members of the team responsible for the work on stable isotopes at Oak Ridge are attending, while provisional acceptances have also been received from leaders of the separator groups in France, Holland and Denmark. Although a detailed programme has not yet been prepared, sessions will be included on: (1) design and operation of large mass separators; (2) ion source and collector problems especially with high beam current; (3) separation of radioactive materials; (4) chemical aspects of the production work; (5) preparation of isotopic targets; (6) developments in stable isotopes mass-analysis; (7) utilization of electromagnetically enriched isotopes. Much of the meeting will be occupied with problems of the electromagnetic separator itself; but contributions will also be welcomed on applications of stable isotopes, especially those of an unusual type. The emphasis here should be on the principles involved and not on the details of the great variety of techniques which users may employ. On the other hand, the great volume of work on the application of the isotopes of the lighter elements, particularly of hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen and oxygen, which are more economically enriched by other methods, is specifically excluded. Abstracts of papers must be submitted before April 30, and complete manuscripts before June 30. Further information can be obtained from Dr. M. L. Smith, Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, Didcot, Berks.

South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies: Congress in Folkestone

THE sixtieth annual congress of the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies will be held in Folkestone during April 14–17. The president-elect, Sir Harold Spencer Jones, has had to withdraw, and in his place the new president will be Dr. Russell J. Reynolds, consulting physician in the Departments of Radiology and Electrotherapeutics, Charing Cross Hospital, London, whose address, to be given on April 15, will be on "Cineradiography" and will be illustrated by a film. The section presidents and the subjects of their addresses will be as follows: *Archæology*, Major H. M. Rand (the Saxon shore forts of Kent); *Botany*, Dr. Francis Rose (the flora of Kent); *Geology*, Mr. C. W. Wright (unsolved problems in Cretaceous stratigraphy and palæontology); and *Zoology*, Dr. Maurice Burton (art in animals). Further information can be obtained from the honorary local secretary, T. W. Birch, 3 Shorncliffe Road, Folkestone, Kent.

Announcements

THE Museum of English Rural Life, established some four years ago in Whiteknights Park, Reading, will be formally opened by Sir Keith Murray, chairman of the University Grants Committee, on April 27. Hitherto, the Museum has been occupied with gathering and recording material; it is now to be opened to the general public (Tuesdays, Saturdays and Sundays during the summer; and Wednesdays and Saturdays during the winter).

A SUMMER laboratory course in techniques and applications of the electron microscope, on the lines of those of previous years, will be given during June 13–25 in the Laboratory of Electron Microscopy of the Department of Engineering Physics, Cornell University, under the direction of Prof. Benjamin M. Siegel. Further information can be obtained from Prof. Siegel at Rockefeller Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y.

THE British Plastics Exhibition and Convention will be held this year at Olympia, London, during June 1–11. The Convention will consist mainly of papers on the following subjects: polymer structure and properties; expanded plastics; thermoplastics; extrusion; works study; injection moulding; patents; foundry resins; and glass reinforced plastics. Applications for tickets to the Convention should be made to the Manager, British Plastics Exhibition, Dorset House, Stamford Street, London, S.E.1.

A SECOND international conference on the biochemical problems of lipids will be held in Ghent during July 27–30 prior to the Third International Congress of Biochemistry in Brussels. The colloquium will consist of four sections: physical and chemical properties, structures, and methods of separation; metabolism and biosynthesis, and enzyme systems; phospholipids and transport; and miscellaneous biochemical problems. Application forms and further information can be obtained from the secretarial office of the colloquium at St. Jansvest 12, Ghent.

A COURSE on the use of radioisotopes in engineering has been arranged by the British Council in conjunction with the Atomic Energy Research Establishment. The course will be held during June 12–25, the first week being spent at Harwell attending lectures and demonstrations on radioisotopes, and the second week being spent in and around London visiting firms and establishments engaged upon the manufacture of radioisotope equipment and the applications of radioisotopes to particular problems. The course will be limited to fifteen members, and the fee, including accommodation, will be £40. Applications should be made to the local British Council representative or to the Director, Courses Department, British Council, 65 Davies Street, London, W.1.

THE Development Commission is offering a few training grants to British honours graduates for training in research problems in marine or freshwater science, which is designed to fit them for employment either in the Fishery Research Service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Scottish Home Department or in a marine or freshwater biological research institute. The grants are worth £250–350 a year, with allowances for university fees, etc., and are tenable initially for one year, renewable up to a maximum of three years. Application forms, to be returned by May 20, can be obtained from the Secretary, Development Commission, 6*a* Dean's Yard, London, S.W.1.

A list of new compounds which have been made available for purchase during the past year has been published by L. Light and Co., Ltd., Poyle Trading Estate, Colnbrook, near Slough, Bucks. The list supplements that of the 1954 catalogue and contains a wide range of uncommon reagents which will be of interest to chemists and biochemists who have hitherto had to prepare such substances for themselves. A number of naturally occurring biological substances, including several enzymes, are also listed. The following are examples of the products picked at random from the list: acetochlorocellobiose; aldolase; arginase; 8-azaguanine; 2-carboxy-pyrrole; carnosinase; chondroitin sulphate; coenzyme II; 4-5- and 5-6- diaminouracil sulphate; 2-4-, 2-6- and 3-4- dinitrotoluene; fumaryl chloride; hemicellulose; various methylated hydroxyquinolines; ovomucoid; purine and pyrimidine as free bases; rhodanese; squaline; and tridecyl alcohol.