

sciences, engineering and technology, a new organization—the National Conference of Standards Laboratories—was established on September 15, 1961, by representatives concerned with standards activities in Government, industry, education, and professional societies of the United States. A major activity of the National Conference will be to arrange a continuing series of standards laboratory conferences. The General Committee, headed by Lloyd B. Wilson, of the Sperry Gyroscope Co., has arranged for the first conference in this series to be held during August 1962 at the National Bureau of Standards Boulder Laboratories, Boulder, Colorado. Another major activity being considered is the establishment of a voluntary system of measurement agreement checks to demonstrate competence and continued uniformity among standards laboratories. Further information can be obtained from Dr. H. W. Lance, Electronics Calibration Center, Boulder Laboratories, National Bureau of Standards, Boulder, Colorado.

#### Conference on Measurement and Control Technology

THE Society of Instrument Technology and the Royal Dutch Institute of Engineers are organizing a joint conference to be held during April 10–13, 1962, in Amsterdam. The programme is being arranged to encourage discussion and exchange of information on the present state and future trends of measurement and control technology in Britain and Holland. Six technical papers will be presented and discussed covering new measurement methods such as direct reading spectrography, X-ray fluorescence chromatography and optical measuring techniques, descriptions of working automation projects in the biscuit industry and sinking mine shafts, and control in manufacturing industry. While most of the places will be reserved for members of the Society of Instrument Technology, it may be possible to entertain a few applications from non-members. Further information can be obtained from Mr. I. V. Idelson, Mullard Equipment, Ltd., Manor Royal, Crawley, Sussex.

#### University News : Birmingham

THE following appointments have recently been announced: Dr. J. S. Brimacombe, to be lecturer in the Department of Chemistry; Dr. D. E. N. Davies, to be lecturer in the Department of Electrical Engineering; Dr. F. Rieband, to be lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering; E. D. R. Shearman, to be senior lecturer in electromagnetism in the Department of Electrical Engineering.

#### Leeds

IN a statement to a meeting of the Court of the University of Leeds on November 15, when the annual report was presented, the vice-chancellor, Sir Charles Morris, referring to the increase in the number of students by 1,400 in five years, said that in the past year it had increased by 386 to 5,175, and it was probable that this order of increase would continue during the forthcoming quinquennium and that the student population in 1966 would be 6,900. The building programme was based on an increase of this order, but there was some risk that the provision of residential accommodation might seriously fall behind needs in the immediate future. The vice-chancellor also referred at some length to the new courses which the University was offering leading to an honours

degree covering study in depth in two of the traditional subjects. These courses were meeting with immediate response, and twenty-one students were expected to graduate this year in the 'combined' courses in arts, the most popular combinations so far being economics and history, English and history, geography and history, and psychology and sociology. The Science Faculty was starting such courses next October and a director of combined studies was being appointed to guide the students following these courses and advise on combinations of subjects. While he did not think the 'special honours' courses would disappear or lose prestige, he thought it would be increasingly accepted that at the standard of first degree at honours-level, two subjects could effectively be studied together in depth.

#### Sussex

THE following appointments have been made: Dr. D. B. Scott, at present reader in mathematics at King's College, London, to be professor of mathematics; Dr. E. R. A. Peeling, at present senior lecturer in chemistry in the University of Leicester, to be senior lecturer in chemistry.

#### Announcements

SIR HARRY MELVILLE, secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, has been made a member of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in recognition of his "notable services to D.S.I.R.". The appointment is personal to Sir Harry and does not mean that future secretaries of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research will automatically become members of the Research Council.

A SYMPOSIUM on the "Methodology of Plant Eco-Physiology" will be held in the Botanical Institute, 5 rue Auguste Broussonnet, Montpellier, France, during April 7–12, 1962. Further information can be obtained from Dr. F. E. Eckardt, Institut de Botanique, Montpellier, France.

THE Department of Physics and Astronomy of the Ohio State University is organizing a symposium on "Molecular Structure and Spectroscopy", which is to be held in the University during June 11–15. Further information can be obtained from Prof. R. A. Oetjen, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Ohio State University, 174 West 18th Avenue, Columbus 10, Ohio.

DUE to a change in date of the meeting of the International Pharmaceutical Federation, which will be held in Vienna during September 1–24, 1962, the third British Congress on the History of Medicine and Pharmacy will be held in London during September 27–28, 1962. The subject of the Congress will be "The History of British Hospitals". Further information can be obtained from Dr. F. N. L. Poynter, Wellcome Historical Medical Library, Euston Road, London, N.W.1.

ERRATUM: We regret to find that, in the article entitled "Action of Radiation on Synthesis of Deoxyribonucleic Acid in Normal and Tumour Strain Cells" (*Nature*, December 9, p. 944), a line has been omitted and another duplicated. In column 2, p. 944, lines 15 and 16 should read: "... a decrease from the consequent depletion of the cell population. However, as Painter and ..." The present line 16 is a repetition of line 13.