

able for designation; but he has decided to request the Newcastle Local Education Authority to undertake the development necessary at the Rutherford College of Technology so that it may become in due course a college of advanced technology. The College is to take its place in a regional scheme in which the other colleges in the region, and in particular the Sunderland Technical College and the Constantine Technical College, Middlesbrough, will play their full part, and the Newcastle Local Education Authority is to be asked to review the government of the College to afford representation to other authorities in the region. The Sunderland Technical College is to continue as a regional college, to make its distinctive contribution to technical education in the region, and the Minister hopes that the Constantine Technical College will also develop into a regional college in the near future.

International Association for Psychopharmacology

At the International Symposium on Psychotropic Drugs, held in Milan in May, it was proposed that an International Association for Psychopharmacology should be formed. Preliminary discussions took place during the Symposium, at which an organizing committee was elected, and it was decided that a definitive meeting should be held in Zurich at the time of the Psychiatric Congress in September. In the meantime, a representative of each country undertook to get into contact with those who might be interested in the formation of such an association. Anyone who is interested, or who has definite views regarding the scope and limitations of the proposed association, is invited to write to Dr. P. B. Bradley, Medical School, Hospitals Centre, Birmingham 15.

Ciba Foundation: Report for 1956

THE report for 1956 of the Ciba Foundation for the Promotion of International Co-operation in Medical and Chemical Research lists the chairman, speakers and subjects at the ten discussion meetings held during the year. Six film sessions were also arranged. Five Foundation conferences, at which the invited audience, drawn from different countries, did not exceed thirty, were held, together with one guest symposium on "Anoxia", which represented a new departure. The eighth Ciba Foundation Lecture was given by Prof. R. B. Woodward, of Harvard University, on December 5, 1956, on "Recent Advances in the Chemistry of Natural Products". Seven British and six French candidates were selected for short-term bursaries under the Anglo-French exchange scheme, and four awards of £200-£400 and five grants of £100 were made in support of research relevant to the problems of ageing. Five volumes of the general symposia, one volume on the colloquia on endocrinology and one on the colloquia on ageing were published by J. and A. Churchill, Ltd., and in the United States the first seven of the Foundation's books were published by Blakiston Co., New York. Details of publications, as well as of library acquisitions during the year, are included in the report.

The British Library of Political and Economic Science

THE annual report for 1955-56 of the British Library of Political and Economic Science, London (pp. 16), records the completion of various additions and alterations to the premises, including provision of a special reading room for the more convenient

use of manuscripts and rare books. Inter-library loans declined noticeably, but the number of 7,110 photostat prints supplied was the highest since the service began. Readers' permits fell to 589 compared with 613 in 1954-55, the total including 460 complimentary permits for academic research, 22 fee-paying permits for commercial research and 107 for undergraduate students, permit holders from overseas numbering 155. The total number of volumes in the Library on July 31, 1956, is estimated at 371,106, or 1,022,000 individual items; and 5,574 periodical titles are currently received as gifts from governments, municipalities, institutions and societies. Expenditure on current serials was £6,224 and on current binding £4,779, while expenditure on treatises and their binding was £6,182. A list of publications by members of the Library staff is appended.

Synthetic Waxes in Museum Work

AN important article by Dr. A. E. A. Werner, of the British Museum Research Laboratory, on the uses of synthetic waxes in conservation appeared in the *Museum Journal* for April. Many of these substances differ chemically from the natural waxes but possess the same range of physical properties—inertness to ageing and ability to form an effective moisture barrier. Some of the synthetic waxes also possess properties not normally found in the natural waxes. The first group includes microcrystalline waxes isolated as by-products from the refining of petroleum. They differ from paraffin wax in being plastic and may be obtained in a wide range of melting points. The second group, which includes polyethylene, are produced by the polymerization of ethylene. These waxes are white and translucent, with a high melting point, and are characterized by their hardness and toughness. Lastly, polyethylene-glycol waxes, known commercially as 'Carbowax'; waxes of this group dissolve freely in water and in many organic solvents. The article includes some practical details and references to literature.

Thomas Telford Bicentenary Exhibitions

AN exhibition commemorating the bicentenary of the birth on August 9, 1757, of Thomas Telford is to be opened at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London, S.W.1, by the Minister of Power, Lord Mills, on July 22. The exhibition will be open free to the public between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily, Saturdays and Sundays included, until August 10.

An exhibition is being held in the entrance hall of the Engineering Laboratory of the Department of Engineering, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, to celebrate the bi-centenary of the birth of Thomas Telford. The exhibits have been collected from a large number of sources and include letters and sketches in Telford's own hand and a number of other objects of historical interest, together with a very fine collection of photographs and line drawings. The latter are grouped in sections, illustrating Telford's work on masonry and iron bridges and his designs for bridges not actually built, each illustration being accompanied by an explanatory note. A series of eighteen photographs records the various stages in the reconstruction of the Menai Bridge between 1938 and 1941. Another section is devoted to his canals and aqueducts, with a brief description of the engineering difficulties met and overcome. An illustrated map pinpoints the exhibits and denotes those works which are still in use. A chronology