

combustion engines. Many derivatives of Y-alloy have been developed, among which are the RR series of alloys, one of which is used in the skin of the Concorde which is heated by passage through the air at supersonic speeds.

In the 1930s and 40s Marie Gayler took over the work at the NPL on dental amalgams. To understand the mechanism of the setting and hardening of amalgams she followed the traditional NPL procedure, which was to establish the metallurgical constitution of the alloys, consisting essentially of silver, tin and mercury. The setting proceeds by diffusion at room temperature of the mercury into the powdered silver-tin alloy. Novel metallographic techniques had to be worked out for the

study of the complex processes of diffusion and reaction. To ensure the satisfactory prosthetic performance of the amalgam filling, close control of the volume changes occurring during and after setting must be assured. In recognition of this side of her work Marie Gayler was made an Honorary Member of the British Dental Association in 1947.

Although her principal researches were concerned with aluminium alloys and dental amalgams, Marie Gayler also carried out important investigations on iron-manganese alloys, and on the melting points of pure silicon and iron. In 1947 the Institute of Metals, in whose Journal many of Marie Gayler's papers were published, awarded its

Platinum Medal jointly to her and her husband, Dr J. L. Haughton.

After her retirement she was able to devote more time to her interest in sculpture; she sculpted the head of the late Professor Hume-Rothery; which now stands in the library of the Department of Metallurgy in Oxford University.

Marie Gayler readily absorbed and whole-heartedly transmitted Rosenhain's enthusiasm and scientific resourcefulness. She worthily maintained and enhanced the traditions of the Metallurgy Department of the NPL, and her surviving colleagues remember her as a warm and helpful colleague of striking and attractive appearance.

A. J. Murphy

## announcements

### Meetings

November 11, **Ecdysone Workshop**, London (Dr. D. L. Whitehead, Tsetse Research Laboratory, Department of Veterinary Medicine, Langford House, Langford, Bristol BS18 7DU, UK).

January 29–30, 1977, **Human Skin Banking**, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Ralph M. Guttman, MS, Director, St Mary's Skin Bank, PO Box 503, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201).

March 2–4, 1977, **Cell Differentiation and Neoplasia**, Houston (Stephen C. Stuyck, MD, Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, Houston, Texas 77030).

March 28–April 1, 1977, **Scanning Electron Microscopy**, Chicago (Deadline for abstracts: October 25) (Om Johari, Annual SEM Symposia, IIT Research Institute, 10 W 35th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60616).

May 3, 1977, **Crop Protection**, Ghent (Prof. Ir. R. H. Kips, Chairman of the Organising Committee, International Symposium on Crop Protection, Faculteit van de Landbouwwetenschappen, Coupure Links 533, B-9000 Ghent, Belgium).

May 17–21, 1977, **Study of Macromolecules by NMR**, Grasmere, UK (Dr D. H. Richards, Explosives Research and Development Est., Non-metallic Materials Branch, Powdermill Lane, Waltham Abbey, Essex).

July 11–14, 1977, **Gas Kinetics**, Manchester (Fifth International Symposium on Gas Kinetics, UMIST, PO Box 88, Manchester M60 1QD).

July 11–15, 1977, **Organometallic and Co-ordination Compounds of Ger-**

### Person to Person

A limited number of copies of the *Genetic Hazards to Man from Environmental Agents*, the proceedings of a symposium held in Ottawa in May, 1975, and published in *Mutat. Res.*, **33**, (1), (1975) are available to scientists who would not have access to it otherwise. Please write to Dr John A. Heedle, Department of Biology, York University, 4700 Keele Street, Downsview, Ontario M3J 1P3, Canada.

I am conducting experiments on the variations of fungal pathogens of rice induced by pesticides. Those who are working on similar topics may please contact me if interested in exchanging views on this subject (Dr S. Balakrishnan, Dept of Pathology, College of Agriculture, Vellayani PO, Trivandrum, Kerala, India).

There will be no charge for this service. Send items (not more than 60 words) to Martin Goldman at the London office. The section will include exchanges of accommodation, personal announcements and scientific queries. We reserve the right to decline material submitted. No commercial transactions.

**manium, Tin and Lead**, Nottingham (Dr P. G. Harrison, Secretary, 2nd Ge, Sn and Pb Conference, Department of Chemistry, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham NG7 2RD, UK).

August 8–19, 1977, **Physics of Quantum Electronics**, Telluride, Colorado (Professor S. F. Jacobs, Rt. 2, Box 732D, Tucson, Arizona 85715).

August 21–26, 1977, **Singlet Oxygen and Related Species in Chemistry and Biology**, Pinawa (D. Fundytus, Conference Secretary, Technical Information Services, Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment, Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd, Pinawa, Manitoba, Canada, ROE 1LO).

August 30–September 3, 1977, **Fourth European Crystallographic Meeting**, Oxford (Dr C. K. Prout, Chemical Crystallography Laboratory, 9 Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PD, UK).

September 5–10, 1977, **Biology of Connective Tissue**, Uppsala (Professor T. Laurent, Biomedical Centre, University of Uppsala, Box 575, S-751 23 Uppsala, Sweden).

September 12–16, 1977, **Bioindicators Deterioration Regionis**, Liblice, nr Prague (Ústav krajinné ekologie CSAV honice, Czechoslovakia).

September 25–October 11, 1977, **Kimberlite**, Santa Fé, New Mexico (2nd (Ing. J. Spálény CSc.), 252 43 Prů-International Kimberlite Conference, Sylvia-K Inc., 5671 Blue Saga Drive, Littleton, Colorado 80123).

October 11–13, 1977, **Oceanic Fronts**, New Orleans, Louisiana (Deadline for abstracts: November 1) (American Geophysical Union, 1909 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006).

November 14–18, 1977, **Pan American Conference on Forensic Applications of Medicine, Dentistry, Pathology and Palaeopathology**, Mexico City (Dr William G. Eckert, Laboratory, St Francis Hospital, Wichita, Kansas 67214).