

complete coverage of the soft X-ray literature for the period 1950-60. Some references to earlier work are included but the general review references, listed separately, cover fairly adequately previous work. The first group of references in the monograph is of general survey and review papers and books. The main list of references follows, grouped by year and arranged alphabetically by author within each year. The emphasis is on the application of soft X-ray spectroscopy to the study of valence band electronic states in metals and alloys. The spectral region 25-800 Å involving ruled glass grating spectrometers is therefore of principal interest. However, considerable data have been gathered, primarily by the Russians, on valence electronic states by means of high-energy transitions where crystal spectrometers are satisfactory. These references and any X-ray work leading to the distribution of valence electronic states are included regardless of the transitions used. In addition to soft X-ray data, references on all pertinent aspects of the apparatus and experimental problems are included in the bibliography. A number of indexes are given at the beginning of the monograph for ready reference to papers containing the specific data to which the bibliography applies. In the literature the spectra are presented in a variety of energy units, and in compiling the bibliography the units given in the original papers have been retained. A conversion chart of units is appended to the bibliography. It is intended to continue the bibliography and to issue supplements periodically.

Protecting Turtles in Sarawak

A GOVERNMENT ORDINANCE now protects the greater turtles of Sarawak from disturbance, under penalty of a 1,000 dollar fine. This is the penalty for any unauthorized vessel approaching within half a mile of three islands off the coast of Sarawak, Talang Talang Besar, Talang Talang Kochil and Satang Besar, on which the turtles nest. Carefully conserved by the curator of the Sarawak Museum, Dr. Tom Harrison, the turtles have provided more than twenty million eggs for local consumption in the past fifteen years (*World Wildlife News*, No. 7; October 1962). Many other eggs have been removed to hatcheries, where the young turtles have been reared safely and released again at sea when they are big enough to fend for themselves.

Incidence and Distribution of Asthma in Australia

AN ANALYSIS was made of asthma cases in public hospitals in Queensland in the year 1957. Asthma was responsible for 2,673 cases, or 1.62 per cent of the total. It predominated in male children and in adults more than 55 years of age. It predominated in females in the intervening years. A striking fall in the male incidence in the second decennium suggested a favourable prognosis for most asthmatic boys. The apparent incidence of asthma varied considerably from place to place. The variation could not be explained simply in terms of latitude, altitude, temperature, rainfall or distance from the coast. Some of the variation between hospitals was probably due to different criteria for admission. The seasonal distribution changed significantly at about the Tropic of Capricorn. To the south, the main incidence was in autumn; to the north, no seasonal patterns had a wide prevalence. The investigators, Drs. E. H. Derrick and R. H. Thatcher, showed that an aetiological study of asthma must take into account variation in the complex of causes including sex, age, season and locality (Seventeenth Annual Report of the Council of the Queensland Institute of Medical Research for the year ended 30th June, 1962. Pp. 12. Brisbane: Queensland Institute of Medical Research, 1962).

The Society for Visiting Scientists

THE report of the secretaries on behalf of the Council of the Society for Visiting Scientists made to the fifteenth

general meeting on December 11 refers to the success of the three discussion meetings dealing, respectively, with colour television, the turkey X disease, and matching men and machines. Activities were somewhat restricted by the change of premises from Old Burlington Street to 19 Albemarle Street, and reference is again made to the difficulty of finding new and adequate sources of income.

The Scottish Field Studies Association :

Programme of Courses

THE Scottish Field Studies Association has arranged the following courses during 1963: *Garth*: geography (April 13-20); spring in the Highlands (May 18-25); geology of Glen Lyon (June 8-15); insect natural history (June 29-July 6); grasses, rushes and sedges (July 6-13); mountain and moorland ecology (August 3-10); mountain flowers (August 10-17); plant ecology (August 17-24); lichens (September 7-14); *Isles of Great Cumbrae*: seashore biology (May 11-18); marine biology (June 1-8, June 8-15, August 24-31); *Black Isle*: geography (June 1-8); *Pitlochry*: archaeology (June 1-8); *Isle of Arran*: birds of Arran (April 13-20); geology of Arran (June 1-8, September 7-14); wild flowers (July 6-13); *Strathpeffer*: Highland birds (June 8-15); geographical field studies (July 6-13); *North Ballachulish*: geology of Glencoe (July 6-13); *Alnmouth*: birds of Northumberland (June 1-8); a geographical survey of the Hebridean highlands and islands (April 11-17). Further information can be obtained from the Scottish Field Studies Association, 179 West Regent Street, Glasgow, C.2.

Announcements

DR. BERNARD KEISCH, research physicist with the Phillips Petroleum Company's Atomic Energy Division at Idaho Falls, has been appointed senior scientist at the Nuclear Science and Engineering Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pa.

CHANGES of name of subsidiary companies of the Derritron Group have been announced as follows: Beme Research and Development Ltd., to Derritron Research and Development Ltd.; Chapman Ultrasonics Ltd., to Derritron Ultrasonics Ltd. (managing director, Mr. C. T. Chapman); Doran Instrument Co. Ltd., to Derritron Instruments Ltd.; Electronic Vibrators Ltd., to Derritron Electronic Vibrators Ltd.; L. S. B. Components Ltd., to Derritron Transformers Ltd.

A PROGRAMME of twelve courses on the use of isotopes has been arranged by the Atomic Energy Research Establishment Isotope School during the period February 11-December 13. The courses will range between five and twenty-three days in length, with tuition fees between £20 and £60. Further information can be obtained from the Wantage Research Laboratory (A.E.R.E.), Wantage, Berkshire.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Communications in Industrial Relations", organized by the Central London Productivity Association in conjunction with the Department of Management and Social Science, Northampton College, will be held at the Northampton College of Advanced Technology, London, on January 30. Further information can be obtained from Miss C. M. Burnell, Room 101, Northampton College of Advanced Technology, St. John Street, London, E.C.1.

ERRATUM. In the communication by C. Chlouvorakis entitled "Adipose Tissue Lipoprotein Lipase Activity in Rats of Two Different Ages", which appeared on p. 1103 of the December 15 issue of *Nature*, the tenth paragraph should read "The average enzyme activity so defined was found to be 19.36 ± 8.25 (mean \pm S.D.) units in young, and 3.81 ± 2.92 (mean \pm S.D. as above) units in old rats ($t = 5.3$, $P < 0.0001$)".