. GARNER's tenure as professor of chemical engineering and head of the Department of Chemical Engineering has been extended for two years to 1960. The title of reader in mechanical engineering has been conferred on Dr. B. N. Cole, senior lecturer in mechanical engineering; and the following appointments have been made: Dr. R. D. Peacock and Dr. J. Burdon, to be lecturers in chemistry; T. R. Bott, to be lecturer in chemical engineering; D. I. Rees, to be J. Lyons research fellow in analytical chemistry; Dr. D. A. Heath, to be lecturer in pathology; and W. Marsh, to be lecturer in orthodontics.

The new Chemistry Block (the first stage of which should be completed in 1960) is to be named the Haworth Building to commemorate the late Sir Norman Haworth, who was Mason professor and director of the Department of Chemistry in the University during 1925–48.

London

DR. S. R. SPARKES, reader in civil engineering at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, has been appointed to the chair of engineering structures tenable at that College; and Mr. G. R. Hall, acting principal scientific officer at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, has been appointed to the readership in nuclear technology tenable at the Imperial College.

Announcements

PROF. C. A. COULSON, Rouse Ball professor of applied mathematics in the University of Oxford, will deliver the 1958 Eddington Memorial Lecture in Cambridge, at the Arts School Lecture Theatre, Bene't Street, on April 21 at 5 p.m.; his subject will be "Science and the Idea of God".

A SYMPOSIUM on Molecular Structure and Spectroscopy will be held in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Ohio State University, during June 16–20. There will be discussions of the interpretation of molecular spectroscopic data as well as methods for obtaining such information. Accommodation will be available for those who wish to reside on the campus during the meeting. Further details can be obtained from Prof. R. A. Oetjen, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Ohio State University, Columbus 10, Ohio.

THE 1958 Microscopy Symposium, the fifth of these symposia, will be held in Chicago during June 9–12

and will include sessions on instrumentation, electron microscopy, X-ray microscopy, autoradiography, medical and biological applications, fibres and plastics, forensic microscopy and structural materials. Exchange of ideas and techniques are encouraged in an informal atmosphere. Further information can be obtained from W. C. McCrone, jun., Walter C. McCrone Associates, 500 East 33rd Street, Chicago 16, Illinois.

THE Postal and Telecommunications Group of the Brussels Universal and International Exhibition is organizing an international conference on "Solid State Phenomena in Electronics and Telecommunications" to be held in the University of Brussels during June 2–7. Three major subjects will be treated at this conference: semi-conductors, magnetic materials and photo-sensitive and luminescent materials. Prospective authors of papers in those fields are invited to notify the organizers as soon as possible. Further information can be obtained from the Hon. General Secretary, Société Belge de Physique, Lovreval, Belgium.

A CONFERENCE on "Noise", with particular reference to industry, organized by the British Occupational Hygiene Society, will be held at the Canterbury Hall, Cartwright Gardens, London, W.C.1, on April 1. The conference is open to non-members of the Society on payment of a registration fee of one guinea. Mr. T. E. Cawthorne (King's College Hospital) will discuss the physical disturbances produced by excessive noise; Dr. T. S. Littler (Wernher Research Unit on Deafness) will describe the techniques of measuring noise; Dr. A. E. Carpenter (Applied Psychology Research Unit of the Medical Research Council) will deal with the disturbance of mental performance caused by noise; and the suppression of noise will be dealt with by Mr. N. Fleming and Mr. W. C. Copeland (National Physical Laboratory). Further details can be obtained from the hon. scientific secretary, Dr. D. Turner, Associated Ethyl Co., Ltd., Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.

THE Non-destructive Testing Group of the Institute of Physics has organized a joint conference with the Société Française de Métallurgie, to be held in Paris during June 16–20. The theme is to be the utilization of physical properties for studying the relationships between the constitution, structure and service behaviour of metals, and there will be both French and English chairmen at each discussion session. The conference, for which there is no fee, is primarily intended for members of the Institute of Physics, but there will be limited accommodation for non-members. A parallel programme, including visits to Malmaison and St. Germain, is being arranged by the French Metallurgical Society, and members' ladies are expressly invited on this occasion. Those who wish to attend should apply, before March 24, on forms obtainable from Mr. L. Lawrence, Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1, to whom all inquiries should be addressed.

ERRATUM. In the article by Dr. E. B. Kraus entitled "Recent Climatic Changes" in *Nature* of March 8, p. 666, the formula in the second paragraph

is incorrect; for $y(n) = 100 \sum_{l=1881}^n \left(\frac{r_l}{\bar{r}} - 1 \right)$ read

$$y(n) = 100 \sum_{l=1881}^n \left(\frac{r_l}{\bar{r}} - 1 \right).$$