

International Conference on Mechanisms and Machines

DURING September 27–October 1 the first international conference to be held in Bulgaria took place at Drouzhba resort, near to Varna. Delegates from Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Czechoslovakia, both German Republics, Hungary, Italy, Poland and the U.S.S.R. were present, and the topics under discussion ranged from the determination of the instantaneous screw axes in spatial mechanisms, and from non-linear problems of centrifugal pendulum vibration absorbers to the design of electronic computers and of high-speed input–output devices. The levels of presentation and of technical content of all the papers were high; this, together with the excellent organization of the conference, and the really beautiful situation of the hall—not 20 yards from a sandy beach and the Black Sea—made the event one which will be long remembered with pleasure by those who were present. An important outcome of the meeting has been the setting up of an informal communications system for the interchange of information in a field which is of interest and importance—but as yet not provided with a recognized journal.

'Clean Room' Technology

A CONFERENCE was held at the Technische Hochschule, Stuttgart, during September 6–7, under the chairmanship of Dr. R. Kratel. About a hundred scientists and engineers attended, most of the main German firms engaged in ventilation and air filtration being represented. A message was received from the American Association for Contamination Control. The first day was devoted to the physics of aerosols. Dr. C. N. Davies gave a general account of the deposition of airborne contamination by diffusion processes and by mechanical effects from air at rest and in laminar and turbulent flow. Natural aerosols in the atmosphere were described by Dr. K. Bullrich of Mainz University. Two papers followed on the analysis of aerosols, Dr. Gahm, of Zeiss, giving a complete analysis of limiting factors in visual microscopy, and Prof. R. Hodkinson, of Virginia State College, discussing the performance of automatic optical dust counting instruments in the light of the Mie theory of light-scattering and recent research on the effect of varying design factors, such as angle of acceptance. During the second day, problems of immediate practical application were dealt with. Dr. D. Hasenclever, of Staubforschungsinstitut, Bonn, gave an analysis of filter performance, and J. R. Weersing, of Royco Instruments, dealt with recent findings on the performance of his firm's particle counter which was developed particularly for use in factories making components for missiles in the United States. The need for dust-free work-places is strongly felt in the electronics industry, and some typical problems in International Business Machines Corp. were explained by Dr. Lechler. The conference concluded with an address by Dr. Kratel, who considered the correct lines for industrial development and the question of standards of aerosol concentration and particle size.

American Society of Plant Physiologists : Awards

PROF. FRITS W. WENT, of the University of Nevada, has been awarded the Charles Reid Barnes Life Membership Award of the American Society of Plant Physiologists. Each year the Society confers this distinction on a senior member of the profession in recognition of his character and contributions to scientific research. Prof. Went is recognized for his broad contributions to the field of botany and for his pioneering research on the bioassay of plant hormones (auxins). His work laid the foundation for the agricultural success of synthetic weed killers, fruit drop inhibitors, and the many other practical applications of these substances. Prof. Went was also concerned with pioneering research in the quantitative study of the effect of weather on plants. This culminated in his

development of the air-conditioned greenhouse (phyto-tron) which has led to the plant growth chambers that are now part of the equipment of every major botanical laboratory. His manifold other interests include investigations of the formation of atmospheric smog from plant volatile exudates, the interrelationships of various plant species with each other, the discovery of many of the properties of plant hormones, and the physiology of desert plants. In addition to his scientific research, Prof. Went has achieved recognition through his effective lecturing, inspiring teaching and competent administration, which have been recognized through professorships at the California Institute of Technology, and the Washington University, St. Louis, and the directorship of the Missouri Botanical Garden.

Officers

The following have been elected officers of the American Society of Plant Physiologists: *President*, Prof. A. Carl Leopold (Purdue University); *Vice-President*, Prof. Robert S. Bandurski (Michigan State University); *Secretary*, Prof. Robert S. Loomis (University of California at Davis). Prof. Kenneth V. Thimann, of the University of California at Santa Cruz, has been elected to the Executive Committee.

University News:

Birmingham

THE following appointments have been made: *Lecturers*, Dr. A. J. Biddlestone (chemical engineering); Dr. I. L. Dillamore (physical metallurgy); D. E. Evans (physics); Dr. A. W. Nicol (mining and minerals engineering); Dr. N. M. Queen (mathematical physics); Dr. K. H. Star (psychology); *Senior Research Fellow*, Dr. J. Stephen (microbiology); *Research Fellows*, B. E. P. Beeston, M. D. Hunt, M. Norman and R. J. M. Wilcox (physical metallurgy); Dr. M. Cordey-Hayes (physics); Dr. R. Haque (mining and minerals engineering); M. A. S. Sweet (electronic and electrical engineering); D. R. Whitehouse (chemistry); R. C. Woodman (engineering production); Dr. A. J. Collings (medical biochemistry and pharmacology).

Announcements

DR. SIGVARD EKLUND (Sweden), director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency since December 1, 1961, was reappointed for a second four-year term of office at the Agency's General Conference in Tokyo on September 27.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Subcellular Movement", arranged by the American Society for Cell Biology, will be held in Philadelphia during November 10–12. Further information can be obtained from Professional Associates, 6520 Clayton Road, St. Louis, Missouri.

AN international symposium on "Volcanology", sponsored by the International Association of Volcanology of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics and organized by the New Zealand Geological Survey, will be held in Rotorua and Wellington, Auckland, during November 22–December 3. The two particular subjects proposed for the symposium are: rhyolites, ignimbrites and pumice, and associated volcanism; geothermal resources with particular reference to the origin, geology, geophysics and geochemistry of hydrothermal systems of possible economic importance. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, International Symposium on Volcanology, P.O. Box 499, Rotorua.

ERRATUM. In the article entitled "Light-induced Stomatal Opening and the Postulated Role of Glycollic Acid", by Prof. O. V. S. Heath, Dr. T. A. Mansfield and Dr. Hans Meidner, which appeared on p. 960 of the August 28 issue of *Nature*, in column 1 line 13 from bottom on p. 961 '1·34' should read '1·34' (that is, a lower log stomatal resistance in blue than in red light).