

closer co-operation between the Institute and the Society were continued. A mutually agreed document entitled "Memorandum to Members—Proposal to Amalgamate the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society" was circulated, together with an explanatory letter from the president. A joint amalgamation committee has been set up and is now engaged in more detailed discussions.

At the annual meeting, the president, Mr. J. A. Ratcliffe; the honorary secretaries, Dr. C. G. Wynne,

Dr. H. H. Hopkins and Mr. A. G. Peacock; the honorary foreign secretary, Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade; and honorary treasurer, Dr. D. A. Wright, were re-elected to serve for 1959–60. The newly elected vice-presidents were: Prof. F. Llewellyn Jones and Dr. G. B. B. M. Sutherland, and the newly elected members of council: Mr. D. W. Fry, Dr. V. E. Cosslett, Prof. F. C. Frank, Prof. W. E. Burcham, Dr. R. L. F. Boyd, Dr. R. A. Smith and Prof. D. H. Wilkinson.

S. WEINTROUB

SCHOOL MEALS IN ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

VARIOUS Food and Agriculture Organization conferences, as well as regional nutrition meetings convened periodically in co-operation with the World Health Organization, have emphasized the importance of supplementary feeding as a means of improving the nutrition of vulnerable groups. The First Regional Nutrition Committee in South and East Asia, which met in Baguio, the Philippines, in 1948, recommended a type of meal which could be supplied to school-children in the region. This meal pattern emphasized the use of cheap, locally available foods that would provide the children with all essential nutrients.

The Fourth Regional Nutrition Committee of the two Organizations, which met in Tokyo in 1956, considered a number of important factors relating to school feeding programmes; it recommended that the Food and Agriculture Organization should convene a school feeding seminar for countries in South and East Asia, at which the future development of school-feeding along sound lines could be discussed by appropriate country representatives.

Much of the Food and Agriculture Organization's practical work in school-feeding has been done in co-operation with the United Nations Children's Fund, the Organization providing the technical guidance in organizing and developing programmes based initially on dried skim milk and other supplies

made available by the Fund. This Fund has become increasingly interested in the long-term development of measures to improve the nutrition of children and has recently been authorized to increase the scope of assistance which it can provide. It was agreed, therefore, that the Fund should join the Organization in convening the seminar. Because malnutrition is often a serious problem among children of pre-school age, it was also agreed that consideration would be given to this important group of the population.

The seminar was designed to bring together, from the countries concerned, workers associated with various aspects of child-feeding programmes, in particular school-feeding programmes, for consideration of the problems met in developing them and of measures needed to improve and expand them on a sound nutritional and financial basis. The Government of Japan extended an invitation for the seminar to be held in Japan, and it was held in International House, Tokyo, during November 10–19, 1958. The seminar was attended by delegates from twelve countries in the region, as well as by representatives from the World Health Organization International Co-operation Administration, and Co-operative for American Remittances to Everywhere. A report on the seminar has now been issued (H.M.S.O., 2s. 6d.).

INDUSTRIAL HEALTH IN THE POTTERIES

DURING 1956–58, four members of the factory inspectorate carried out a survey of industrial health in the pottery industry in the Stoke-on-Trent area. The survey was undertaken with the advice of the Industrial Health Advisory Committee. This Committee was set up in 1955 by the Minister of Labour and National Service to advise him on measures to further the development of industrial health services in work-places covered by the Factories Acts.

On the advice of the Committee the Minister instituted two industrial health surveys, which were to be regarded as pilot surveys. The first was of all the factories in a particular area—the town of Halifax was chosen—and the report on that survey was published in 1958. The second was a survey of a specific industry—the pottery industry.

A number of considerations led to the choice of the pottery industry. Among them was the fact that it is geographically compact, and that, although over

a number of years much has been done in the industry to eliminate or reduce the known health risk, it was considered that a survey of the pottery industry would have particular interest in giving an opportunity to assess both the success of the measures so far taken and the continuing needs.

Although a survey of this kind offers no basis for comparing conditions in the pottery industry with those of other industries, it is possible to draw some comparison between present conditions in the pottery industry and those of the past. General conditions in the industry to-day are markedly different from what they were. The industry has done a great deal, particularly in the years since the end of the Second World War, to improve working conditions and to reduce the health hazards connected with pottery manufacture.

The classic industrial disease of the pottery industry was lead poisoning, due in part to the lead glazes used. By the middle 1940's the use of low-solubility