

Myxomatosis Advisory Committee

IN reply to a question in the House of Commons on October 29, Sir Thomas Dugdale, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, stated that he and the Secretary of State for Scotland have set up the following committee to advise on the problems arising in connexion with myxomatosis in rabbits and the action that should be taken by the Government: Lord Carrington (*chairman*), Lord Dundee, Lord Merthyr, Dr. C. H. Andrewes, H. Collison, Dr. J. W. Evans, Prof. R. E. Glover, H. Gardner, J. Scott Henderson, the Hon. Mrs. George Lane, C. T. Plumb, J. N. Ritchie, J. C. Sandford, W. H. Senior, Major R. Verney and Harold Woolley. He added that all reasonably practicable steps are being taken to stamp out the only two known outbreaks of the disease that have recently come to light in Kent. Measures are also being examined for the protective inoculation of tame rabbits in case myxomatosis should spread. Future policy will be determined in the light of recommendations from the new Advisory Committee, which is meeting immediately.

Scottish Postgraduate Scholarships in Agriculture

THE Department of Agriculture for Scotland has awarded the following postgraduate scholarships in agricultural subjects, tenable for periods up to three years, at the institute shown: *Husbandry*, Q. Brown and P. M. Bremner (School of Agriculture, Cambridge), W. J. Donald, N. C. Lawson and T. M. Sutherland (University of Reading); *Agricultural Engineering*, J. Roddan and J. H. S. Torrance (King's College, University of Durham). The current awards of the following have been continued: *Husbandry*, J. Eadie (University of Edinburgh), D. Stuart Hay (University of Wisconsin), R. Laird (Ohio State University), T. D. MacLean (University of Reading), and R. R. Shepherd (Rhuakura Animal Research Station, Hamilton, New Zealand); *Agricultural Economics*, A. V. Vickery (Agricultural Economics Research Institute, Oxford).

International Botanical Congress, 1954

THE International Botanical Congress to be held in Paris in July 1954 will include, among its sections, one dealing with phycology. The preliminary programme of its meetings includes comparative cytology and biochemistry in relation to classification, algal life-cycles, classification of Chlorophyceae, algal evolution in relation to the origin of vascular plants, fossil algae, ecology and geographical distribution of marine and freshwater algae. Special excursions, in relation to marine and freshwater algae, are planned both to precede and follow the congress. Summaries of original communications, not exceeding two hundred words in length, should be sent to Prof. Feldmann (marine) or Dr. P. Bourrelly (freshwater), at the Institut Océanographique, 195 rue St. Jacques, Paris 5, before January 15, 1954.

International Congress of Genetics

At the final session of the International Congress of Genetics recently held at Bellagio, Italy, the following resolution was unanimously passed: "The Congress asks the International Committee not to recommend that the next Congress be held in any country to which it may be expected that scientists would be refused permission to enter on grounds of race, nationality, religion, place of birth, or political associations past or present".

Announcements

DR. HAROLD KING, C.B.E., F.R.S., late chemist to the Medical Research Council, has been awarded the Addingham Gold Medal for 1952 by the trustees of the Wm. Hoffman Wood Trust for his work on the curares and the decamethonium compounds leading to the relief of pain and suffering in humanity.

MR. CHARLES BIDDOLPH is retiring in December from the post of senior technician, after forty-seven years service in the Department of Zoology, King's College, London. Former students and members of staff are invited to attend a dinner to be given in his honour on December 11. Those wishing to attend should write to Dr. M. E. Brown, Department of Zoology, King's College, London, W.C.2, by November 25.

SIR ROGER DUNCALFE, chairman of British Glues and Chemicals, Ltd., has been elected president of the British Standards Institution in succession to Viscount Waverley, whose three-year term of office has ended.

MR. HENRY S. DARLING has been appointed as head of the Hop Research Department of Wye College (University of London), near Ashford, Kent, and will be taking up his duties in April next year. Mr. Darling, who is a graduate of Queen's University, Belfast, is at present senior lecturer in zoology in the Faculty of Agriculture of the University College of Khartoum, having previously served with the Insect Infestation Division of the Ministry of Food, with the Middle East Anti-Locust Unit, as entomologist in the Research Division of the Department of Agriculture in Uganda and also in a similar capacity with the Sudan Ministry of Agriculture.

THE Meldola Medal, which is the gift of the Society of Maccabæans and is normally given annually, is being offered for award early in 1954 to the chemist who, being a British subject and less than thirty years of age on December 31, 1953, shows the most promise, as indicated by his or her published chemical work brought to the notice of the Council of the Royal Institute of Chemistry before December 31. Communications should be addressed to the President, Royal Institute of Chemistry, 30 Russell Square, London, W.C.1, the envelope being marked "Meldola Medal".

THE autumn general meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute will be held in the offices of the Institute (4 Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1) during November 24-25 and will be followed on the afternoon of November 25 and the whole of the succeeding day by a symposium on the process of sintering. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the Institute at the above address.

THE third international congress of Alpine meteorology will be held in Davos, Switzerland, during April 12-14, 1954. The four topics to be considered in detail at the meeting will be synoptic meteorology, radiation, bioclimatology, and snow and ice. Davos is the most important climatic station in Switzerland and is the site of two important institutions: the Physico-Meteorological Observatory, Davos-Platz, and the Federal Institute for the Study of Snow and Avalanches, Weissfluhjoch-Davos. Those wishing to read papers should write as soon as possible to Dr. W. Mörkofer, Observatoire physico-météorologique, Davos.