

biophysics and aviation physiology. The round-table meetings were attended chiefly by senior members, and the following topics were discussed: cytology, growth and development, immunity, and effect of temperature on organisms. The general impression of the conference was that the time allotted to each speaker was too short, and plans are being made to choose one or two important subjects as the theme of the conference next summer. It was fortunate that the Peiping branch of the Chinese Society of Phytopathology was able to meet with the conference on the afternoons of July 20 and 21.

Hallucinations

THE *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* for July (48, Pt. 175) has a suggestive and highly critical article by the research officer, Dr. D. J. West, in which he examines afresh the evidence hitherto collected by the Society for the supernormality of such spontaneous phenomena as precognitive dreams, apparitions and other forms of hallucinations. In the case of the precognitive dream Dr. West concludes that a perfect case has not yet been printed in the Society's publications. "There is always a flaw somewhere," he writes, adding that "the perfect case is a myth" (p. 271). In dealing with the crisis apparition, he points out that numerous and unsuspected sources of error abound, and he indicates his dissatisfaction with the evidence on which those conducting the famous Census of Hallucinations were inclined to rely. Finally, he points out how better evidence could be secured if witnesses could be persuaded to forward their results immediately to some independent source, so that adequate inquiries might be forthwith made and the original documents preserved for subsequent examination and verification.

New Fungi of Madras

A NEW species of discomycete fungus, *Bulgariastrum tumifaciens*, which causes galls upon living leaves and inflorescences of *Capparis separiæ* is described by T. S. and K. Ramakrishnan (*Proc. Ind. Acad. Sci.*, 27, B, 2; Feb., 1948). This is one of seven new species named by the same authors in their most recent additions to the purely indigenous fungus flora of Madras.

Culture Collections of Micro-organisms

As a result of a recommendation of the Specialist Conference of Culture Collections of Micro-organisms held in London in August 1947 under the auspices of the Standing Committee of the British Commonwealth Scientific Official Conference (1946), national committees were established in the several Dominions and in the United Kingdom for the co-ordination of the activities of existing collections of micro-organisms and to assist in the preparation of collection catalogues. The United Kingdom National Committee will deal also with the Crown Colonies. As a first step in this work, national committees are circulating a questionnaire to all laboratories in their areas at which collections of micro-organisms are known or believed to be maintained. Inevitably some such collections will be missed, particularly those in private hands. Owners of collections of micro-organisms in the United Kingdom and Crown Colonies who have not received a questionnaire are asked to notify Dr. Martin Ware, secretary of the United Kingdom National Committee, at the Medical Research Council, 38 Old Queen Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

Installing of Electric Discharge Lamps

DEVELOPMENTS in electric discharge lamps and the very rapid increase in their application have produced an urgent requirement for the revision of Section 8 of the Regulations for the Electrical Equipment of Buildings issued by the Institution of Electrical Engineers. A new edition, the twelfth, of the Regulations is at present in preparation; but to meet this immediate need Revised Section 8, "The Installing of Electric Discharge Lamps", has been produced and supersedes, as from July 1, the corresponding section of the eleventh edition. Fluorescent tubes operating at normal mains voltage become, for the first time, a subject of specific requirements under Section 8A, which covers all discharge lamp installations in which the open-circuit voltage does not exceed 650 volts. Section 8B gives additional requirements for high-voltage installations up to 5,000 volts to earth, which is the maximum voltage permissible.

Colonial Services Appointments

THE following appointments in the Colonial Services have been announced: E. S. Porter, agricultural officer, Kenya; H. C. Butcher, chemist, Federation of Malaya; A. R. Giles, land surveyor, Hong Kong; A. L. Griffith, temporary forest officer, Zanzibar; R. A. Neve, specialist, Agricultural Department, Gold Coast; A. G. A. Sutton, Government geologist, Mines Department, Trinidad; R. H. Wharton, medical entomologist, Federation of Malaya; J. G. M. King (agricultural officer, Tanganyika), director of livestock and agricultural services, Basutoland; H. S. Purchase (senior veterinary research officer, Kenya), chief veterinary research officer, Kenya.

Royal Society Scientific Information Conference

A SUMMARY of the recommendations of the Scientific Information Conference held during June 21–July 2 has now been issued to delegates; they will be included in the report of the Conference which is now in preparation. The Council of the Royal Society considered these recommendations on July 8, and agreed to receive them. In one of the recommendations the Conference invited the Royal Society to consider setting up a standing committee on scientific information services, and the Council has agreed in principle to do this.

Announcements

A REFRESHER COURSE on "The Mechanical Working of Metals" is being organised by the Institution of Metallurgists and will be held at Ashorne Hill, Leamington Spa, during the week-end beginning October 1. Among those giving lectures are Dr. Hugh Ford, Dr. R. Genders, Dr. E. Orowan, Dr. L. B. Pfeil, Prof. H. W. Swift and Prof. F. C. Thompson.

A FINE CHEMICAL GROUP of the Society of Chemical Industry, for "the discussion of fine chemicals, especially those of therapeutic or biological interest", has been formed. Meetings are to be held monthly, and the opening address will be delivered by Prof. J. H. Burn, on "Fine Chemicals for Medical Use", at the Royal Institution, London, W.1, on October 5. The chairman of the Group is Sir Jack Drummond, and the honorary secretary is Dr. W. Mitchell, Messrs. Stafford Allen and Sons, Ltd., Wharf Road, London, N.1.