

### Megaspore Tetrads in a Coenopterid Fern

W. G. CHALONER has observed and described a new type of fossil spore tetrad, *Didymosporites scotti* gen. et spec. nov., from Carboniferous strata in Ireland, Scotland and England, which may be the megaspores of the coenopterid fern *Stavropteris burntislandica* (*Annals of Botany*, N.S., 22, 197; 1958). The spores always occur as tetrads consisting of two large and two minute spores with cutinized walls, the former presumably fertile, the latter abortive. The evidence from studies of the distribution of these spores indicates that this species was much more widely distributed in time and space than has been previously known. The conformation of the coherent tetrads raises the question as to whether they were 'shed' while still within the megasporangium, as in *Lepidocarpon* and pteridosperm seeds.

### Combustion Institute Awards

DR. BERNARD LEWIS, president of the Combustion Institute, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is the first recipient of the Institute's Bernard Lewis Medal awarded "for brilliant research in the field of combustion, particularly on minimum ignition energy". The Alfred C. Egerton Medal of the Institute was awarded to Sir Alfred Egerton, professor emeritus of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and chairman of the British Section of the Combustion Institute, "for his distinguished, continuing, and encouraging contributions to the field of combustion". The Combustion Institute Silver Medal was awarded to Prof. Seichiro Kumagai and Hiroshi Isoda, of the University of Tokyo, in recognition of "an outstanding paper presented at the Sixth Symposium on Combustion" at Yale University in 1956. Similar awards will be made at each biennial symposium. The Eighth International Symposium on Combustion will be held in 1960 at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena.

### X-Ray Analysis and Electron Microscopy of Metals

THE X-ray Analysis and Electron Microscopy Groups of the Institute of Physics will hold a joint conference on "Precipitation in Alloys" on Friday, November 28, at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London, S.W.1. On the previous day the Electron Microscopy Group will hold a symposium on "Electron Staining" at the Royal Society of Arts, 6-8 John Adam Street, W.C.2, while on the day following the joint conference, the X-ray Analysis Group will discuss the examination of metals by X-ray diffraction at a meeting at the Institution of Civil Engineers. An exhibition of apparatus, etc., is being arranged at the Institution of Civil Engineers. Non-members of the Institute of Physics may attend these meetings; they should complete an application form to be obtained from the Honorary Secretary of the X-ray Analysis Group, Dr. R. L. Gordon, Safety in Mines Research Establishment, Portobello Street, Sheffield 1, from whom further information may be obtained.

### Announcements

MR. E. LORD of the British Cotton Industry Research Association has been awarded the Warner Medal of the Textile Institute.

DR. ROGER REVELLE, director of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California, has now been appointed to the additional post of

director of the University's new Institute of Technology and Engineering at La Jolla.

PROF. R. H. S. THOMPSON, professor of chemical pathology in the University of London at Guy's Hospital Medical School, Prof. E. J. Wayne, regius professor of the practice of medicine in the University of Glasgow, and Prof. B. W. Windeyer, professor of radiology in the University of London and director of the Meyerstein Institute of Radiotherapy at the Middlesex Hospital, have been appointed members of the Medical Research Council.

THE following research studentships for post-graduate training in ecology, tenable for periods up to three years at the universities shown, have been awarded by the Nature Conservancy: *Botany*: J. M. Bradbeer (Southampton), D. Briggs (Durham), T. T. Elkington (Durham), P. J. Myerscough (Oxford), J. G. B. Newbould (Oxford), B. M. Stephens (University College of North Wales, Bangor); *Zoology*: N. G. B. Jones (Oxford), P. O'Donald (Cambridge), Miss R. M. Oldroyd (London), Miss E. A. Steel (Reading); *Geography*: J. C. Rodda (University College of Wales, Aberystwyth).

AWARDS for study in statistics by persons whose primary field is not statistics but one of the physical, biological or social sciences to which statistics can be applied are offered by the Department of Statistics of the University of Chicago. The awards range from 3,600 to 5,000 dollars on the basis of an eleven-month residence. The closing date for application for the academic year 1959-60 is February 16, 1959. Further information can be obtained from the Department of Statistics, Eckhart Hall, University of Chicago, Chicago 37, Illinois.

THE twenty-fifth Annual Conference of the National Society for Clean Air will be held in Llandudno during October 1-3. Further information can be obtained from the Society at Palace Chambers, Bridge Street, London, S.W.1.

A MEETING of the North of England Section of the Society for Analytical Chemistry will be held on October 4 at the City Laboratories, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, 3, to discuss "Laboratory Balances".

THE Antiquarian Horological Society is holding a meeting in Birmingham on October 4. Further information can be obtained from Mr. A. K. Soper, 29 Furham Field, Hatch End, Middlesex.

THE eleventh Annual Conference on "Electrical Techniques in Medicine and Biology" will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, during November 19-21. It is sponsored by the Institute of Radio Engineers, the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, and the Instrument Society of America through their Joint Executive Committee on Medicine and Biology. Abstracts of two hundred and fifty words for short contributed papers offered for inclusion in the programme may be sent by October 1 to Mr. Robert Erskine, Minneapolis-Honeywell, 2753 Fourth Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, from whom further information can be obtained.

ERRATUM: In the communication entitled "Hæmoglobin P (the 'Galveston' Type)" by Dr. Rose G. Schneider and Dr. Mary Ellen Haggard, published in *Nature* of August 2, p. 322, the symbol  $\mu$  (ionic strength) should be substituted for the symbol  $M$  (molar) throughout the text and in the legends of Figs. 1 and 2.