white plates. Among more than two hundred books listed for sale there is a number of items of scientific interest, including the *editio princeps* of Pliny's "Historia naturalis", printed at Venice in 1469; a first edition of Newton's "Principia" (another copy is offered in Catalogue 644); an exceptionally fine copy of Hooke's "Micrographia"; and the first illustrated edition of the "Hortus Sanitatis", printed at Mainz in 1491. Many interesting works are listed in Catalogues 644 and 650, which contain 423 and 1,926 items, respectively.

Another catalogue of interest is that of Dr. E. Weil, c/o National Provincial Bank, 9 Market Place, London, N.W.11. This is No. 10, "From Alchemy to Chemistry and Pharmacology", and it includes also a section with sixty-nine works relating to the early history and development of photography. Among several works by or relating to Robert Boyle listed in this catalogue is Johann Seger von Weidenfeld's alchemical work "De Secretis Adeptorum" (London, 1684), in which the author made use of an unprinted manuscript by Boyle. Dr. Weil suggests that this manuscript, entitled "De Magisterio sive de investigatione secreti occulti Lullii", may be one of the Boyle manuscripts burned in 1688, of which, hitherto, no titles were known. This work, dedicated to Robert Boyle, will, it is stated, be described in Dr. J. F. Fulton's next addenda to his bibliography of Boyle.

Food Calories

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations has issued an interesting brochure entitled "Energy-Yielding Components of Food and Computation of Calorie Values" (from the Organisation, Washington, D.C.). This is the report of a Committee on Calorie Conversion Factors and Food Composition Tables, and contains much useful information. An appendix deals with organic acids as sources of available calories, and this includes a useful bibliography. The Committee considered the main causes of difference between estimates of energy-yielding components and of energy values, and concluded that the ideal procedure is separate determination of all the substances contained in food which contribute energy, combined with accurate assessment of their individual physiological values and their interrelationships. The question of the protein value of nitrogenous constituents is not completely resolved. Discussing carbohydrate values of foods, the Committee considers that at present the use of 'carbohydrate by difference' is justified, provided that its limitations are understood and appropriate procedures are used for deriving energy values. The value of the report cannot, however, be appreciated unless it is read.

Earthquakes during the Last Quarter of 1947

THE last quarter of 1947 opened with an earthquake on October 3 which was felt most strongly at Santarem, caused some alarm in the working-class districts of Lisbon, and damaged many buildings in Lisbon, Cascaes and Estoril. There were about ten other strong earthquakes in October in various parts of the world, including the one felt strongly at Coroni in southern Greece on October 6, and another felt strongly and causing some property damage 40 miles south-west of Fairbanks in Alaska on October 16. The latter had an aftershock on October 20. During this month, thirty-eight small earthquakes and earth tremors were felt in New Zealand, the greatest being on October 13 from an epicentre at lat. 44·2° S., long. 169·0° E., felt over most of the South Island. November opened with an intense earthquake on November 1, 150 miles north-east of Lima in Peru. This caused considerable property damage and also was responsible for the deaths of at least fifty-three people. Strong aftershocks of the earthquake occurred on November 7 and 25. Of the fourteen other strong earthquakes during the month, that on November 23 in south-west Montana was felt in Montana and Idaho. In December, some thirteen strong shocks occurred, the European ones being felt on December 13 in the Pyrenees, on December 20 in the Tirol and on December 25 at Lago d'Iseo in Italy. Seismological reports have been received from Beograd (Yugoslavia), Durham, Kew, United States Coast and Geodetic Survey and Jesuit Seismological Association, Strasbourg, Stuttgart, Wellington (New Zealand) and Zurich and the Swiss observatories.

International Conference on Sleeping Sickness

AT a conference convened jointly by the French, Belgian and British Colonial authorities and recently held at Brazzaville, French Congo, to which the Governments of Portuguese territories in Africa, of Southern Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa also sent delegates, arrangements were made for the uniform mapping of the whole of Africa south of the Sahara to show the incidence of trypanosomiasis in man and domestic animals and of the various species of tsetse fly which transmit it. It was also agreed to establish, at Brazzaville and Leopoldville, a joint bureau for the rapid exchange of information on methods of controlling the disease, and to set up in Europe a scientific committee on an international basis to supervise the organisation of research. These conclusions will now be forwarded to the Governments of all the African territories as recommendations for a concerted effort to control the disease and to work towards its gradual elimination.

Society of Chemical Industry: Annual General Meeting

THE Society of Chemical Industry will hold its annual general meeting in Edinburgh during July 12–17. This is the first annual general meeting since the War to be held outside London, and the first since 1927 to be held in Edinburgh. The president of the Society, Dr. L. H. Lampitt, chief chemist and a director of Messrs. J. Lyons and Co., Ltd., will deliver his address on July 13. On July 14 there will be a lecture by Sir John Anderson, who has been awarded the Messel Medal for 1948 of the Society. The Lister Memorial Lecture will be given on July 15. This Lecture was founded to commemorate the influence of the work of the late Lord Lister on the pharmaceutical industry in Edinburgh and was endowed in 1944 by two Edinburgh firms of drug and fine chemical manufactures, Messrs. J. F. Macfarlan and Co. and Messrs. T. and H. Smith, Ltd. The first lecturer, in 1944, was Sir Alexander Fleming. This year's Lecture will be devoted to biochemistry. A series of papers will be presented dealing with industrial chemical aspects of a number of the principal industries in the east of Scotland. They will describe some of the industrial research which has already been done in Scotland and will point to the possibilities for the future. In many cases the lectures will be followed by visits to the factories and installations of the various industries. Lectures will be given by Prof. S. Watson, principal of the East of Scotland