

ported by coloured plates of first-rate quality. In another article Sir Henry Dale discusses the transmission of impulses along muscle and nerve fibres and analyses the objections to theories of electrical conduction across cell-junctions. Dr. W. G. Palmer considers the basis of stereochemistry and its application to inorganic compounds, while Dr. D. Mackie contributes a useful biographical account of the French chemist who taught Lavoisier, Guillaume-François Rouelle. In an article on the evolution of adaptations, Prof. C. H. Waddington puts forward a hypothesis to explain how acquired characteristics may become hereditarily fixed by a process of genetic assimilation not invoking the generally discredited theory of direct inheritance. Prof. K. Mather examines the contribution of biometry to the growth of the inductive method, while B. W. Mott deals with progress in metallurgical microscopy. An interesting feature of this issue of *Endeavour* is the personal message of goodwill from the Duke of Edinburgh.

#### Directory of Sources of Specialized Information in Great Britain and Ireland

THE "Aslib Directory", published in 1928, was for many years the standard work on sources of specialized information in Great Britain and Ireland. It has been out of print for a number of years, and a new edition is now in course of preparation. The "Directory" should prove of great value to research workers and others in giving details of the chief collections of books and other material on specialized subjects and where they can be obtained. To cover as wide a field as possible, more than six thousand questionnaires have been sent to universities, colleges, technical institutions, public libraries, museums, research organizations, government departments, learned and specialist societies and commercial and industrial firms. Inevitably, some organizations which act as sources of information on certain specialized subjects may have been overlooked, and if they consider that they have a claim to be included in the "Directory", they should get in touch as soon as possible with the Director of Aslib, 4 Palace Gate, London, W.8.

#### National Science Foundation: Completion of Research Awards for 1953

THE National Science Foundation has announced the award of thirty-four research grants, amounting to about 208,000 dollars, which complete the total of grants made by the Foundation during the fiscal year 1953 for the support of basic research and related matters. During the year, the Foundation has made 292 awards totalling more than 2,151,000 dollars, and since the beginning of the programme in 1950 more than four hundred such awards have been made, totalling about 3,635,000 dollars. The fields included in the latest list are chemistry, earth sciences, environmental biology, genetic biology, molecular biology, regulatory biology, systematic biology, scientific information, scientific personnel information, and special studies in science. The duration of research grants in this group ranges from one to two years, with an average length of 1.3 years.

#### Rajasthan Academy of Sciences: Officers for 1953-54

At the third annual meeting of the Rajasthan Academy of Sciences, the following officers were elected for the session 1953-54: *President*, Dr. P. Nilakantan, principal, Birla College, Pilani; *Vice-*

*Presidents*, Dr. K. M. Gupta, professor of botany, Jaswant College, Jodpur, and Dr. A. K. Chatterji, vice-principal, Engineering College, Pilani; *Vice-Presidents* (who have held the office of president), Prof. M. L. Schroff, Calcutta, Dr. M. L. Roonwal, Dehra Dun, and Dr. G. S. Mahajani, Delhi; *Secretary*, Prof. K. Ramamurti, Rajasthan Academy of Sciences, Pilani, Rajasthan; and *Treasurer*, Shri. Roshan Singh.

#### International Union of Crystallography, 1954

As already announced, the Third General Assembly and International Congress of the International Union of Crystallography will be held in Paris during July 21-28, 1954. At the Congress, papers will be presented on all aspects of crystallographic research; there will also be an exhibition of crystallographic apparatus and books. After the Congress two specialized symposia will be held on "The Location and Function of Hydrogen" and "The Mechanism of Phase Transitions in Crystals", and there will be visits to localities of mineralogical interest. Full details of the meeting may be obtained from the General Secretary of the Union (R. C. Evans, Crystallographic Laboratory, Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, England), from the Secretary of the Programme Committee (A. J. Rose, Laboratoire de Minéralogie, 1 rue Victor Cousin, Paris 5, France) or from any of the following regional representatives of the Programme Committee: G. Menzer (Universitätsinstitut für Kristallographie und Mineralogie, Luisenstrasse 37/II, München 2, Germany), W. H. Taylor (Crystallographic Laboratory, Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, England), J. D. H. Donnay (The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.). Offers of papers for the Congress and symposia and notice of enrolment must reach the secretary of the Programme Committee (preferably on the form accompanying the first circular) by February 15, 1954. All general correspondence should also be addressed to the Secretary of the Programme Committee.

#### Announcements

MR. W. J. C. LAWRENCE has been made acting director of the John Innes Horticultural Institution as from October 1, when the former director, Dr. C. D. Darlington, took up his post as Sherardian professor of botany in the University of Oxford (*Nature*, 171, 373; 1953).

DR. R. HOLROYD, a director of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., will deliver the second Coal Science Lecture of the British Coal Utilisation Research Association on October 21 at 4.0 p.m. in the rooms of the Royal Society. He will speak on "Coal as a Source of Chemical Raw Material".

THE University of Chicago is offering three post-doctoral fellowships in statistics, worth 4,000 dollars, for the academic year 1954-55. The purpose of the fellowships, which represent the fourth year of a five-year programme supported by the Rockefeller Foundation, is to give established research workers in the biological, physical and social sciences the necessary training in modern statistical analysis for the planning of experiments and other investigations and in the analysis of empirical data. Further details pertaining to applications for these fellowships (which must be completed by February 15, 1954) can be obtained from the Committee on Statistics, University, Chicago 37.