

the time of milk production. Consequently, a fall in the rate of deposition should result in a downward trend of the activity-levels in milk. This is borne out in a report by the Agricultural Research Council on the strontium-90 levels in milk samples, representative of a substantial fraction of United Kingdom milk-production during the period January-June 1960 (Report No. 4, *Strontium-90 in Milk and Agricultural Materials in the United Kingdom, 1959-1960*. Pp. xiii + 81, 34 tables, 14 figures. London: H.M.S.O., 1961. 5s.). Thus it appears, on one hand, that the deposition in the first six months of 1960 was less than 25 per cent of that in the same period of 1959, and, on the other, that the strontium-90 levels in milk at June 1960 were about one-half of those observed twelve months previously. Complete information on strontium-90 levels for other items of the diet in 1960 is not yet to hand, but the milk results give a preliminary indication that the mean level in the total mixed diet of the population was appreciably lower for 1960 than for the previous year. In addition to a full discussion of the milk results, the report assesses the results of a survey of strontium-90 in permanent pastures and animal bone carried out during 1959. It also includes useful summaries of the results of experimental investigations designed to elucidate the factors controlling the passage of fission products through food chains. Throughout, the discussion is lucid, and the experimental results are well presented.

Technical Education Abstracts

THE place of technical education in the national economy is now so fundamental that any journal devoted exclusively to its promotion deserves the warmest of greetings. In the case of the newly launched *Technical Education Abstracts*, however, some qualification is necessary. (The National Foundation for Educational Research in England and Wales. *Technical Education Abstracts from British Sources*, September-December, 1960 (Vol. 1, No. 1). Pp. 57 + xxviii. (London: National Foundation for Educational Research in England and Wales, 1961.) Subscriptions: 42s. per volume of four quarterly issues.) Many of the abstracts necessarily relate to articles which are largely persuasive, and, though compelling interest at the time of publication, lack much of the force of the original articles both because of the condensed form and because they refer to topics which may have lost their urgency. This criticism may be offset if the publishers can, as they suggest, reduce the time between abstraction and the date of publication. A further improvement could be made in the selection of abstractors. Few of these are known in the field of technical education and this may explain why so many of the abstracts are taken from relatively few journals. The range could be widened if more help were obtained from industrial correspondents, many of whom would give their services voluntarily.

History of Medicine and Pharmacy at London

THE Faculty of History of Medicine and Pharmacy was founded under the auspices of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London (which received its Charter from King James I in 1617) on April 3, 1959. The aims of the Faculty are to foster and extend more general interest in medical history by enlisting the support of all medical corporations, schools, societies, clubs and individuals. The Faculty also welcomes the interest and support of general historians

in forging closer links between medical and pharmaceutical history and general, social and economic history. The Society's ancient Hall in the City of London serves as a general meeting place for lectures, discussions and other meetings held in pursuance of these aims. In the second annual report (*The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London: Faculty of the History of Medicine and Pharmacy. Second Annual Report and List of Members, 1960-61*. Pp. 20. London: The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London, 1961) the Faculty describes some of the considerable progress during the past year. Membership now stands at 304, and, on the initiative of the Faculty, St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School has appointed "a Society of Apothecaries Lecturer in the History of Medicine", and the governing body of King's College Medical School has already approved the establishment of a similar appointment. The Faculty's endowed lectures have now been named; the annual students' lecture will henceforth be known as "The Osler Lecture", and the autumn lecture will be named "The Sydenham Lecture", after the great English clinician of the seventeenth century, Thomas Sydenham. Dr. Kenneth Dewhurst has accepted an invitation to give the first "Sydenham Lecture" on November 22, 1961, at Apothecaries' Hall; his subject will be Thomas Sydenham. The second British Congress on the History of Medicine is to be held in London during September 28-29.

The Library Association

THE annual report of the Council of the Library Association for the year ended December 31, 1960, presented at the annual meeting in Hastings, 1961, describes the steps taken to press for early action by Parliament on the proposals of the Roberts Committee for the reform of the public library service (Pp. 28. London: Library Association, 1961). A memorandum on the status and training of reference librarians has been adopted by the Council and distributed to all chief librarians, and, at the request of the Select Committee on Estimates, a memorandum regarding the House of Commons Library was presented to the Select Committee, and a deputation later gave oral evidence. An investigation was initiated into ways and means of helping the developing Commonwealth countries, particularly in Africa and Asia, to establish more adequate library services. As a first step a survey is being made of existing services in these countries. A comprehensive and detailed guide to British periodicals is being compiled, and suggestions for improving the classification and expansions to the schedules have been sent to the editor of the Dewey Decimal Classification. The Association is taking steps to establish a National Advisory Council for Micro-reproduction following a meeting at which all types of libraries, learned societies and institutions were represented; a steering committee has been appointed.

The Brown Library, Liverpool

AN illustrated booklet issued by the City of Liverpool Libraries, Museums and Arts Committee as a guide to the rebuilt Brown Library and the new links with the Picton and Hornby Libraries gives a concise history of the Brown Library, and then describes briefly the services which the rebuilt library offers in commerce, science and technology (Pp. 32. Liverpool: Brown, Picton and Hornby Libraries, 1961). Besides the special research services to science and industry offered by Ladsirlac, these include a