

and Bacteriology in the University of Birmingham. During this time he qualified as an associate of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Technology. In 1939 he was mobilized with the Territorial Army and served with the Royal Army Medical Corps in France, Assam and India. Later he served on the staff of General Headquarters at the Central Military Laboratory, Poona, where he assisted in the training of army personnel in medical laboratory technology. After demobilization he matriculated at the University of Birmingham, where he graduated with honours in bacteriology in 1950. In 1952 he was awarded a Ph.D. at the University of Birmingham for work on the bacterial flora of the mouth in relation to dental caries. Following this he became head of the Microbiological Division at the Brewing Industry Research Foundation under the directorship of Sir Ian M. Heilbron, a post he held until 1956. During this period his own research interests ranged from fundamental studies of the physiology of yeasts to the development of techniques for use in the fermentation industries. In 1956 he was appointed lecturer in the Microbiological Division of the School of Pharmacy, Royal College of Science and Technology, and principal lecturer in that Division in 1959. When the Divisions of Microbiology, Biology and Biochemistry in the School of Pharmacy were formed into the Department of Applied Microbiology and Biology, Dr. Morris was appointed head of the new Department.

Zoology at the Banaras Hindu University:

Prof. S. P. Ray-Chaudhuri

DR. S. P. RAY-CHAUDHURI has been appointed to the chair of zoology at the Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, India. He obtained his Ph.D. in the University of Edinburgh, working with Prof. H. J. Muller on the effects of radiation on the fruit-fly *Drosophila*, and has been engaged in teaching at the University of Calcutta since 1941. Dr. Ray-Chaudhuri was elected a Fellow of the National Institute of Science of India in 1950, and was the president of the Zoological Section of the Indian Science Congress in 1960. He is well known for his contributions to radiobiological research.

Commonwealth Technical Training Week

IN Great Britain, Commonwealth Technical Training Week is to be held during May 29–June 3, 1961. In Aden, Hong Kong, Nigeria, Malaya and Pakistan the week will have been celebrated before this date and will have carried appropriate messages from H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh. In the United Kingdom support is almost universal. In England and Scotland possibly seven areas may not take part, but both Wales and Northern Ireland have each achieved 100 per cent participation. A special exhibition at the Royal Exchange, London, is being arranged by the City and Guilds of London Institute in co-operation with the City of London, the City Livery Companies and the London County Council. The exhibition will illustrate the opportunities for training and education in industry, commerce and the professions. Most of the exhibits will be provided by organizations which are nationally representative of the major groupings in industry and commerce, while the City Livery Companies will provide exhibits illustrating the historic background of training and craftsmanship. The Duke of Edinburgh has recorded a short address for use at the opening ceremonies.

His Royal Highness, speaking from the dairy at Windsor Castle, has also contributed a lively introduction and epilogue to the film "Training To-day for To-morrow".

U.S. Antarctic Research Ship *Eltanin*

THE U.S.N.S. *Eltanin*, an ice-strengthened cargo ship, is to be equipped as a sea-going scientific laboratory for the U.S. Antarctic Research Programme. It is expected that the first research cruise will begin in the later autumn of 1961. The ship will be fitted to accommodate numerous disciplines, including meteorology, upper atmosphere studies, marine and terrestrial biology, physical oceanography, submarine geology, and geomagnetic studies. The cost of conversion will be borne principally by the National Science Foundation; the Military Sea Transportation Service will supervise the ship's modification. The *Eltanin* will continue to be owned and operated by the Military Sea Transport Service. The National Science Foundation, as sponsor of the ship, will be responsible for the scientific programme and will designate a senior scientist aboard. It is expected that the ship will work in Antarctic waters at least ten months a year. Individual cruises will vary from one to two or more months in length, depending on the research in progress. During refuelling calls at southern hemisphere ports, scientists will be able to change equipment for experiments.

British Leather Manufacturers' Research Association: Open Days

THE work exhibited during the 1961 open days (May 2–4) in the laboratories of the British Leather Manufacturers' Research Association at Milton Park, Egham, mostly showed developments from last year's programme (see *Nature*, 186, 1024; 1960). Work on the mechanical properties of collagen and leather fibres has continued. An automatic amino-acid analyser (Bender and Hobein) has been installed for work on the protein constituents of skin. A synthetic approach to tanning chemistry, involving the preparation of phenolic glucosides and sugar esters, has been commenced. Considerable progress has been made in the use of enzyme preparations in place of the traditional milk of lime plus sodium sulphide bath, for loosening hair or wool in preparing skins for tanning. The work (sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture) on the deterioration of leather by perspiration and warm, damp conditions has also advanced considerably, and some aspects of the problem have been solved. In the section on dyeing, two topics were illustrated: improving regularity of shade by finding how to control the dyeing process more precisely and improving the products from the users' point of view, for example, the problem of loose colour in suede leather. Development of performance trials for assessing the reliability of laboratory tests of physical properties has continued, particularly in the work on waterproofing leather. The 'effluent liaison' section, which advises on the application of existing knowledge to the effluent problems of the leather industry (*Nature*, 187, 992; 1960) is now in full operation and the apparatus used by the mobile laboratory was shown. A substantial part of the Association's effort is devoted to liaison activities (member services) of various kinds, and between 700 and 800 production problems are investigated each year for member firms.