tingen). *Anatomy*, Prof. Joachim Hermann Scharf (Halle). *Physiology*, Sir John C. Eccles (Canberra). *Pathology*, Prof. A. von Albertini (Zürich); Prof. Ernst Letterer (Tübingen). *Biochemistry*, Prof. Marcel Florkin (Liège); Prof. Otto Westphal (Freiburg-Br.); Prof. Edgar Lederer (Paris). *Hygiene*, Prof. Walter Liese (Berlin); Prof. Josef Tomcsik (Basle). *Stomatology*, Prof. Richard Trauner (Graz).

Scientific Societies and the Rating and Valuation Bill

At the Committee stage of the Rating and Valuation Bill in the House of Lords on June 22, Lord Brabazon of Tara, speaking as President of the Royal Institution, moved an amendment removing from the Bill the repeal of the Scientific Societies Act, 1843. Emphasizing the national importance of the scientific work which the Royal Institution had done during the past 160 years, and was still doing, he said that under the Bill the Royal Institution, which received no State funds of any kind, would be called on to find a further £3,000 a year, and scientific societies altogether would have to find £128,000 a year. Lord Brabazon indicated his willingness to withdraw the amendment if the Treasury could give any assurance that such a sum would be made available for the purpose to the Joint Committee of the Royal Society and the British Academy, and did in fact do so after hearing Lord Hailsham's reply and on the understanding that his point about the Royal Institution's Laboratory would be borne in mind on Clause 9 on the Report stage. Lord Hailsham fully agreed as to the national importance of the scientific work of the Royal Institution, mentioning also its library, but did not agree either that the Royal Institution should be treated separately or that the anomalies of the Scientific Societies Act should be perpetuated. Confirming all that he had said earlier as to the value of the work of the scientific societies and the needs of the societies, Lord Hailsham maintained that the correct course was to examine sympathetically any hardship resulting from the Act in the context of their needs.

The International Council of Scientific Unions, 1961

The Year Book of the International Council of Scientific Unions, 1961, includes, besides the calendar of arrangements for 1961, the usual details of the membership of the Executive Board, the National and Scientific Members of the Council, of the Special Committees, Joint Commission and Executive Bodies of the Permanent Services of the International Council (Pp. 110. The Hague: International Council of Scientific Unions, Paleis Noordeinde, 1961). There are also the statutes and bye-laws of the Union rules for Special Committees and their charter. The organization of the Commissions of the several Unions, the relations of the International Council with the specialized agencies of the United Nations, the alphabetical list of members of the Bureau, Executive Board, Special Committees, Joint Commission, and other organs of the Council and of officers of the Scientific Unions add further to the value of a most useful and handy work of reference, which well displays the manifold ways in which scientific work is interlocked at the international level.

Scientific Research in the U.S.S.R.

At a recent conference in Moscow attended by two thousand Soviet scientists, impressive figures were given of the Soviet research effort. Government spending on science in 1950 was 874 million (old) roubles, but by 1960 this had increased to 3,260 millions and during 1961 it is expected to reach 3,800 millions. Last year there were more than 354,000 scientific workers, about 11,000 of whom had a doctor's degree and 100,000 had a master's degree. There were 3,800 scientific establishments, including 1,500 research institutes. Academician Keldysh, president of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, outlined a new national research plan. He proposed that such a plan should be in three parts: the first to deal with economic problems at the experimental stage; the second for long-range projects aimed at solving already known problems; and the third to investigate the laws of Nature to open up new fields of progress. He described as "Task No. 1" the total electrification of the entire country. In that connexion the problem of finding new sources of power was of vital importance.

Oil Consumption in the United Kingdom during 1960

Following precedent, the Petroleum Information Bureau (on behalf of the U.K. Petroleum Industry Advisory Committee) has published recently statistics relative to oil consumption in Great Britain for 1960. (*U.K. Petroleum Industry Statistics relating to Consumption and Refinery Production 1959 and 1960*. Pp. 8. London: Petroleum Information Bureau, 1961.) The trend continues upwards, there being a 16·9 per cent increase in the total consumption of oil compared with 1959, reaching more than 42·5 million tons (excluding bunkers for ships engaged in foreign trade). Of the major oil products, fuel oil registered the greatest increase by more than 25 per cent over 1959, reaching a total of 17,437,805 tons. Gas/diesel oil deliveries were up by 13 per cent. Motor spirit consumption accounted for 7,625,184 tons, an increase of 7 per cent over the 1959 total. Diesel-engined road vehicle fuel (*DERV*) consumption rose by 13·5 per cent, a pointer to the growing demand for this commodity. As might also be expected, there was a remarkable uprise in the amount of chemical feedstock delivered, totalling 1,562,060 tons compared with 1,067,265 tons in 1959, representing a 46·4 per cent increment. This record reflects the magnitude of present-day commercial activities concerned with 'petro-chemicals' as distinct from traditional petroleum products, and at the present state of evolution of this now vital branch of the industry a commensurate increase in these 'by-products' may be anticipated confidently for 1961. There was in the year under review an increase in demand for bitumen, much of which was due to extension of the road-construction programme in so far as asphalt surfacing is concerned.

Shortage of Scientific Teachers in the United Kingdom

In answer to a question in the House of Commons on June 22, Sir David Eccles gave the number of vacancies at March 31, 1960, for teachers of mathematics in the technical colleges as 64 in an authorized establishment of 1,464; for physics the corresponding figures are 61 and 893, and for chemistry, 55 and 994. About 1,500 full-time women teachers employed in maintained grammar schools had degrees which included mathematics. Surveys made last year by the Incorporated Association of Headmasters and the