

as far as 1965. In contrast, the United States Select Committee on National Water Resources is evaluating water needs for 1980 and beyond to the year 2000 on the basis of low, medium and high-level population increases.

If British national policy is to secure the maximum food output from the agricultural industry, farmers in south-east England should be actively encouraged, rather than discouraged, to irrigate; and although some form of temporary control of abstractions may now be advisable because of lack of foresight in the past, the time has surely arrived when a much more positive approach to the whole question of water conservation and supply in Great Britain is desirable so that the maximum benefit may be derived from the ample precipitation available.

Optics and Spectroscopy

Optics and Spectroscopy is now added to the list of full English translations of Russian scientific journals; it is published in the United States on the initiative of the Optical Society (6, No. 1. Translation of the Russian journal *Optika i Spektroskopiya*. Pp. iv+84. Published monthly. Subscription rate 25 dollars plus 3 dollars for postage. This rate includes the Journal of the Optical Society of America. New York: American Institute of Physics, 1959). This gives a welcome guarantee of the standards to be adopted. Five volumes of the original, in Russian, have already appeared, and the translations of the sixth and subsequent volumes will only be available as a joint subscription with the *Journal of the Optical Society of America*. In both the five previous volumes in Russian and the present translated issue, the coverage of the journal has corresponded quite closely with that of the *Journal of the Optical Society of America*, except for a surprising absence of papers on instrumental optics, diffraction and coherence problems. On the other hand, atomic and molecular spectroscopy, luminescence and optical properties of materials are all fully represented. From many sources it is known that very extensive work in instrumental optics is done in the Soviet Union, and it would be of great benefit to both optics and physics generally if the relevant publications were not only made known but also published in translation. It is not stated whether separate reprints of these translations will be sold. If not, it is to be regretted, for both the content of the papers in the present issue, and the excellence of the translations, will create a demand for them.

Bibliography of Indian Scientific and Technical Publications

IN connexion with an exhibition in February 1960 of scientific and technical books published in India, organized by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India, the National Library, Calcutta, has compiled a bibliography of Indian Scientific and Technical Publications (Pp. xii+195. New Delhi: Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, 1960. Rs. 25). The bibliography is based mainly on publications supplied in response to requests addressed to publishers, universities, research institutions, etc., and supplemented from information or material in possession of the National Library. Resources for compilation of a bibliography in the usual way were not available and it is proposed to supplement the present bibliography by such a compilation later. The present material is in two parts, the first con-

taining the entries in the Indian languages, and the second the entries in English. Publications are arranged according to the Dewey Decimal Classification, and there is a consolidated subject index to both parts and separate alphabetical author indexes to each part. Of the English publications, 493 relate to agriculture, 315 to engineering, 119 to mathematics, and 100 to physics.

The South African Museum

THE *Annals of the South African Museum*, Vol. 45, Part 3, contains Part 5 of Prof. J. H. Day's detailed work on the polychæte fauna of South Africa. The present contribution deals with errant species dredged off the Cape coasts and is the first account of those organisms which occur below tide-marks. The prime object of this dredging survey is to determine distribution patterns around the southern part of Africa. Both the Hydrographic Section of the South African Navy and the Lamont Geological Observatory have provided facilities for the collection of material, though the bulk was obtained by members of the Department working from small boats during university vacations. The paper is illustrated with text figures.

Preservation of Films of Historical Value

THE National Film Archive, created twenty-five years ago to undertake the permanent preservation of selected moving pictures of historical importance, either as works of film-art or as records of the life of our time, has now issued Part II of its published catalogue, "Silent Non-Fiction Films 1895-1934", to which Sir Arthur Elton contributes a foreword (British Film Institute. National Film Archive Catalogue, Part 2. Pp. x+195+12 plates. 15s.). The first volume ("Silent News Films, 1895-1933") was published in 1951, and a third, devoted to silent fiction films, is in preparation. The 1,054 entries are arranged chronologically under the country of origin, using wherever possible the date of release and the original release title, and the length and a short synopsis are also given. The great majority—727—of the entries are from Great Britain, and there is also an alphabetical index to film titles and a subject index.

The Archive, which is financed out of the Government grant made annually to the British Film Institute and administered by a committee appointed by the Governors of the Institute, has also issued a booklet describing the work of the Archive (The National Film Archive. Pp. 16. London: British Film Institute, 1960. 2s. 6d.). This has now built up a collection of 6,000 films, apart from newsreel material, covering the period 1895 to the present day and representing the work of more than thirty countries. Individual *bona fide* students engaged in some approved work or research may view preservation copies on an "Editole" in the Archive's premises under the supervision of the Archive's staff, and, with permission of the owners and under such conditions as they may stipulate, certain films may be shown in the National Film Theatre of the British Film Institute. Where the owners of historically important films are willing to allow them to be used for study by schools, universities, adult education groups and film societies, duplicate copies are made for hire through the British Film Institute's distribution service, and more than 200 films are available for distribution in this way. It is emphasized that the National Film Archive is a national film museum,