

levels of fallout which are lower than from previous series.

Reference to widely reported inventories of ^{90}Sr in the stratosphere of the Southern Hemisphere^{4,5}, and to measurements on monthly deposition of ^{90}Sr in Australia⁶, indicates that:

- (1) stratospheric burden of ^{90}Sr in the southern hemisphere decreased from some 1,200 kCi in 1963 to 50 kCi in mid-1968, with annual deposit of ^{90}Sr in Australia falling from 2.1 mCi/km² in 1964 to 0.4 mCi/km² in 1968;
- (2) high yield nuclear weapons tests in Polynesia in August–September 1968 added some 130 kCi to a total stratospheric burden of 180 kCi ^{90}Sr and an annual deposit of ^{90}Sr in Australia of 0.6 mCi/km² in 1969.

As already reported^{6,7}, the 1968 test series in Polynesia contributed a substantial proportion of the total monthly ^{90}Sr deposit in Australia in late 1968 and early 1969 but the magnitude of the total deposit remained small.

When planning the Australian programmes for monitoring fallout from tests in Polynesia, consideration was given to possible problems of contamination of migratory fish and birds, which may enter the Australian diet. Evidence

available to us on the migration habits of tuna caught in Australian waters suggested that only yellowfin, comprising less than 1 per cent of the total catch, might originate from the Tuamotu Archipelago. Measurements on yellowfin taken in Australian waters showed no change in concentration of fission products following tests series in Polynesia.

Yours faithfully,

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¹ Australian National Radiation Advisory Committee, *Report to the Prime Minister, March 1969, on Biological Aspects of Fallout in Australia from French Nuclear Weapons Explosions in the Pacific (July–September 1968)*.

² Gibbs, W. J., et al., *Austral. J. Sci.*, **29**, 407 (1967); **30**, 217 (1967); **31**, 383 (1969).

³ Australian National Radiation Advisory Committee, *Report to the Prime Minister, November 1965*.

⁴ Telegadas, K., *USAEC Report HASL-184*, 153 (January 1968).

⁵ Krey, P. W., et al., *USAEC Report HASL-210*, 145 (July 1969).

⁶ Gibbs, W. J., et al., *Austral. J. Sci.*, **32**, 238 (1969).

⁷ Cambray, R. S., et al., *UKAEA Report AERE-R 6212* (November 1969).

Obituary

Dr E. H. Rodd

ERNEST HARRY RODD died on July 22, 1970. He was born in 1888, and educated at Christ's Hospital and the Central Technical College, South Kensington, which he entered in 1906 to begin his close association with Professor H. E. Armstrong until the latter's death in 1939. His main research work here, on crystal morphology in the benzene series, was of topical interest in connexion with the then recently published views of Barlow and Pope on valency volumes. On the final closure of the old Central laboratory and the dispersal of Armstrong's research students, Rodd worked for a while at the National Physical Laboratory before joining, in 1917, the research staff at Levinstein Ltd, Blackley, Manchester, later to become part of the British Dyestuffs Corporation and eventually the headquarters of the Dyestuffs Division of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd. Here he took a full share in the work of the rapidly expanding research department, as emphasis passed from the manufacture of known products to the invention and eventual manufacture of new ones.

In order to promote closer relations between scientists working in the Dyestuffs Division and those working in the universities, in 1929 the Dyestuffs Group Research Committee was set up, the academic members being Sir Jocelyn Thorpe, Sir Robert Robinson and Sir Ian Heilbron, with Rodd as secretary. As the work of this and other liaison committees grew, Rodd became fully employed as academic liaison officer, a post he filled with distinction until he retired more than twenty years later. During this period he became well known in the laboratories of practically all the universities and technical colleges in the UK and several abroad.

After his retirement his name became familiar to a worldwide circle of chemists as the creator and editor of *The Chemistry of Carbon Compounds*, the ten volumes of which were published between 1951 and 1962, an outstanding achievement after a normal lifetime's work in industry. He was particularly pleased when it was decided to publish a revised edition, and right up to the day of his death he took a very active and constructive interest in its progress.

Announcements

University News

Dr N. Uri, a member of the Explosives Research and Development Establishment, Waltham Abbey, and Professor E. M. Evans, of British Resin Products Limited, have been appointed visiting professors in the Department of Chemistry of the City University.

Professor Malcolm B. Wilkins, University of Nottingham, has been appointed Regius professor of botany in the University of Glasgow.

Professor Olaf Rundquist, on sabbatical leave from Hamline University, St Paul, Minnesota, and Professor J. G. Pike, professor of mechanical engineering at the Royal Military College of Canada, have been appointed visiting professors at the Heriot-Watt University.

Professor M. S. Longuet-Higgins has been appointed visiting professor in the Department of Mathematics, University of Surrey.

Dr Paul S. J. Spencer, University of Aston in Birmingham, has been appointed professor of applied pharmacology in the Welsh School of Pharmacy, University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology.

Appointments

The following appointments have been made to the MRC advisory boards: *Biological Research Board*, Professor P. M. B. Walker, already a member of the board, will succeed Professor R. A. Gregory as chairman; Professor C. I. Howarth and Professor R. R. Porter have been appointed. *Clinical Research Board*, Professor Charlotte M. Anderson, Professor Richard Doll and Professor O. L. Wade have been appointed. *Tropical Medicine Research Board*, Dr L. G. Goodwin and Professor J. N. Morris have been appointed.