

1959), by the British Scientific Instrument Research Association for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. It covers industrial instruments and instrumentation, automatic control and production engineering for precision work and affords a valuable insight into current Russian practice in these fields. The first number of the journal corresponds to the January 1959 issue of *Priborostroenie* and each issue of the English journal, because of the time needed for translating and printing, will be published two and three months later than the corresponding Russian number. The contents of the first number includes five short articles from the twenty-first congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The articles pay tribute to Mr. Khrushchev's report "Targets for the Development of National Economy of the USSR for the period 1959-65", and deal mainly with various aspects of the extension of automation in industry in furtherance of the seven-year plan. The more technical articles deal with the automatic control of ferro-alloy furnaces; a transistorized analogue computer; an electronic phasemeter with a range of  $-180^\circ$  to  $180^\circ$ ; and field magnets and magnetic lenses for cathode-ray tubes with cold cathodes. Laboratory notes, and reviews and abstracts from the pages of the Czechoslovak journals, make up the remainder of the contents.

#### French Journal of Science Teaching

THE first edition of *L'Enseignement des Sciences* has made its appearance (1, No. 1; May-June 1959. Hermann: Paris. 1,200 francs per annum); it is to be published five times a year. The journal aims to cover a wide field of science instruction and to publish as much original research as possible for the "amelioration of scientific studies". The first edition consists of 48 pages with seven plates, bold line graphs and some amusing Lima line cartoons. The main article, the "Known Limits of the Universe", covers eleven pages and is well illustrated. Articles follow on the importance of science in education, a report on the improvements in teaching at the Nancy school of mines, and modern mathematics and their teaching. An extensive review of Jean Perrin's "Éléments de la Physique" is included, also an interesting article on the philosophy of children which is based on Charles Rollin's "Traité des Études" (1726) in honour of his memory. Inquiring articles also occur on perceptions of geometry, etc. The journal concludes with numerous short reviews and a section of general correspondence.

#### Atomic Energy in Australia

THE contents of the December 1958 issue of *Atomic Energy* (2, No. 1), the quarterly published by the Australian Atomic Energy Commission to keep industry and commerce informed of progress in the field of atomic energy, includes an article by J. L. Symonds describing procedures for the commissioning period of the reactor *Hifar*; a review of reports made to the Second International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy in Geneva during September 1958 on nuclear power developments in the various countries; and an authoritative discussion of the power position in South Australia by S. E. Huddleston, assistant general manager of the Electricity Trust of South Australia. He maintains, contrary to the statements of many writers, that South Australia is not in need in the immediate future

of nuclear power, largely because of the determined and efficient use being made of the power resources which are at present available. The only economic coalfield in the state is at Leigh Creek, some 350 miles north of Adelaide, and in 1958, 694 million kilowatt hours were produced from Leigh Creek coal by the Electricity Trust. This will be stepped up when new plant becomes available and it is expected that Leigh Creek coal will be fully exploited by about 1965. The increase in demands for electricity indicates that it will be necessary for South Australia to introduce nuclear power in 1970, but a decision to build an atomic power station there may not be made for another five or six years. The future of nuclear power in Australia will be governed by the relative cost of generation from nuclear and conventional sources; the relative capital investment involved; and the availability and reliability of nuclear and conventional fuel. Mr. Huddleston considers that South Australia will be the first of the States to need nuclear power and his careful review of the relevant factors as they affect South Australia may prove valuable in assessing the value of introducing nuclear power into other parts of Australia.

#### The Australian Museum

THE annual report of the Trustees of the Australian Museum for the year ending June 1958 (Pp. 19. Sydney: Government Printer, 1959) records with appreciative comment the receipt of increased financial support from the Government. It also states that the clearance of temporary buildings has been carried out and that the site is now ready for the new wing which will form the continuation of the northern frontage of the Museum for which working drawings have been prepared. A generous gift by Sir Edward Hallstrom will enable the lecture theatre to be re-modelled and brought up to date and thus make it of more use to the rapidly developing schools service. Much field work has been carried out by members of the staff and it is interesting to note that the appointment of a public relations officer has resulted in good publicity in many media.

#### Sierra de Tamaulipas, Mexico

BETWEEN 1945 and 1955 Dr. MacNeish, now of the National Museum of Canada, led three expeditions to the state of Tamaulipas in north-east Mexico, and in a new publication (*Transactions of the American Philosophical Society*, New Series, Vol. 48, Part 6: Preliminary Archaeological Investigations in the Sierra de Tamaulipas, Mexico. By Richard S. MacNeish. Pp. 210. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1958. 5 dollars) he gives the results of his work in the Sierra de Tamaulipas, a range of hills in the south of the State. It was not a favourable region for the development of elaborate cultures, although it was occupied for most of the time when the high civilizations of ancient Mexico were flourishing farther south. The importance of this study, which is considerable, lies in the evidence obtained from excavations in a dry cave for the cultivation of maize and squash on a small scale at the very early date of about 2500 B.C., in a mainly gathering and hunting culture. This is the earliest satisfactorily dated example so far known of cultivated maize, and a discussion of its botanical implications was published by P. C. Mangelsdorf, the author and W. C. Galinat in *Botanical Museum Leaflet*, Harvard University, 17 (5), 1956.