

provide that the Institute may elect 'companions', an honour conferred on members who, while not being chartered textile technologists, have yet advanced the general interests of the textile industry. The Institute is also now authorized to grant the status of licentiate to members who have attained the age of twenty-three and have obtained such certificate or diploma as the Institute may consider to provide sufficient evidence of education in textile subjects.

Commonwealth Fund Grants for Medical Education in the United States

THE Commonwealth Fund, New York, has given 7,150,000 dollars to ten university medical schools in the United States, to be used as the recipients deem wise, for strengthening their medical education programmes during the next few years. These special grants, which have been drawn from capital, are in addition to the Fund's annual contributions from its income, totalling 2 million dollars during the past ten years, to specific medical education projects, community health services and other traditional interests normally supported from current income. The medical schools receiving the new grants are: Chicago, 500,000 dollars; Columbia (Physicians and Surgeons), 750,000 dollars; Cornell, 750,000 dollars; Emory, 600,000 dollars; Harvard, 1,000,000 dollars; New York University, 750,000 dollars; Southern California, 300,000 dollars; Tulane, 750,000 dollars; Western Reserve, 1,000,000 dollars; and Yale, 750,000 dollars. The Commonwealth Fund was established in 1918 by Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness with the motto, "To do something for the welfare of mankind". During recent years its primary interests have been in the field of health, particularly in medical education, medical research and community health.

Vannevar Bush Fellowships in Earth Sciences

THE Department of Geology and Geophysics of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington are co-operating in the award of pre-doctoral fellowships in theoretical and experimental geology. The award will be known as the Vannevar Bush Fellowships in Earth Sciences, in honour of Dr. Vannevar Bush, who has given long service as professor and, later, dean and vice-president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and more recently as president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. In general, recipients will spend at least three or four terms in the Carnegie Institution doing laboratory work and one or two terms in the Massachusetts Institute analysing and writing up their results. Throughout their work they will be registered full-time candidates for a Ph.D. of the Massachusetts Institute and will be under the supervision of a senior member of the Department of Geology and Geophysics there. The value of the fellowships will be 200-225 dollars a month. Further information can be obtained from the Chairman, Department of Geology and Geophysics, 24-302 M.I.T., Cambridge 39, Mass.

Instrumentation and Accessories for Radioactive Isotopes

THE Scientific Instrument Manufacturers Association, in collaboration with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, has published a most useful brochure, "Radio Isotope Instrumentation and Accessories" (pp. 124; from the Association, London;

1955), which will be of great assistance to the potential user of radioactive isotopes in selecting electronic equipment to suit his special needs. Compiled by Dr. D. Taylor and Mr. A. G. Peacock, the brochure contains an introductory section in which fundamental data with regard to radioactive measurements and instrumentation are discussed and shown graphically or in tabular form, followed by a series of manufacturers' illustrated announcements and specifications of nucleonic and electronic equipment. Details are given of the various detector elements and associated apparatus used for radioactive assay and radiation monitoring, and of the availability of special equipment for research in nuclear physics and radiochemistry. Inquiries regarding the equipment described should be addressed directly to the manufacturers concerned; but special inquiries may be sent in the first place to the Head of the Electronics Division, Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell. Information and advice concerning the availability and uses of the isotopes themselves are not given in the brochure, but can be obtained from the Isotope Information Office at Harwell.

Scottish Field Studies Association

THE Scottish Field Studies Association has now been in existence for six years, and during that time, and in face of great difficulties, has done much to extend interest in natural history in Scotland. Perhaps less well known than the field centres in England and Wales, the Scottish Centre at Garth has continued to develop in spite of the fact that use has to be made of a working youth hostel for accommodation and that a warden could only be appointed on a part-time and often voluntary basis. Besides five open courses, seven schools or colleges made use of the centre, giving a total of 1,450 student-days spent at Garth in 1954, an increase of 150 over 1953. The Association now feels that the arrangement at Garth is unsuitable, and one of its most active members, C. I. C. Murdoch, makes a powerful case for the setting up of a permanent centre in upper Speyside between the three great hill masses of the Monadhliaths, the Grampians and the Cairngorms; other members of the Association are keen on developing a centre in North Argyll. All who are interested in the setting up of a permanent field centre in Scotland or wish to develop field studies are invited to get in touch with the secretary of the Association, B. W. Gibbons, Department of Botany, The University, Glasgow, W.2.

Schools Service of the National Museum of Wales

THE Schools Service of the National Museum of Wales covers the whole of Wales and Monmouthshire and is thus national in scope. It began in 1949, and it is appropriate that an attractive illustrated brochure about it should now be published under the title of "The First Five Years" (pp. 12; from the Museum, Cardiff; 1955; 6d.). The position to-day is that there are five officers, and every term more than two thousand exhibits are distributed between the secondary schools of the area served. The number of eligible schools is 365, of which more than half take part in the Service. The personnel and administration have been added to the already crowded Departments of the Museum, though during the period under review it has been found possible to construct a special room for the craftsmen and also provide a new garage for the two vans. Recently some basement accommodation was adapted to form a store