

# CORRESPONDENCE

## Biological Data

SIR,—In its 1969 *International Compendium of Numerical Data Projects*, the Committee on Data for Science and Technology of the International Council of Scientific Unions listed three handbooks under the designation "Biology" as constituting the total data-collecting activities of life scientists. It is impossible to imagine that this reflects a true picture of the number of projects throughout the world that systematically extract, evaluate, and publish data in the biological sciences.

As a first step toward determining current data-collecting activities, the International Union of Biological Sciences, through its representative to CODATA, is attempting to survey existing data programs, compilations, and centres. The IUBS objectives in

obtaining this information are threefold: (1) The immediate benefit will be to reveal the kinds of biological data being collected and where they can be obtained. (2) At a later date, information gaps can be identified and steps taken to provide the required data. (3) Eventually, the coordination of data-collection efforts can be considered for the purpose of eliminating costly duplication.

If you are engaged in a data-collecting activity in any subfield of biology, your cooperation in contacting me as soon as possible would be greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

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## Announcements

### University News

**Professor H. Thorpe** has been appointed to the chair and headship of the Department of Geography, **University of Birmingham**.

**Dr M. J. Frazer**, Polytechnic of North London, has been appointed to the chair of chemical education in the School of Chemical Sciences, **University of East Anglia**, and **Dr N. Riley** has been appointed to a personal chair in the School of Mathematics and Physics.

**Mr I. G. Macdonald** has been appointed Fielden professor of pure mathematics in the **University of Manchester**, in succession to **Professor J. F. Adams**.

### Appointments

**Dr E. T. Goodwin**, superintendent of the Division of Numerical Analysis and Computing, has been appointed a deputy director at the **National Physical Laboratory**.

### International Meetings

January 27–28, **Ship Technology in the 1980s**, London (The Executive Secretary, The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG).

February 3, **Microbiological Aspects of the Breakdown of Chemicals in the Environment**, London (Assistant Secretary, SCI, 14 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PS).

February 3–5, **Energy, Man and the Environment**, Zurich (John G. Cartwright, Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute for Economic and Social Studies, Park "Im Gruene", Ruschlikon near Zurich, Switzerland).

February 8, **The Determination of Fluorine**, Sheffield (Society for Analytical Chemistry, 9/10 Savile Row, London W1X 1AF).

February 22–23, **Kinetic Data from Thermal Analysis**, Ormskirk (Society for Analytical Chemistry, 9/10 Savile Row, London W1X 1AF).

February 29–March 2, **Electro-Optical Systems Design** (Dr L. R. Baker, Optical Systems Division, Sira Institute, Chislehurst, Kent BR7 5EH).

March 2–3, **Computer Chromatography and Associated Techniques**, Mainz (Miss Sarah R. Buleton, Executive Secretary, GC Discussion Group, Institute of Petroleum, 61 New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8AR).

March 6–10, **Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy**, Cleveland (Oswald E. Wilkinson, 1972 Pittsburgh Conference, Alcoa Technical Center, PO Box 2970, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15230, USA).

March 7–9, **Core-Mantle Interface**, Melbourne, Florida (American Geophysical Union, 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington DC 20037, USA).

March 8–9, **Climatic Resources and Economic Activity**, Aberystwyth (Dr J. A. Taylor, Department of Geography, Llandinam Building, Penglais, Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire).

March 8–10, **Molecular Studies in Viral**

**Neoplasia**, Houston (Mrs Jane Brandenberger, Information Coordinator's Office, University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital, Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas 77025, USA).

March 9, **New Aspects of Mechanism and Synthesis in Organic Systems**, London (Dr John F. Gibson, The Chemical Society, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN).

March 13–15, **Instrumentation in Astronomy**, Tucson (Technical Program Committee, SPIE National Offices, PO Box 288, Redondo Beach, California 90277, USA).

March 13–17, **California Membrane Conference**, Squaw Valley, California (C. Fred Fox, California Membrane Conference, c/o Department of Bacteriology, University of California, Los Angeles, California 90024, USA).

March 14, **Acoustic Emission**, London (Meetings Officer, Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1).

March 15, **Filamentary Conduction**, London (Meetings Officer, Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX).

March 19–22, **Rationalization of the Processing Chain—Fibres to Textiles**, Brussels (Dr P. A. Arias-Soto, EVAF Textile Division, 22 Square Robert Goldschmidt, 1050 Brussels, Belgium).

March 20–23, **American Society for Neurochemistry Meeting**, Seattle, Washington (Dr W. L. Stahl, Division of Neurology, University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, Washington 98105, USA).

March 21–23, **International Medium Voltage Earthing Practices**, London (Geraldine Walker, Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL).

March 21–24, **Oceanology International 72**, Brighton (Robert Clegg, BPS Exhibitions Ltd, 4 Seaford Court, 220–222 Great Portland Street, London W1N 5HH).

March 22–24, **Non-Linear Dielectrics including Ferroelectrics**, Cambridge (Dr C. W. Smith, Department of Electrical Engineering, University of Salford, Salford M5 4WT, Lancashire).

March 22–24, **Accuracy in Spectrophotometry and Luminescence Measurements**, Gaithersburg, Maryland (James I. Shultz, B228 Chemistry Building, National Bureau of Standards, Washington DC 20234, USA).

March 27–28, **The Health Challenge in Foods**, Reading (The Secretary, National College of Food Technology, St George's Avenue, Weybridge, Surrey).

March 27–29, **Ferroelectrics and their Applications**, Edinburgh (Meetings Officer, Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX).

March 28–30, **Metalclad Switchgear**, London (Manager, IEE Conference Department, Savoy Place, London WC2R 0BL).