

of the objects they examine, whether it be the skin of the patient, or lesions on it, the conjunctivae of the eyes, the tongue, or the mucous membranes of the mouth. A good example occurs in a slight case of jaundice. Daylight is best for this purpose, but it is not always available, and it is therefore important that artificial lighting used in hospitals should not distort the colour of anything examined by the doctor. For this reason, the Medical Research Council and the Building Research Station of the Ministry of Technology (formerly of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research) have investigated this problem at Sheffield Royal Infirmary. Fifteen lamps, both fluorescent and tungsten filament, were tested, and the results are now published under the title *Spectral Requirements of Light Sources for Clinical Purposes* (Medical Research Council. Memorandum No. 43. Joint Committee on Lighting and Vision. Pp. vii+56+2 plates. London: H.M.S.O., 1965). This clearly shows that the fluorescent lamps are better not only because they give the smoothest distribution of light and the colour appearances of warm sunlight, but also because they are more economical. Any reputation they may have gained for distorting colour is due to the use of lamps with a grossly uneven distribution of energy over the spectrum. The report proposes a detailed specification for a fluorescent lamp suitable for general use, and it also hopes that this will help manufacturers to supply lamps satisfactory for the hospital service.

#### Glove Damage as a Cause of Wound Infection

THE use of rubber gloves during surgical operations became general about 1900. In 1939, Devenish and Miles emphasized that damage to rubber gloves could lead to infection of operation wounds. In recent symposia concerning nosocomial infection, defects in rubber gloves were considered to be of significance in the development of wound infection. The object of an investigation by Palle Gad was to obtain an estimation of how frequently wound infection originates from bacteria on the hands of the operating staff (*Danish Medical Bulletin*, 12, No. 1; March 1965). Examination of the wounds following 433 'clean' operations, of the 3,125 rubber gloves used in these operations and of the bacterial flora of the hands which had worn 692 damaged gloves, revealed no connexion between the glove damage, the bacterial flora and the wound infections observed.

#### Aldosterone in Myocardial Infarction

THE urinary excretion of aldosterone in healthy adult Indian males was recently estimated in order to establish the normal standard. This value ranged from 6.5 to 19.2  $\mu\text{g}/24\text{ h}$  (*Ann N.Y. Acad. Sci.*, 118, Article 11: *Role of Aldosterone in Myocardial Infarction*. Pp. 537-554. New York: New York Academy of Sciences, 1965). The value was two to three times higher in acute uncomplicated myocardial infarction. Sodium-restricted diet and controlled posture in normal individuals caused a rise in the urinary excretion of aldosterone, but the rise was much less than that observed in myocardial infarction. R. B. Aoraa of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, has also shown that urinary aldosterone excretion in normal, healthy dogs fed a constant diet and later on in the same dogs, with experimental myocardial infarction, revealed a similar increase in the absence of liver damage. Animal experiments also preclude the possible influence of drugs used in myocardial infarction on the level of urinary excretion of aldosterone. Extrapolation of the findings from animal experiments permits the hypothesis that increased urinary excretion of aldosterone in patients with myocardial infarction is to be attributed mainly to the myocardial infarction, and not to the associated factors, that is, diet, drugs, and posture. The rise of sodium concentration in the infarcted myocardium appears to have a causal relationship with the aldosterone-induced arrhythmia in myocardial infarction.

#### Melville on Macromolecule Chemical Industry

IN an article in *Chemistry in Britain* (1, 404; 1965), based on his lecture at the Royal Institute of Chemistry conference earlier in the year, Sir Harry Melville compares three British industries which have to do with macromolecules. These are plastics, textiles and paper. In all of these there has been a tendency towards bigger enterprises. In plastics, for example, there were in 1958 six enterprises with more than 1,500 employees. The plastics industry has been one of the fastest growing sectors of British industry, with a volume production now greater than the total usage of all non-ferrous metals. There has been little tendency to diversification: nearly all the plastics now manufactured commercially have been known and manufactured for many years. Although there is plenty of evidence that research and development expenditure in an industry contributes directly to its profitability and growth, research and development are becoming relatively more expensive. Indeed, in the older and empirically developed paper and textile industries there is no certainty that increased research and development expenditure would be fruitful. The search for precise criteria for decisions on research and development expenditure should not obscure the value of innovators. These are rare people and should be encouraged in industry, even though they may not conform to the pattern which makes life easy for their administrators.

#### University News:

#### Belfast

THE following appointments have been made: *Professorships*, Dr. W. O. Brown (agricultural chemistry); Dr. J. C. Murdoch (crop and animal husbandry); Dr. R. K. McKee (mycology and plant pathology); *Lecture-ship*, Dr. W. C. Beattie (electrical engineering).

#### Birmingham

THE following appointments have been made: *Senior Lectureship*, Dr. C. E. Oxnard (anatomy); *Lectureships*, Dr. M. H. B. Hayes and Dr. A. J. Waring (chemistry); *Research Fellowships*, A. N. Bramley (mechanical engineering); J. L. Godman and B. H. Rees (chemistry); R. S. Lowery (microbiology).

#### Announcements

A MEETING on "The Degradation of Biological Macromolecules", organized by the Physical Biochemistry Group of the British Biophysical Society, will be held in Oxford on January 11. Further information can be obtained from Dr. A. R. Peacocke, St. Peter's College, Oxford.

A CONFERENCE on "Solid State Physics", organized by the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, will be held in the Manchester College of Science and Technology during January 4-7. Further information can be obtained from the Meetings Officer, Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Recent Advances in the Development, Production and Utilization of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants in India", under the auspices of the Central Indian Medicinal Plants Organization, will be held at Lucknow during January 12-14. Further information can be obtained from Dr. S. C. Datta, Central Indian Medicinal Plants Organization, 4 Sapru Marg, Lucknow.

ADDENDUM. In the communication entitled "Social Companions and the Mother-Infant Relationship in Rhesus Monkeys", which appeared on p. 301 of the October 16, 1965, issue of *Nature*, the following legend should have accompanied the illustration:

Fig. 1. Number of half-minutes in which the infants were recorded off their mothers, expressed as a percentage of number of half-minute periods for which they were watched. Shaded area shows the range for the isolate infants. Dotted area shows the range for group-reared infants. ○, Median for isolate infants; ●, median for group-reared infants