

communication facilities of the United Kingdom", does not consider that, subject to keeping under review the extended use of the telephone for sending telegrams over the shorter distances, further integration of telegraphs with telephones, as recommended by the Bridgeman Committee of 1932, would be justified at present, though there may be scope for further integration with the telephone service or possibly with the telex service later. The number of telegrams has steadily declined from 53.3 millions in 1947-48 to 18.7 millions in 1956-57 and an estimated 16.9 millions in 1957-58, and the loss per telegram has risen from 14.2d. to 40.3d. in 1956-57 and 48.2d. in 1957-58. This is mainly due to the relatively small gap in the communications facilities of the United Kingdom filled by the service and this gap is being reduced in size by other Post Office services. Foreign administrators face a similar problem and the traffic is expected to continue to decline. Although the service is only of marginal importance to business establishments and only occasionally used by the public for social purposes, in its report the Committee recommends retention of the service to handle a proportion of overseas and emergency telegrams and for other reasons (Report of the Advisory Committee on the Inland Telegraph Service, 1958. Pp. iii + 11. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1958. 1s. net). Increase of the tariff is recommended and the new structure should be one of a basic charge plus a charge for every word. The Post Office, it is suggested, should consider the elimination or reduction of the deficits due to Press traffic and telegrams to the Irish Republic and should arrange to charge the British Transport Commission with the cost of Railway Pass telegrams.

Meldola Award

It is announced that the next award of the Meldola Medal will be made early in 1960 to the chemist who, being a British subject and under thirty years of age at December 31, 1959, shows the most promise as indicated by his or her published chemical work brought to the notice of the Council of the Royal Institute of Chemistry before December 31. The merits of the work may be brought to the notice of the Council, either by persons who desire to recommend the candidate or by the candidate himself, by letter addressed to the President, Royal Institute of Chemistry, 30 Russell Square, London, W.C.1, from whom further information can be obtained.

Royal Society of Edinburgh: Officers for 1959-60

At the annual statutory meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh the following officers and members of Council were elected: *President*: Prof. E. L. Hirst, Department of Chemistry, University of Edinburgh. *Vice-Presidents*: Dr. D. P. Cuthbertson, Mr. A. W. Young, Prof. T. Neville George, Prof. J. R. Matthews, Dr. T. R. Bolam, Dr. Douglas Guthrie. *General Secretary*: Prof. Norman Feather, Department of Natural Philosophy, University of Edinburgh. *Secretaries to Ordinary Meetings*: Dr. A. W. Greenwood and Dr. Mowbray Ritchie. *Treasurer*: Dr. J. R. Peddie. *Curator*: Dr. R. Schlapp. *Councillors*: Prof. A. M. MacBeath, Prof. R. A. Rankin, Prof. A. E. Ritchie, Prof. V. C. Wynne-Edwards, Prof. E. G. Cullwick, Prof. G. Pontecorvo, Prof. M. M. Swann, Prof. H. A. Brück, Prof. T. S. Westoll, Dr. H. R. Fletcher, Prof. G. L. Montgomery, Prof. W. L. Weipers.

Announcements

THE Minister for Transport and Power for the Republic of Ireland has appointed Mr. J. Connor, of the Department of Transport and Power, to be chairman of the National Committee for Geodesy and Geophysics in succession to Mr. A. Ó. Coinneain.

MR. R. LEVIN has been appointed development planning executive at Aspro-Nicholas, Ltd., of Slough, Bucks. Mr. Levin was formerly chief pharmacist, Research and Development Division, and lately manager of the Technical Information Department of the Distillers Co. (Biochemicals), Ltd. He is the author of "The Pharmacy of Silicones and their Uses in Medicine".

FOLLOWING the resignation of Dr. C. E. Dalglish as secretary of the Biochemical Society, Dr. P. N. Campbell, Courtauld Institute of Biochemistry, Middlesex Hospital, London, becomes secretary to the Committee, and Dr. W. J. Whelan, Lister Institute, Chelsea Bridge Road, London, S.W.1, has been appointed meetings secretary.

THE National Collection of Industrial Bacteria has been transferred from the National Chemical Laboratory to the Torry Research Station (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research). All future inquiries and correspondence concerning the Collection should be addressed to the Curator, National Collection of Industrial Bacteria, Torry Research Station, Aberdeen.

A SYMPOSIUM on haematology has been organized by the University of Cambridge Post-Graduate Medical School, and will be held during December 7-9. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Medical School, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

THE U.S. Office of Naval Research has announced that the second Conference on Semiconductor Surfaces will be held at the U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory, White Oak, during December 3-4. Further information can be obtained from the chairman of the Steering Committee, Dr. J. N. Zemel, U.S. Naval Ordnance Laboratory, White Oak, Silver Spring, Md.

THE Indian Society of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics has announced the Fifth Congress on Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, to be held at the University of Roorkee during December 23-26. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary-Treasurer, Indian Society of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India.

THE autumn general meeting of the British Iron and Steel Institute will be held in London during December 2-3. The sessions, some of which will run simultaneously, will be held in the Great Hall, Caxton Hall, S.W.1, and in the Hoare Memorial Hall, Church House, S.W.1. Further information can be obtained from Mr. K. Headlam-Morley, Iron and Steel Institute, 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1. All applications must be returned by November 27.

ERRATUM. In the article entitled "Transmission of a Virus to Strawberry Plants by a Nematode (*Xiphinema* sp.)" in *Nature* of September 26, p. 962, line 5 in par. 2 should not have been inserted. The phrase should read: ". . . the causal virus of yellow crinkle and of mosaic was transmitted by mechanical inoculation from plants of a number of strawberry varieties, including . . .".