No. 57, *The Medical Laboratory Technician*, and No. 32, *The Civil Service: General Scientific and Technical Posts*, give information about careers other than purely veterinary that are concerned with various aspects of the work.) Good illustrations showing veterinary surgeons engaged in various duties are provided. A breakdown shows the numbers of veterinary surgeons engaged in the various branches of the occupations in the United Kingdom. There are 3,247 in private practice and about 1,000 in salaried occupations. Of the latter, 533 are in the service of the Ministry of Agriculture, 114 in that of Northern Ireland, 213 on the staffs of the veterinary schools, 96 employed by commercial concerns, 27 in the service of the Agricultural Research Council, 27 in municipal veterinary services, 52 on the staffs of various research institutes, and 30 in the Royal Army Veterinary Corps. In addition, there are 315 in the Colonial Veterinary Service serving overseas.

Computer Control in Soviet Steel Mills

THE U.S.S.R.'s most advanced industrial computers are those used for the automation of iron and steel production, according to an article on the application of computers and logical operation devices to the automation of factories in the U.S.S.R. (*Mechanical Engineering*. Academy of Sciences, U.S.S.R., Moscow, 1958. Pp. 383. Order 60-51089 from the Office of Technical Services, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D.C. Price 3.75 dollars). The article is one of a collection of seventeen papers on mechanical engineering available in an English translation from the Office of Technical Services, U.S. Department of Commerce. Also included are studies on a vacuum dilatometer for investigating the sintering process of metal powders; a device for studying the characteristics of polymer specimens under tension; and an apparatus for testing the impact hardness of ice under field conditions. Although computers are being used in many ferrous metallurgical processes, the article indicates that their application has not yet been extended to rolling mills. This is explained by "the lack of an adequate study of variable conditions in the mills and the lack of the necessary measuring equipment (tension pickups, pickups for the metal pressure on the rolls, 'floating' micrometers, and strip-speed pickups)". The solution of the problem of automation of rolling mills requires the design of electric models for individual components as well as for the mill as a unit. "Work in designing such electric models is being carried out by several organizations." The report was translated for the U.S. Government through a co-operative Federal agency translation programme co-ordinated by the National Science Foundation.

The Lenin State Library, Moscow

THE library which now bears the name of the Lenin State Library was founded in July 1862 as a part of the Roumyantzev Museum in Moscow. The growth of this library was in no small measure due to the accretion of the 'compulsory' copies of all books published in Russia, for it also possesses a very large number of non-Russian books, and in many ways it can claim to rival the great national libraries in London, Paris and Washington. At the present time, as described by A. Y. Chernyak (*Priroda*, 8, 60; 1962), the Library is well housed in a number of buildings. Chernyak states that there is a staff of 2,000 and that the Library has 200,000 readers using 22 reading rooms, and contains 22 million books, sets of periodicals, microfilms and manuscripts. In 1913 the Library used to exchange books with 90 institutions in 19 countries; at the present time it exchanges books with 2,600 institutions in 80 countries, totalling 250,000 outgoing and 212,000 incoming books. Among the older books the Library possesses very valuable works by Copernicus, Bruno, Pliny and many other famous writers. Its reference section is staffed by a number of specialists and it serves, as does its publication service, a very large community.

Science Museums in Developing Countries

THE International Council of Museums has recently published a small booklet on *Science Museums in Developing Countries* (Pp. vi+66. Paris: International Council of Museums, 6 rue Franklin, 1962. 4 NF.; 7*s*.; 0·80 dollars). It is written by Mr. Frank Greenaway, of the Science Museum, London, with additional chapters by Dr. Torsten Althin, of Sweden, and Messrs. W. T. O'Dea, of London, and W. Stephen Thomas, of the United States. Science is concerned, for museum purposes, with ideas about the nature of the physical universe and those aspects of living things which can be the subject of exact or controlled study. Museums are places where things, both still and in action, are collected together, studied and presented. The handbook is intended to encourage educational authorities in countries which are trying to raise cultural standards to set up museums of science and technology. The main part consists of generalizations and the principles which justify the existence of such museums and regulate their organizations. The second part deals with the application of these principles in three widely separated areas—India, Latin America and Sweden. Finally, actual examples are given of objects which could be usefully incorporated in science museums. This is an excellent handbook and many of the dicta are applicable to all types of museums.

The European Seismological Commission

MEETINGS of the European Seismological Commission were held at Jena during September 24–30. Representatives from twelve European countries, including the United Kingdom, attended the meetings. The meetings were first concerned with the study of reports of work presented by members of the Sub-commissions for: (*a*) Alpine explosions; (*b*) seismo-tectonic map of Europe; (*c*) seismicity of the Carpathian region; (*d*) publications. Secondly, there followed a symposium entitled "The Crust of the Earth in Europe", with data from great explosions, near-earthquakes, dispersion of surface waves, *Lg* and similar waves and microseisms. Communications were also presented on the centenaries of the births of Prof. V. Láska, by Prof. A. Zátopek, and of Prof. B. B. Galitzin, by Prof. E. F. Savarenski. The account of the work on the new seismic scales was presented by Dr. W. Sponheuer. The European Seismological Commission of the Union of Geodesy and Geophysics is indebted to the Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin for sponsoring the meetings and to colleagues at Jena under Dr. W. Sponheuer for the admirable local arrangements. The next meetings of the Commission will be held in Budapest in 1964, and the new officers are: *President*, Prof. A. Zátopek (Prague); *Vice-Presidents*, Prof. E. F. Savarenski (Moscow), Dr. E. Vesanen (Helsinki); *Secretary*, Dr. E. Peterschmitt (Strasbourg).