

November 17. The capital cost of the Institute is estimated at Rs. 14 lakhs. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Minister for Industries and Supplies and President of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, will lay the foundation stone of the National Metallurgical Laboratory at Jamshedpur on November 19. The initial capital expenditure on this Laboratory will be about Rs. 43 lakhs. The foundation stone of the National Physical Laboratory in Delhi will be laid by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, vice-president, new Central Government, on January 4, 1947, during the Indian Science Congress session. The estimated cost of this Laboratory is about Rs. 40 lakhs. Mr. B. G. Kher, Premier of Bombay, will lay the foundation stone of the National Chemical Laboratory at Poona some time towards the end of January 1947. The Bombay Government recently agreed to the location of this Laboratory in Poona and the transference to the Council of the land required for this purpose. This Laboratory is expected to cost Rs. 35 lakhs.

Manchester Federation of Scientific Societies

A FEDERATION of Scientific Societies has been formed in Manchester to enable the member societies to work together in matters of common interest. Pure and applied science are both strongly represented in the Federation, which will provide a meeting ground for workers in both academic and technological fields on the widest possible basis. The new body will not in any way seek to take over any of those activities which are the functions of the participating societies. It will, however, assist the executives of these societies in arranging their meetings and discussions to the greatest advantage of the members, many of whom belong to several societies. A calendar will be issued twice a year giving a list and dates of all meetings to be held by the societies in the Manchester district. The wider activities of the Federation are yet to be planned in detail. It is already interesting itself in the provision of post-graduate and refresher courses in science, and in this matter will seek the collaboration of the University of Manchester and the technical colleges. It will also pay attention to the problem of bringing scientific matters to public attention in popular form.

A need long felt by the Manchester scientific workers, and, indeed, by those of other big centres, including London, is for a scientific centre of their own. The home of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society in George Street, which frequently gave hospitality to other societies, was destroyed by enemy action in 1940. The scientific societies of Manchester need a building with a lecture theatre, meeting and committee rooms, and some provision for bodily refreshment, and it is hoped, by working together, that they may be able to satisfy this need. The principal scientific and professional societies are supporting the Federation, of which Dr. C. J. T. Cronshaw, a director of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., has accepted an invitation to be the first president. Mr. J. T. Marsh, of Tootal Broadhurst Lee Co., Ltd., is the present chairman of the committee, and Dr. E. H. Rodd, of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. (Dyestuffs Division), Blackley, is the honorary secretary.

Document Copying on Microfilm

THE photographic copying of documents and of published matter had attracted serious study in the United States for some years before war risks directed

attention in Great Britain to its value. Recent conferences, such as that organised by the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux (*Nature*, 156, 24; 1945), have established clearly that photographic methods of reproduction will have many future parts to play in the publication and duplication of documents of all types, whether for business purposes or as part of the scientific information services (see *Nature*, 157, 745; 1946. 158, 353; 1946). 'Microfilm', that is, 35-mm. film coated with a fine-grained photographic emulsion and adapted to carry a series of images usually 24 mm. × 16 mm. or 24 mm. × 32 mm., is one of the media most commonly used for this purpose; but its application has undoubtedly been hindered by the limited supply of suitable apparatus for copying the original documents or for reading the film record. Potential users of microfilm will therefore be interested in the announcement of a new document-recording camera and (No. 3) microfilm reader and printer, made by Messrs. W. Watson and Sons, Ltd., of 313 High Holborn, London, W.C.1. The camera is a general-purpose machine which makes special provision for originals in book form and can tackle single documents up to 27 in. × 18 in.; it has a magazine holding 200 ft. of film and is designed for speedy operation, with interlocked controls. In the reader, the projected image is viewed by transmission through a diffusing screen 12 in. × 12 in. The activities of the British Standards Institution in this field should do much to stimulate the production and use of such equipment in Britain.

Science To-day

A WEEKLY science news-letter entitled *Science To-day*, edited by A. W. Haslett from 104 Clifton Hill, London, N.W.2, and offered for subscription at 30s. for 12 months (50 issues), is intended to provide brief but accurate notes on the main trends in contemporary science for both the scientific and non-scientific reader. It is intended to include also book reviews and notes on books. The first issue, dated October 10, consists of eight octavo pages and touches on fish migration, radar and surveying, the giant man of old Java (*Meganthropus paleojavanicus*), the international organisation of science, and lines of nuclear research on the atom. The latter article occupies three of the eight pages and is entitled "Atom Perspective"; it outlines in very general terms the structure of the atom, pointing out that we still know very little about the nucleus itself, which is the object of much current research.

Security in the Pacific Area

A REPORT by a Chatham House Study Group and issued by the Royal Institute of International Affairs, under the title "The Pattern of Pacific Security", points out that the region is not in itself an area which possesses natural defining boundaries by which the political cartographer can almost automatically draw regional frontiers on the map of security. While there are certain interests and problems which are mainly Pacific in character, most of the Powers concerned in the region are also Powers with substantial interests elsewhere. Accordingly, the Pacific Ocean must be treated as an area which cannot be considered apart from others, and the whole argument of the report reinforces the view that a system of security in the Pacific can be established only on the wider basis of world organisation, the mainstays of which are the United States, the British Common-