

May 9; Mont Blanc on June 21 and nearby on July 19; Tuchan (south France) on June 28; Plevlja (Montenegro) on July 1; and Gergal (Spain) also on July 1. Collective reports have been received from the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Strasbourg, St. Louis and the Swiss Seismological Observatories. Individual observatory reports have been received from Aberdeen, Beograd, Cleveland (Ohio), De Bilt, Durham, Kew, Pasadena, Stuttgart and Toledo.

Training in the Iron and Steel Industry

A REPORT of the third conference on education and training in the iron and steel industry which was held at Ashorne Hill during October 4-6 has been published by the British Iron and Steel Federation. The chairman throughout the conference was Mr. Gerald Steel, managing director of the United Steel Companies, who described the activities which had been sponsored by the training committee of the Federation during the past year. Among these were the production of training and magazine-type films, film-strips and the preparation of a special booklet to supplement the original guide to basic processes in the iron and steel industry. The British Iron and Steel Federation has also continued its arrangements for exchanging visits between promising young men in British firms and those on the Continent, about eighty British trainees having participated in the scheme this year. A new quarterly bulletin was launched in April 1950, to describe developments in training throughout the iron and steel industry, while short instructional courses were arranged for part-time training officers. Speakers at the conference included Sir Ronald Weekes, chairman of the National Advisory Council for Education in Industry and Commerce; Mr. J. H. Bagot; Mr. H. Lamb; Major J. W. Bansall and Messrs. Dobson and Young. Copies of the report may be obtained from Steel House, Tothill Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1, price 2s. 6d.

Textile Institute: Progress during 1950

THE year 1950 marked the celebration by the Textile Institute of the twenty-first anniversary of the granting of its royal charter and the fortieth anniversary of its formation. During the year, 657 new members were elected, more than a third of these being less than twenty-five years of age, and total membership of the Institute now exceeds 5,200. Of the record figure of 192 candidates for the Institute's annual examination in general textile technology, 74 were successful, also a record number, and 231 out of 301 passed in the national certificate examinations. These results are encouraging in view of the special efforts the Institute is making to ensure a more adequate supply of trained personnel to deal with the increasingly complex technical aspects of the textile industry; these efforts include the award of special places at the annual conference, the award of scholarships and the holding of annual prize competitions. At the annual conference at Cheltenham, more than two hundred members and visitors discussed yarn irregularities. Other special subjects discussed at one-day conferences were: at Macclesfield in February, the preparation of continuous filament yarn; at Morley in April, the reclamation of fibres; and at Burnley in October, yarn preparation. Viewing the finances of the Institute, the Development Fund of more than £20,000, which was raised in 1946, has been nearly spent; but by the election in 1950 of more than a hundred firms as

patrons, and by contributions from these and other sources, the Institute has been able to continue its high level of activity. Towards the end of the year Vol. 1 of a "Review of Textile Progress" and the third issue of the "Year Book" were published by the Institute, and a number of other publications are in preparation.

The Bose Institute, Calcutta

At the thirty-third anniversary meeting which was held on November 30, the director of the Bose Institute reviewed the biological investigations which are being carried out by members of the Institute. These include inquiries dealing with the metabolic processes in plants which control growth, movement and synthesis of important plant products; the metabolic products of soil micro-organisms, their ecological significance and their industrial and medicinal applications; and plant genetics. Three of the senior research fellows of the Institute are on study leave abroad investigating such problems as the physiological activities of different carotenoid compounds extracted from *Mimosa* and the measurement of cosmic ray intensity by means of pressure ionization chambers. The Institute is also developing methods for improving strains of cotton, jute and oilseeds both by hybridization and by the production of new mutants by means of irradiation with X-rays and ultrasonic radiation. After the meeting, the twelfth Acharya Jagadish Chandra Bose Memorial Lecture was given by Dr. S. K. Banerji; the subject was "Rain-Making".

International Exchange of Students for Technical Experience

THE sixteenth annual report of the Vacation Work Committee of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, has recently been published, and records that during 1950 the Committee was again highly successful in arranging for students of the Imperial College to gain experience in industrial firms both at home and abroad, and in acting as the clearing house for the provision of training to students of British universities and colleges affiliated to the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience. In 1950, 515 Imperial College students registered under the scheme, and during the summer vacation they had, in all, nearly 2,000 weeks of experience with British firms and, including students from other universities, 2,500 weeks with firms abroad. Their total earnings during this period amounted to more than £20,000. The corresponding figures for foreign students in Great Britain were 2,600 hours of work with a total remuneration of £11,000. The numbers of Imperial College students allocated to works in foreign countries were as follows: Austria (1), Belgium (6), Denmark (11), Finland (6), France (32), Germany (10), Holland (24), Norway (14), Sweden (36), Switzerland (10) and the United States (3). Rolls Royce, Ltd., and Lever Bros. and Unilever, Ltd., are continuing their financial assistance for the broadening of the Imperial College organization to include students of other universities, and the Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd., is providing nine travelling bursaries in 1951 to assist necessitous students—three British and six foreign. During the summer, students visiting Great Britain were entertained by the British Council, the Universities of Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Glasgow, London and Manchester, the Federation of British Industries, Institution of Electrical Engineers,