

rapidly during the past decade. These, together with the expanding food-processing industries, require men trained in the somewhat rare combination of fields of engineering, microbiology and biochemistry. Man has for long controlled the activities of micro-organisms and enzymes on an empirical basis, either using them for fermentation processes or inactivating them to enhance the storage life of food. A much clearer understanding of the mechanisms involved is emerging, which is bound to be applied progressively to industrial and farming problems, and which, ultimately, will do much to overcome world-wide problems of ill-health and malnutrition. Biochemical engineering will necessarily play a major part in these developments, and it is important that British universities and technical colleges provide sufficient well-trained men and women in this field, able not only to improve existing methods but also to develop new ones as the need arises. There has already been some move to provide suitable training at the University of Birmingham and elsewhere, and University College, London, is now offering a one-year postgraduate course in biochemical engineering, starting in October. It is aimed at co-ordinating fundamental chemical engineering teaching with the requirements of the biological industries and will be balanced to suit previous experience of the student.

#### Photoelasticity at University College, London

FIFTY years ago the late Profs. E. G. Coker and L. N. G. Filon began their collaboration in the development of the photoelastic method of stress analysis. To-day the method is recognized all over the world as one of the most valuable aids to efficient engineering design. The jubilee is to be celebrated at University College London, where most of the work was carried out, by a commemoration lecture and an exhibition of work in photoelasticity at the College. Sir Arnold Hall, president of the Royal Aeronautical Society, will preside at the commemoration lecture, to be delivered by Col. H. T. Jessop on April 15 at 6 p.m. The exhibition will be open on April 15, from 7 to 9 p.m., and on April 16 and 17, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2 to 5 p.m., and 6 to 9 p.m. The lecture and the exhibition will be open to the public free of charge and without ticket.

#### Announcements

MR. J. MCNICHOLAS, general manager of the Manchester Rivers Department, and Dr. C. H. Mortimer, director of the Marine Station, Millport, and secretary of the Scottish Marine Biological Association, have been appointed members of the Water Pollution Research Board from April 1, in succession to Prof. J. E. Harris and Mr. A. Holroyd, whose terms of office have expired.

A ONE-DAY symposium on "Separation Processes in Analytical Chemistry" organized by the Royal Institute of Chemistry will be held in the Inorganic Chemistry Lecture Theatre, South Parks Road, Oxford, on April 24, at 10.30 a.m. There will be no charge for admission, which is not restricted to members of the Institute. Further details can be obtained from E. S. Lane, Chemistry Division, Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, Didcot, Berks.

THE British Congress of Cosmetic Science, organized by the Society of Cosmetic Chemists of Great Britain, will be held in University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1, during April 15-17. Sessions will be devoted to the analysis of raw materials;

assessment of finished products; manufacturing or processing; and biological assessment. Further details can be obtained from the honorary organizer, Dr. R. H. Marriott, County Laboratories, Ltd., Honeypot Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex.

THE second International Conference on Operational Research organized by the International Federation of Operational Research Societies (IFORS) will be held in Aix-en-Provence, France, during September 5-10, 1960. Suggestions for papers should be sent to the Secretary of IFORS, 11 Park Lane, London, W.1, before May 1, 1959, with a copy to the Secretary of the Operational Research Society of the country of origin. Manuscripts will be required by December 1, 1959, so that preprints can be made available before the Conference.

A SYMPOSIUM, intended for health physicists of atomic energy centres or installations, is being organized by the European Nuclear Energy Agency and the Danish Atomic Energy Commission, in co-operation with a number of scientists from Europe, from the United States and from Canada. It will be held at the Danish Atomic Energy Commission research centre at Risø, near Copenhagen, during May 25-28. The purpose of the symposium is to discuss scientific and technical aspects of health physics in atomic installations (radiation protection, control of radioactive contamination, emergency measures). Further information can be obtained from the European Nuclear Energy Agency, 38 Boulevard Suchet, Paris 16.

THE twenty-fourth Cold Spring Harbor Symposium on Quantitative Biology will be held during June 3-10. The topic of the meetings will be "Genetics and 20th Century Mendelism"; and geneticists, anthropologists and palaeontologists will participate. Individual sessions will deal with the theory of the gene and raw materials of evolution, natural selection and race formation, ecological systems and social organization, isolating mechanisms and speciation, the fossil record and rates of evolution, and trends of evolution. The Symposium is open to all who are interested, but because of limitations of space it is important to make advance reservations. Further information can be obtained from the Biological Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, New York.

THE Tenth Congress of the International Astronautical Federation is to be held at Church House, Westminster, during August 31-September 5. Papers will not be restricted to a single theme, but will cover a wide range of astronautical topics, including: research applications of satellites and space-probes; existing and proposed projects for manned and unmanned space vehicles; conventional and unconventional methods of propulsion in space; problems in dynamics, control and navigation; re-entry problems; biological and medical aspects of manned spaceflight; legal problems. Papers for presentation should be submitted by June 1. Further details can be obtained from the Congress Secretariat, British Interplanetary Society, 12 Bessborough Gardens, London, S.W.1.

Nutritional Biochemicals Corp. of Cleveland, Ohio, has recently published its new catalogue listing more than 2,500 biochemicals for use in research and industry and now available through the Cleveland company. The catalogue can be obtained from the Nutritional Biochemicals Corp., 21010 Miles Avenue, Cleveland 28, Ohio.