

chemistry and radiobiology laboratories of the Institute. They are prefaced by a statement in French by the director of the Institute, Prof. P. Savić, concerning the unfortunate accident which occurred to the nuclear reactor, *RB*, on October 15, 1958, at the Institute. Six people, who were very close to the reactor, received strong doses of neutron and ionizing radiations and two others, who were not so close, doses above the permissible level. The six were given medical treatment at the Curie Hospital in Paris, but one, V. Zivota, a nuclear physicist, died on November 15. The reactor, *RB*, is of zero energy and is fuelled with natural uranium and moderated with heavy water. Details of the construction of the reactor are given in the first article in the volume. The safety system consists of a control key, safety rods, alarm dose-rate meters and an automatic shut down. The approach to criticality is made by gradually raising the heavy-water level. The accident occurred when the reactor went out of control in becoming critical. Prof. Savić includes in his statement the conclusions of the committee of inquiry set up by the president of the Federal Commission for Nuclear Energy to report on the accident. On October 15, the committee reports, neither the alarm dose-rate meters nor the automatic control were functioning, and the personnel were judging the state of the reactor by the amount of ozone they could smell in the air. The rise in power of the reactor had been detected by the strong increase in gamma-radiation, within an interval of ten minutes, on automatic recorders of the activity in the atmosphere, placed at 540 metres from, and in direct line with, the reactor. An estimate of the radiations received by the injured persons is given in the article and shows that a total dose of about 683 rems was received, of which about 388 rems was by neutrons. The amount received individually varied according to the distance of the person from the reactor, and was about 15 per cent less than the quoted value for the farthest distant.

The Japanese Nuclear Power Station

THE March number of the General Electric Company's *Atomic Energy Review* (2, No. 1) includes an artist's impression of the 150-MW. nuclear power station designed to be erected at Tokai Mura, 65 miles north-east of Tokyo, and which will be Japan's first nuclear power station. The General Electric Co. Ltd. has been selected exclusively to negotiate a contract for its erection. The station will be powered by a single gas-cooled graphite-moderated reactor of the same basic type as the two reactors at present being built at Hunterston, but will include many novel features, particularly with regard to structural and control considerations. It will take approximately four years to build and is expected to be in operation by mid-1963. Other articles in the issue include a description of the General Electric Company's atomic energy division by K. J. Wootton, manager of the division; a discussion of the first sixteen months civil engineering construction at Hunterston by F. W. Evans; examples of corrosion problems in gas-cooled reactors by M. W. Davies; and an account of two methods of reducing the permeability of reactor-quality graphite by D. A. Boyland.

Technical Books

THE Atomic Energy Commission of the United States has issued a catalogue of 86 technical books

published by the Commission, 1947-59. (Technical Information Service. Technical Books sponsored by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. Pp. 40. Washington, D.C.: United States Atomic Energy Commission, 1959.) The list is arranged by subjects and the contents of each volume are indicated. The second part of the catalogue similarly lists 26 books in the press or in preparation on April 1, 1959.

Nutrition Meeting

THE Nutrition Meeting for Europe of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at Rome, June 23-28, of which the report has now been published (Report Series No. 21: Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization Nutrition Meeting in Europe, Rome, Italy, 23-28 June 1958. Pp. ix+28. Rome: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1958; 2s. 6d.; 0.50 dollar), was concerned with food consumption with special reference to fat consumption and with education and training in nutrition. With regard to the first, the meeting recommended the Organization to take all possible steps to foster improvements in the techniques of food consumption surveys, and of the reporting and analysis of their results, so as to ensure their maximum utility. It also recommended periodical meetings of European nutrition workers and that an expert committee or study group, in co-operation with the World Health Organization, should consider the problem of fat consumption and coronary disease in European and other countries. The need for further extensive studies of the fatty acid content of foods is emphasized in the report and also of further research to establish satisfactory tables for fatty acid composition. The present situation was reviewed with respect to education and training in nutrition, stressing the lack of suitably trained teaching staff. The contact between competent research groups, educational authorities and teachers was also considered. Further, reference was made to the narrow and unbalanced approach in teaching nutrition and the absence of refresher courses for teachers dealing exclusively or incidentally with nutrition. The meeting strongly supported the plea for a seminar in 1959 to study these questions in greater detail and to suggest better practical approaches. The main purpose of the seminar would be to examine the scope and effectiveness of education and training in nutrition in Europe. It would also formulate proposals for developing and orientating such training by government departments and other agencies, and to promote co-operation and co-ordination between the disciplines and agencies concerned and between those engaged in training and research. The report outlines an agenda for a seminar of 12-14 days for 50 to 60 people.

Central African Scientific Research

A FURTHER 105 papers published in 1957 by members of the staff and research workers associated with the Institute for Scientific Research in Central Africa are listed in the second part of the tenth annual report of the Institute, making a total of 792. Brief abstracts of these papers constitute the rest of this part of the report (Institut pour la Recherche Scientifique en Afrique Centrale. Dixième Rapport Annuel, 1957. Pp. 228. Bruxelles: Institut pour la Recherche Scientifique en Afrique Centrale, 1959). In the administrative report, which is illustrated, the director, Prof. L. van den Bergh, indi-