

Laboratory has recently been issued (Pp. v+34. Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Union Carbide Corporation, 1958). The articles and reports are listed in separate sections and classified in alphabetical order of authors under the general headings: biology, chemistry, engineering, general, health physics, instrumentation, mathematics, metallurgy and materials, and physics. Many of the papers are available free as reprints from the Central Research Library, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, P.O. Box X, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and others may be purchased through the Office of Technical Services, Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D.C. Some articles were published in 1956, but were not issued until 1957; the 1956 and 1957 articles are distinguished by the prefixes '56' and '57', respectively, before the reference numbers. The authors' names, title of paper and journal reference are given in every case.

Alkali Works in Britain

THE ninety-fourth Annual Report on Alkali, etc., Works in England and Wales (pp. 50. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1958. 3s. net) by the Chief Inspector covers the year 1957, when the number of works registered decreased by seventeen to 872 and the number of processes by fourteen to 1,733, due to the concentration of manufacturing operations, particularly at gas-works and by-product plants. The 4,023 units and inspections during the year included 174 special visits by the chief and deputy chief inspectors and nine by Mr. W. A. Damon, who since March has been engaged on special advisory duties. Of the total, 430 visits were to or in connexion with works not registered under the Act, and a further 55 visits were in connexion with colliery spoilbanks. Besides 2,175 quantitative analyses made of gases evolved from the processes in question during the inspections, 965 samples were submitted for detailed examination to the Government Chemist. Complaints were most numerous against cement works and fertilizer granulation plants, and escapes of fumes in excess of statutory limits were recorded on seven occasions, a further ten infractions related to failure to use the "best practical means", the total infractions comparing with 23 in 1956 and 48 in 1955. A general survey of emissions of smoke, grit and dust from registered operations indicated that reasonably satisfactory conditions already exist generally.

Under the same cover is included the annual report for 1957 of the Chief Inspector for Scotland, where the number of registered works decreased by nine to 71 and of processes requiring inspection by thirteen to 101. In the 148 visits of inspection, 56 chemical tests were made. Of the five complaints lodged about fumes from registered works, three related to granulated fertilizer plants and two to paraffin oil works.

Industrial Research in East Africa

THE annual report for 1956-57 of the East African Industrial Research Board (pp. ii+8. Nairobi: Government Printer, 1957. Sh. 2) records continued trials on the production of vitreous white-ware bodies, and attempts are now being made to adapt the process to native industry. In the manufacture of bricks and tiles, relatively large additions of sawdust have been possible to some clays, probably those containing a fusible lava, with consequent increased fuel econ-

omies, and a pilot-scale continuous kiln has been designed for reconstituting meerschaum from the waste in producing tobacco pipes. Research continued on the mechanical drying of arabica coffee, and fair results have been obtained in estate practice by two methods which should cause no more damage to quality than sun-drying under difficult conditions. Fully wet coffee is severely damaged by a single-stage drying about 100° F., but the damage is less the lower the initial moisture content at which mechanical drying starts. Serious damage to quality is probably associated with damage to viability. In chemical engineering a preliminary investigation has been made on the possibility of condensing natural steam with a jet condenser or an air-cooled surface condenser, and work has commenced on the use of pressure charges for internal combustion engines and on the economies of drying sisal waste. A further attempt to operate a 40-gallon digester for producing methane from sisal waste failed.

East Malling Research Station

AN index has been published to provide quick and adequate reference to work carried out at East Malling Research Station and mentioned in the annual research reports since 1913 (Kent Incorporated Society for Promoting Experiments in Horticulture. Abstracts and Index to the Annual Research Reports, 1913-1953, East Malling Research Station, near Maidstone, Kent. Pp. vi+175. East Malling: East Malling Research Station, 1957. 20s.). This alone will prove useful to all those concerned with fruit-growing and plantation crops, but the value of the work is greatly enhanced by the fact that the compilers, Dr. F. W. Andrews and Mr. A. C. Painter, have also given a brief abstract of each paper. Thus, a great volume of information has been made available without laborious search. There is an appendix of the pests and diseases mentioned in the reports, under their common English names with their scientific equivalents, including synonyms.

Lundy Field Society

THE saddest feature of the eleventh annual report of the Lundy Field Society (Lundy Field Society. Eleventh Annual Report, 1957. Pp. 43+2 plates. Exeter: Prof. L. A. Harvey, The University, 1958. 5s.) is the reference by the president, Albion P. Harman, to the real decline in the numbers of puffins on the island. The possibility of the puffin disappearing from the island appears to be very great; within a few years it seems unlikely that the bird will breed there. This is almost certainly due to oil pollution of the sea. Another reference in the report is to the remarkable invasion of tits which took place in October 1957. The immigrants included blue tits, coal tits and great tits, and their times of arrivals coincided with similar records made in other parts of Great Britain. Seven birds new to the island were recorded during 1957; these included the little egret, American stint, tawny owl, nightingale, Richard's pipit and red-necked grebe. A new feature in the report is an account of the many mesolithic flints unearthed by members of the Devonport High School during a stay on the island. The collection included a number of small worked microlithic blades, a microburin, conical cores, several notched blades, and a fine backed burin or graver, all typical of a mesolithic culture, although possibly of a late date.