

this new Organization and includes a clear account of the development of this type of international scientific collaboration and of the work of the European Council for Nuclear Research in drafting the convention and organizing other forms of co-operation in nuclear research. The cost of the activities of the Organization, including construction and equipment of the Laboratory, is estimated at £10 million for the first seven years, towards which the United Kingdom will contribute about £2.4 million. The initial equipment will include a proton-synchrotron and a synchrocyclotron designed to produce proton beams of 25 GeV. and 600 MeV., respectively. Excerpts from the convention are annexed to the pamphlet.

### Steroids for Chromatography

THROUGH the co-operation between a number of fine-chemical companies and university laboratories in the United States, steroid preparations for use as reference standards for paper chromatographic techniques are now available. This service has been undertaken by the United States Pharmacopeial Convention, 46 Park Avenue, New York 16, which has announced the issue of the first set of twenty-four steroids of importance for identification purposes. Many of these have hitherto been unobtainable from commercial sources. The price of the complete set is 60 dollars; but the individual steroids can be obtained for 3 dollars each. They are diluted with tale in the proportion of 1:100, and from this mixture the steroid can be readily extracted with an appropriate solvent. Most of the steroids contain trace amounts of contaminants which will not normally interfere in chromatographic procedures. Physical data of the steroids are set out in an accompanying leaflet, which also provides information concerning the programme of the United States Pharmacopeia service. It is proposed to issue further sets of steroids, and in due course a total of fifty-two steroid standards will be available to all parts of the world.

### Optical Society of America: Annual Meeting

THE thirty-eighth annual meeting of the Optical Society of America was held at the George Eastman House, Rochester, New York, during October 15-17, 1953. The meeting was preceded by a special visit to the Corning Glass Works, where more than a hundred and fifty members of the Society were greeted by Dr. E. U. Condon, the director of research, and listened to a talk by Dr. W. W. Shaver, the manager of the product development division, on applied and theoretical glass problems, and to a discussion, by members of the staff of the Corning laboratories, on the properties of fused silica. The annual banquet was given on the evening of October 16, at which the Frederic Ives Medal of the Society was presented to Prof. H. M. Randall, of the University of Michigan. At the annual business meeting on the next day the new officers were installed: *President*, Deane B. Judd; *Vice-President*, R. A. Sawyer; *Secretary*, A. C. Hardy; and *Treasurer*, W. W. Graeper. The programme of the technical sessions comprised seventy-five contributed and three invited papers. The titles and abstracts of these papers are printed in the September issue of the Society's *Journal* (43, 811; 1953), and a brief report of the proceedings of the annual meeting in the November issue (43, 1126; 1953). The invited papers dealt with three-dimensional and wide-angle projection. Three-dimensional presentation with polarized light

was discussed and demonstrated by E. H. Land; the cinemascope method of wide-angle photography by J. R. Benford; and the cinerama process by F. Waller (read in his absence by F. Tuttle).

### Grant-aided Agricultural Colleges in Britain

THE Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries has appointed a committee to inspect the grant-aided agricultural colleges, with the following terms of reference: "To examine and report to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries on the work of the grant-aided Agricultural Colleges and to make recommendations as to the grants to be made to them for the five academic years beginning October 1, 1954". The members of the Committee are: Dr. K. A. H. Murray, chairman of the University Grants Committee; the Hon. Mrs. Ralph Assheton, a land agent and farmer in Lancashire; Prof. H. G. Sanders, professor of agriculture, University of Reading; and Mr. G. A. Nott, a leading West Midlands farmer.

### Scholarship Grants for Education in Plastics

THE trustees of the Plastics Industry Education Fund have recently announced that, in addition to allotting £1,000 for the third year in succession for training grants to students working full time for a science degree, £1,000 a year for the next two years has been allotted for bursaries for students taking the two-year diploma course at The Borough Polytechnic, London. This course, which was started last September, has proved very useful in training young men wanting to enter the industry. To increase facilities for training in plastics technology in the Midlands, £1,000 a year for the next two years has been allocated for scholarships to students taking the full-time associateship course at the Birmingham College of Technology. This course has been available for some time, and it is hoped that the offer of scholarships will induce sufficient students to undertake the course and keep it going from year to year.

### Lady Tata Memorial Trust: Awards

THE following new awards have been made by the Lady Tata Memorial Trust for research on leukaemia and allied diseases: *Grants for research expenses*, Dr. A. Sreenivasan (Department of Chemical Technology, University of Bombay); *Scholarships (whole-time or part-time)*, Dr. J. Ringsted (Fibiger Laboratories, University Institute for Pathological Anatomy, Copenhagen) and Dr. J. Rygaard (Radium Institute, Copenhagen); *Part-time scholarship and grant for research expenses*, Dr. M. Seligmann (Institut Pasteur, Paris). In addition, the various awards to the following research workers, which have previously been announced (see *Nature*, 171, 1098; 1953), will be renewed for another year: Dr. F. Kissmeyer-Nielsen and Dr. N. A. Stenderup (Aarhus), Dr. J. Nordmann and Dr. R. Robineaux (Paris), Dr. J. Kieler and Dr. Ragna Rask-Nielsen (Copenhagen), Dr. Astrid Fagraeus and Dr. B. Thorell (Stockholm), and Dr. G. Negroni (London).

### Exhibition in Manchester of the North-West Branch of the Institution of Electronics

THE ninth annual exhibition of the North-West Branch of the Institution of Electronics will be held in the Manchester College of Technology (Sackville Street, Manchester) during July 14-20 (10 a.m.-10 p.m.; except July 14, 2.30 p.m.-10 p.m.; and July 17, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.). The exhibition will consist of two sections: a scientific and industrial research