

The topics in the research programme covered work on a wide range of materials, including cocoa and chocolate, sugar confectionery, bakers' prepared materials, jam, pickles and sauces, meat and fish products, oils and fats. During the year, the Association published and distributed to members six research reports, two scientific and technical surveys, one review of research and twenty-eight technical circulars. Members of the staff also contributed to fourteen other scientific and technical publications during the year. Both the Analytical and the Bacteriological Services report an increased number of samples examined for Association members. The Information and Library Services report that the number of abstracts published during 1963 rose to 2,306 (1,844 in 1962) and their value to members is shown by the fact that the Association received requests for a sight of the original article for one-third of this number (excluding patents). The Director reports that the Association is now prepared to accept 'sponsored' work, provided that the results are likely to be of interest to a substantial number of members. Special projects already in progress at the beginning of 1963 included two "Public Law 480" contracts for the U.S. Department of Agriculture on the biochemistry of bacon curing and the glyceride composition of cottonseed oil. This should assist the Association in many ways, not least in aiding in the procurement of some of the more expensive items of equipment that are becoming increasingly necessary in food research to-day.

#### Immunochemistry

It is a sign of the deep interest that is now being shown throughout the scientific world in the chemical aspects of immunology that a distinguished group of scientists should have launched a new scientific publication—a journal of immunochemistry—under the title *Immunochemistry* (1, No. 1; April 1964. Annual subscription rates: (A) for libraries, government establishments, research laboratories, etc., £15 (40 dollars); (B) for individuals who place their orders directly with the publisher and certify that the journal is for their personal use, £5 (15 dollars). London and New York: Pergamon Press, 1964). The editor-in-chief is the eminent American immunochemist, Prof. Dan Campbell, of the California Institute of Technology, who is supported by three regional editors and a distinguished honorary editorial board of international character. The remarkable increase in the number of scientific publications falling within the field of immunochemistry has obviously stimulated the production of this new publication by the editors and the Pergamon Press. With the passage of time, no doubt the size of the volumes issued will increase so as to justify, on physical grounds alone, the segregation of immunochemistry from the broader subjects of immunology and biochemistry, of which it must remain a part and which, at the present time, are already covered by numerous national journals completely or largely devoted to the subject. Past experience has shown repeatedly that a new specialist journal, when once launched by a competent editorial board and an established publishing house, is assured of success because the appropriate scientists cannot afford to be without the new journal, and university libraries and research institutes must see to it that it is available for consultation. It is probable that the many international journals of biochemistry and/or immunology could easily contain the present output of papers on immunochemistry for some years to come. However, if in future papers are to be published in full, one could hazard a guess that the number of papers in this exciting field will increase considerably within the next few years. In order that they should not be buried in the great mass of biochemical and immunological publications, the editors have shown real foresight in starting a new journal at this phase in the development of immunochemistry.

#### An Engineering Buyers' Guide

*The Engineer Buyers Guide, 1964*, gives particulars of nearly 2,000 firms which advertise in *The Engineer* or in the *Guide*, and covers chemical plant, electrical equipment, engines, machine tools and accessories, sheet metal machinery and a wide range of general products (Pp. 1016. London: *The Engineer*, 1964. 10s.). Firms are listed under the headings of the products and, in addition, an address section gives the various addresses, telephone numbers and codes for each firm. Details of trade and technical associations, national undertakings and exhibitions are also given. There is also a list of United Kingdom agents for foreign firms. This *Guide* will be a useful addition to the reference books in any workshop or laboratory.

#### Seismology at Eskdalemuir Observatory

IN July 1910, Prince Galitzin himself supervised the installation of Galitzin seismographs at Eskdalemuir observatory, Dumfriesshire, the Observatory having been established two years before, primarily so that geomagnetic recording could be obtained free from the artificial disturbances, mainly from electric trams and trains, increasingly affecting Kew Observatory. When geomagnetic recording finally ceased at Kew, in 1925, the Galitzins were transferred from Eskdalemuir to the basement of the main building at Kew from whence, to eliminate disturbance due to wind shaking the building, they were transferred, in 1937, to a new vault in the grounds. In recent years, owing partly to an increased interest in the science of seismology and partly to the need for distinguishing between man-made nuclear explosions and natural earthquakes, more sensitive seismographs have been devised and thus vaults in quiet localities with solid rock foundations are required. The Eskdalemuir area proved to be one of the best in the British Isles and was adopted by the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority as the site of their seismic array which is centred 4 km north-east of the Observatory. Following a recommendation of the International Seismological Survey that all countries work towards the ideal of a world network, having stations at intervals of about 1,000 km, and after a recommendation by the Council of the Royal Society, the Meteorological Office decided that Eskdalemuir Observatory should be developed as its main seismological recording base, with research facilities, in the United Kingdom. A start has now been made by the building of a new vault in the hill-side near the observatory and the installation therein of the standard seismograph system being presented by the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey to some 125 stations over the world. The equipment was installed in time to record the large Alaskan earthquake of 28 March 1964. It is appropriate that Eskdalemuir, the field station, is near to Edinburgh where there is the Royal Observatory Seismic Research Group and where there is also to be the International Seismological Research Centre and the International Seismological Summary Unit. There is space in the new vault for research workers generally to install seismic apparatus under test, and there will be available a shielded cable from the vault to a planned new surface laboratory where data recording and processing equipment can be located. It is expected that routine seismological recording with the older instruments will cease at Kew at the end of 1964, and that the *Kew Seismological Bulletin* will then be replaced by an *Eskdalemuir Bulletin*.

#### Memorial Lectures of the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society

THE Institute of Physics and the Physical Society has announced the following arrangements for its memorial lectures during 1964: 1963 *Guthrie Lecture*, the postponed 1963 *Guthrie Lecture* entitled "Magnetic Processes in