

tions to the organic chemistry of trivalent phosphorus compounds and Professor Mason received his award for his contributions to the structural chemistry of inorganic and biologically important compounds.

THE Institution of Structural Engineers, in collaboration with the Aluminium Federation, is offering a research scholarship of two years duration, worth £700 per annum, plus fees of about £80 per annum. The winner will carry out research in the use of light alloys in structural engineering, and should be British and under the age of 30 on October 1, 1967.

CHANGES are announced by the Royal Aeronautical Society in the rules of the Kremer Competition. The main prize of £5,000, endowed by Mr. Henry Kremer, for a man-powered flight around a figure-of-eight course with two turning points not less than half a mile apart has been increased to £10,000. The competition will now be open to all nations, instead of being limited to the British Commonwealth. In addition there will be another competition, open initially to members of the Commonwealth, over an easier course half a mile long in the form of a slalom. The prizes for this easier test will be £2,500, £1,500 and £1,000 for the first three competitors to complete the course; if the prizes are not won entirely before December 31, 1968, the rules may be revised. Rules for the £10,000 competition may be revised if the money is not won before December 31, 1973.

A CONFERENCE on the "Rheology of Building and Road Materials", organized by the British Society of Rheology, is to be held in Sheffield during April 4-5. Further information can be obtained from Dr. G. H. Tattersall, Department of Building Science, University of Sheffield (Materials Laboratory), Shearwood Road, Sheffield 10.

AN international symposium on "Discrimination Learning", organized by the Experimental Analysis of Behaviour Group, is to be held at the University of Sussex on April 5-6. Further information can be obtained from Dr. R. M. Gilbert, Department of Psychology, University of Aberdeen, Old Aberdeen.

A ONE day symposium on "Lubrication of Textile Machinery" will be held at the Manchester Institute of Science and Technology on April 13. Further information can be obtained from the Conference Department, The Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

A SHORT course on "Recent Advances in Chromatography" will be held in the Lanchester College of Technology, Coventry, during April 13-14. Further information can be obtained from Dr. C. W. Went, Lanchester College of Technology, Priory Street, Coventry.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Aspects of Nitrogen Metabolism and Utilization in Plants", sponsored by the Agricultural Committee of the University of Bristol, will be held at Long Ashton Research Station during April 18-19. Further information can be obtained from the Scientific Liaison Officer, Long Ashton Research Station, Long Ashton, Bristol.

THE 1967 spring informal symposium of the Gas Chromatography Discussion Group of the Institute of Petroleum will be held at the Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, London, W.1, on April 28. Further information can be obtained from Miss J. Healey, Institute of Petroleum, 61 New Cavendish Street, London, W.1.

A DISCUSSION on "Helicoidal Macromolecules in Solution" is to be held by the Société de Chimie Physique during their sixteenth annual meeting in Paris during May 2-6. Further information can be obtained from Professor G. Emschwiller, Société de Chimie Physique, 10 rue Vauquelin, Paris 5^e.

A SHORT course entitled "Copolymers—Their Preparation and Properties" will be held at the Lanchester College of Technology, Coventry, during May 3-4. Further information can be obtained from Dr. A. F. Johnson, Department of Chemistry and Metallurgy, Lanchester College of Technology, Coventry.

THE fourth annual national colloquium on "Information Retrieval" will be held in Philadelphia during May 3-4. Further information can be obtained from Mrs. Regina M. Hildreth, Fourth Annual National Colloquium on Information Retrieval, Radio Corporation of America, Electronic Data Processing, Camden, New Jersey, U.S.A.

A CONFERENCE on three growth prospects of the chemical industry: agricultural chemicals, pharmaceuticals and plastics, is to be held by the Chemical Group of Aslib at Attingham Park, near Shrewsbury, during May 15-17. Further information can be obtained from Mr. J. R. Clew, 42 Bedford Road, Horsham, Sussex.

AN international conference on "Essential Oils Production in Developing Countries", organized by the Tropical Products Institute of the Ministry of Overseas Development, will be held in London during May 15-19. Further information can be obtained from the Director, Tropical Products Institute, 56-62 Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C.1.

ERRATUM. In the article "Canine 'Field' in Sexual Dimorphism of Tooth Size" by S. M. Garn *et al.* (*Nature*, 212, 1501; 1966), two subscripts were inadvertently transposed in the sentence at the bottom of page 1501 which should read: "The same tendency holds in the mandible, though less completely, with I_2 exceeding I_1 in percentage sexual dimorphism and P_1 exceeding P_2 in the same respect".

CORRIGENDUM. In the article entitled "Resistance to Water Transport in Plants" by O. V. S. Heath (*Nature*, 213, 741; 1967) line 16 of the second column should read "ratio was 19 : 1".

CORRESPONDENCE

Information Exchange Groups

SIR,—This is to correct a complete misinterpretation in the statement by the secretary of the Commission of Editors of Biochemical Journals of the "primary original purpose" of the IEGs as unqualifiedly stated in "Biological Journals and Exchange Groups" (*Nature*, 213, 547; 1967). The actual purpose was to provide, on a test basis, a means for quick communication within the total pool of research manpower at work in some sharply focused research area. What they communicated was theirs to decide, as much as what scientists communicate in their private professional correspondence—which can, indeed, be regarded as the prototype of the IEG. Behind this purpose was the belief that quick communication of research findings, from an originating laboratory to all other laboratories in which there was significant probability of need for the information, accelerated scientific discovery in the research area. The reader will appreciate how untenable the notion is as presented in the article—namely, that the original purpose of the IEGs was limited to "rapid exchange of informal suggestions, comments, queries and general discussion".

Yours, etc.,

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