

High-Frequency Electrical Research in Japan

A WELCOME sign of the renewal of scientific research in Japan is the publication of the first number of a new series of monographs by the Research Institute of Applied Electricity, of Hokkaido University, Sapporo. This number, entitled "Theory and Application of High-Frequency Phenomena" (edited by Prof. Y. Asami; pp. 68, 1950), consists of a group of six papers all centring around the general theme of the behaviour of materials in radio-frequency fields. Work on frequency-selective heating (previously reported briefly in *Nature*, 165, 195; 1950) is here recorded in detail by Prof. K. Higasi and Y. Ozawa. There are papers giving much experimental information on the dielectric constant and conductivities of rabbit tissues, and particularly blood and its constituents, and also on the drying of a Japanese wood by electric fields at frequencies of 50 c./s. and 10 Mc./s. T. Matsumoto gives a theoretical study of the degree of electromagnetic shielding to be expected from the use of enclosures bounded by wire netting; the variation of the screening effect with frequency, size of wire, size of mesh, and a change from iron to copper wire, in cases of practical interest are clearly brought out. The subject as a whole is reviewed by Prof. Y. Asami, director of the Institute.

Bibliography of Scientific Publications of South Asia

FOLLOWING the precedent of the Middle East Science Co-operation Office, the Science Co-operation Office for South Asia has issued a Bibliography of Scientific Publications of South Asia, covering India, Burma and Ceylon, which should be of real interest to the scientific worker and to the librarian (No. 1, January-June 1949. Pp. vi+107. Delhi: Unesco Science Co-operation Office for South Asia, 1950). All branches of science, pure and applied, are included, special attention being given to papers reporting original research. Some of the periodicals covered are not available in the Office collection or in the libraries of Delhi; but short résumés of any entry of particular interest to any scientific worker can be supplied upon request to the Office. Entries are arranged under the broad classes of the Universal Decimal Classification; but there are at present no cross-references. An author and a subject index are contemplated later. A list of scientific periodicals covered, arranged under India, Burma and Ceylon, giving the abbreviations used, rate of subscription and publisher's address is included, and separate sections will be issued for the other South Asian countries. The first number covers the period January to June 1949, but includes some 1947 and 1948 references.

National Museum of Canada: Annual Report for 1948-49

It is seldom that an annual report of a museum contains such a wealth of original papers as that of the National Museum of Canada for 1948-49 (National Museum of Canada Bulletin No. 118; pp. 120+23 plates; Ottawa: King's Printer, 1950; 25 cents). As well as the more usual details regarding accessions, additions to the display in the exhibition halls, and educational work often of a novel character, the results of field work in many directions are described by those concerned. These include: ethnological investigations carried out in British Columbia, Quebec and Nova Scotia; archaeological research in

the Prairie Provinces, the Yukon, northern Quebec and on Baffin Island; studies of birds and mammals in south-western and central western Saskatchewan; and botanical work in Manitoba and the Yukon.

Announcements

DR. O. H. WANSBROUGH-JONES, scientific adviser to the Army Council since 1946 (see *Nature*, 157, 688; 1946), has relinquished this post in order to take up that of principal director of scientific research (defence) at the Ministry of Supply.

MR. J. MULL, who has been for the past five years with the Technical and Scientific Register of the Ministry of Labour, has been appointed registrar and secretary of the Professional Engineers Appointments Bureau, 9 Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1, in succession to Dr. H. J. Nichols, who has resigned.

THE following have been elected officers for 1951 of the British Glaciological Society: *President*, G. Seligman; *Vice-President*, J. M. Wordie; *Honorary General Secretary*, A. H. Bolitho (c/o Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, London, S.W.7); *Honorary Treasurer*, T. H. Best; *Meetings Secretary*, D. S. Brock.

THE second annual conference of the Society for the Study of Fertility will be held at Girton College, Cambridge, during June 20-21. Further particulars can be obtained from the secretary, Dr. G. I. M. Swyer, University College Hospital Medical School, London, W.C.1.

A DISCUSSION on "Recent Controversies in Soviet Medical Theory", based on the work of Pavlov, A. D. Speransky, Bykov and O. B. Lepeshinskaya, has been organized by the Medical Committee of the Society for Cultural Relations with the U.S.S.R., and will be held at 8 p.m. on January 29 at 14 Kensington Square, London, W.8. Tickets, price 1s. 6d. (S.C.R. members and students, 1s.), are obtainable from the Society at the above address.

DURING April 9-14, Aslib is holding a course of lectures at Chaucer House, Malet Place, London, W.C.1, similar to that organized in previous years, for beginners in information and special-library work. There will be five lectures, each in the afternoon (preprints will be available), and in the morning visits will be paid to a number of specialized libraries. There will also be some discussion groups. The fee for the whole course is £2 2s. or, for a single day, 14s. (non-member surcharge, 10s.). Further details can be obtained from Aslib, 4 Palace Gate, London, W.8.

THE annual convention of the Institution of Chemical Engineers will be held during April 11-15 at Nutford House, Brown Street, London, W.1. The theme of the convention is "Chemical Engineering—Opportunities in Specific Industries", and a number of lectures, each on a particular industry, have been arranged. Registration forms for the convention are obtainable from the Convention Secretary, Institution of Chemical Engineers, 56 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, and must be completed before February 10.

REFERRING to the review of "Chemical Engineers' Handbook" in *Nature* of January 6, p. 4, the publishers, the McGraw-Hill Publishing Co., Ltd., state that the price of the American edition is 127s. 6d.; an English edition, a facsimile of the American book, has been recently produced at 107s. 6d. The page dimensions of the book are 10 in. × 7 in., and not as stated in the review.