

15s. per part.) Under the editorship of Dr. H. D. Anthony, it offers five papers, all read to the Society: Dr. J. S. Wilkie, on "Some Reasons for the Rediscovery and Appreciation of Mendel's Work in the First Years of the Present Century"; Dr. C. H. Talbot, on "Simon Bredon, Fellow of Merton, Mathematician, Astronomer and Physician"; E. A. Marland, on "British and American Contributions to Electrical Communications"; Thomas Martin, on "The Origins of the Royal Institution"; Leonard Clarke, on "Greek Astronomy and its Debt to the Babylonians". There is a précis of four other lectures, together with a useful bibliographical note on papers in other journals and a book review. As a journal it should be widely used in universities and technical colleges.

#### Natural Resources in Scotland

A REVIEW of the volume entitled *Natural Resources in Scotland*, which recorded the proceedings of the symposium organized by the Committee on Natural Resources of the Scottish Council during October 31–November 2, 1960, has already appeared in *Nature* (193, 514; 1962). The Committee has now issued its report as a cyclostyled foolscap-sized document, adopted by the Scottish Council (Development and Industry). It is based on the evidence presented to the symposium, which was studied and carefully sifted by seven working parties. The lack of accurate factual information is again emphasized, and the report calls for detailed surveys as a pre-requisite for planning. The keynote of the thirteen-point plan is the need for integration—notably of farming and forestry—and for the multiple use of land with the over-riding objective of maintaining and increasing the productive capacity of the land. Copies of the report are available from the Council, price 21s. (Pp. v+194. Edinburgh: The Scottish Council (Development and Industry), 1962).

#### Strontium-90 in Human Bone

No. 4 of the *Medical Research Council Monitoring Report Series* contains initial analyses of strontium-90 in human bone for the first half of 1961. The analyses were carried out by the Atomic Research Establishment and by research workers in Glasgow. The results indicate that, for most age groups, the average amounts of strontium-90 in bone during the first half of 1961 were approximately the same as in the second half of 1960, but for the important age group of 0–5 years the analyses made at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment show a decrease in the average level from 2.65 to 2.07 strontium units (micro-microcuries of strontium-90 per gram of calcium). The highest single value recorded in the United Kingdom during the first half of 1961 was 6.5 strontium units. The period covered by this report precedes the resumption of nuclear weapon testing in the autumn of 1961.

#### Expedition to Iceland

A CHELSEA College expedition to Iceland was first suggested in 1956 by David Bellamy, then a student in the Department of Botany and Zoology. Bellamy's suggestion was not followed up, however, until the summer of 1960, when W. A. Stevens initiated the planning of the College's first scientific expedition. Seven students took part in the expedition, which lasted two months and was centred on the Baegista Valley in the north of Iceland: a report of the expedition has now been published (Chelsea College

Union. *Biological and Geological Societies' Expedition to Iceland, Summer 1961—Final Report*. Pp. 52. London: Chelsea College Iceland Expedition, 1962. 3s. 6d.). The purpose was to make detailed botanical surveys and geological maps of the area visited; to correlate botanical and geological studies so far as possible; to make comprehensive collections and records of the plants, rocks and minerals found; to examine the more interesting, instructive or natural sights of Iceland, including the volcanic thermal and glacial phenomena; to make ornithological observations where possible; and to learn as much as possible about the Icelandic countryside and nation. The illustrated report gives full details of the expedition and could be of great value to other students planning to make surveys in various countries overseas.

#### Chemotherapy of Cancer

DIFFERENT people may hold different views on the political side of the United Nations; but no reasonable person can deny a great belief in, and his full support of, the admirable work of the United Nations' welfare, medical, scientific and cultural organizations. One of these bodies is the World Health Organization with its headquarters in Geneva. It is very gratifying to find that its efficient staff have turned their attention recently also to the chemotherapy of cancer (which includes leukæmias), and with the help of a panel of experts have issued their first report on this subject (*Technical Report Series*. No. 232: *Chemotherapy of Cancer*. First Report of an Expert Committee. Pp. 52. Geneva: World Health Organization; London: H.M.S.O., 1962. 2 Swiss francs; 3s. 6d.; 0.60 dollar). It is true that so far as this report represents a critical assessment of the present situation in this field by enumerating the general principles of cancer chemotherapy and making a review of available and tested agents, other publications have appeared from time to time written by individuals or co-operative groups. However, as the report is also looking forward and touches on topics such as combined treatments and on the intricate problem of chemical trials of new drugs, the Expert Committee, and particularly its secretaries, Drs. A. V. Chaklin, W. Davis and Prof. L. F. Larionov, should be congratulated on a fine piece of work. This will be most useful to the investigator, scientific or medical, in cancer chemotherapy and also to anybody interested in any form of medical science as applied to the treatment of pathological states.

#### Society for Applied Bacteriology

At the annual meeting of the Society for Applied Bacteriology, held in Sutton Bonington on July 17, the following were elected officers of the Society: *Honorary President*, Dr. T. Gibson; *Honorary Secretary*, Dr. Ella M. Barnes; *Honorary Treasurer*, Mr. G. Elis Jones; *Honorary Editors*, Dr. S. E. Jacobs and Dr. D. J. Jayne-Williams; *Honorary Publications Manager*, Mr. A. H. Walters; *Honorary Advertising Manager*, Mr. E. J. Mann; *Members of the Committee*, Dr. A. Hurst, Dr. N. D. Harris, Dr. J. G. Murray, Dr. J. R. Norris, Dr. A. M. Paton, Dr. Joan Taylor, Dr. Agnes A. Nichols, Dr. Patricia M. Scholes, Dr. A. Seaman, Mr. G. Sykes (*ex-officio*).

#### Stability of Vitamin Preparations

A COLLABORATIVE investigation into the stability of seven vitamins (ascorbic acid, cyanocobalamin, folic