

Factors in Cell Division

THE importance of nucleic acid in growth and cell division is becoming increasingly recognized. Where division in permanent colls has been induced by the application of auxin, there appears to have been an attendant acceleration of nucleic acid synthesis. A. K. Sharma and A. Mookerjee (*Bull. Bot. Soc. Bengal.*, 8, 24; April–Oct. 1954; issued Dec. 1955 as Acharya G. C. Bose Centenary Commemoration Volume) have attempted to explore the relationship of nucleic acid to cell division and to overcome the difficulties of the penetration of cells by the large nucleic acid molecule, by growing onion root tips in solutions in which the constituents of nucleic acid, or their allies, were present, singly and in different combinations. Some fifteen different sugars, four bases (uracil, guanine, adenine and thymine) and ammonium phosphate were used in different concentrations and combinations. The results, obtained after periods of treatment of 1–168 hours, are set out in considerable detail. Counts of polyploid prophase and metaphases were taken from each root-tip specimen after appropriate treatment, and various other nuclear abnormalities were recorded. Practically all the sugars had some effect in inducing division in differentiated cells, but levulose proved the most active in this respect. In general, however, no correlation was established between the nature of the chemical used and the induction of division. The significance of the results obtained is discussed in some detail.

Research Defence Society

WHILE a great deal is known about anti-vivisection societies, not so much is known about the Research Defence Society. This Society was founded in 1908 by Stephen Paget and exists to "make known the facts about experimental research involving the use of animals and the conditions and regulations under which animal experiments are conducted in the United Kingdom; to emphasize the importance of such experiments to the welfare of mankind and animals and the great saving of human and animal life and health and the prevention of suffering already due to them; and to defend research workers in the medical, veterinary and biological sciences against attacks by anti-vivisectionists". The Society is pledged not only to make known the facts of medical research and the part played in it by animal experiments but also to ensure that full use is made of medical discoveries of benefit to mankind and animals. It is therefore producing a series of pamphlets which will emphasize the need for making use of medical knowledge gained. The first of these pamphlets will be entitled "Vaccination against Poliomyelitis"; others will deal with diseases the comparative rarity of which to-day has made people dangerously complacent or the defeat of which is in the nature of a containment rather than a total elimination; diseases like diphtheria, smallpox, tuberculosis, diabetes and many others. With the publication of the pamphlets, the Society's journal, *Conquest*, will no longer appear quarterly but will be produced at least once a year.

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences

THE following, among others, have been elected foreign honorary members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences: Prof. M. J. C. R. Courrier, professor of experimental morphology and endocrinology in the Collège de France, Paris; and Sir

Geoffrey Taylor, Yarrow research professor of the Royal Society. The following have been elected officers of the Academy for 1956–57: *President*, J. E. Burchard, dean of the School of Humanities and Social Studies, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; *Vice-President for Class I* (Mathematical and Physical Sciences), J. H. Van Vleck, dean of engineering and applied physics, Harvard University; *Vice-President for Class II* (Biological Sciences), H. Hoagland, director of the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology; *Vice-President for Class III* (Social Arts and Sciences), D. F. Edwards, chairman of the Board, Saco-Lowell Shops, Boston; *Vice-President for Class IV* (Humanities), W. F. Twaddell, professor of linguistics, Brown University; *Secretary*, B. H. Billings, vice-president and general manager of Baird Associates, Cambridge, Mass.; *Treasurer*, T. B. Adams, treasurer of the Sheraton Corporation, Boston; and *Librarian and Editor*, W. M. Whitehill, director of the Boston Athenæum.

The Institution of Mining and Metallurgy

MR. G. KEITH ALLEN, reader in mining in the Royal School of Mines, London, and formerly resident director and chief engineer of the West African Gold Corporation, Ltd., has been elected president of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy for 1957–58. Mr. Allen, who is a graduate in mining and metallurgy of the University of Melbourne, has spent most of his professional career with mining concerns in various parts of Africa. Mr. B. W. Kerrigan has been appointed secretary of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy and will take up his duties at the beginning of this September. Since 1953 Mr. Kerrigan has worked in the planning office of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and has been responsible for much of the administration of the extensive scheme for the expansion of the College.

The Society for Applied Bacteriology: Officers

THE following have been elected officers and members of committee of the Society for Applied Bacteriology: *President*, Dr. M. Ingram; *Secretary*, G. Sykes (Microbiology Division, Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., Nottingham); *Treasurer*, C. S. Miles; *Editors*, Dr. S. E. Jacobs and Dr. L. F. L. Clegg; *Publications Manager*, E. A. Whitlock; *Advertising Manager*, E. J. Mann; *Committee*, Dr. Ella M. Barnes, Dr. C. A. E. Briggs, J. W. Egdell, L. D. Galloway, H. B. Hawley, J. Liston, W. H. Pierce, C. A. Scarlett and Dr. Helen R. B. White.

The Animal Health Trust: Awards

THE Animal Health Trust has awarded research training scholarships for 1956/57 to the following: Miss J. A. Bailey, for work on parasites, at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London; R. S. Anderson, for work at the School of Veterinary Medicine in the University of Glasgow on the problem of metabolic disease in animals and, in particular, the electrolyte/water balance in animal tissues; J. W. Boyd, to study for Part II of the Tripos Examination in Pathology at the University of Cambridge preparatory to undertaking research into metabolic disease of animals; Muhammad Irfan, for research at the Royal Veterinary College, London, on the blood picture of dogs, with particular reference to tumours and leucosis conditions; Miss S. R. Wooldridge, to study problems connected with the effects of radiation upon cells in tissue culture, paying