covers the year ended March 31, 1958, records the decision of the Minister of Education to develop the Rutherford College of Technology into a college of advanced technology (see *Nature*, **179**, 1277; 1957), and the Committee of Chief Education Officers has already submitted recommendations on advanced courses. Among the new buildings noted in this report are the second instalment of Carlisle Technical College, to be ready for occupation for the session 1959–60; completion of the first phase of additions to the Workington College of Further Education; full completion of the Joint Stockton/Billingham Technical College; completion of the first instalment of the Durham Technical College and the Bishop Auckland Technical College; commencement of the third stage of the new Rutherford College of Technology; and the coming into use of the first instalment of Easington Technical College; the first instalments of the County Technical College, Ashington, and the South Shields Marine and Technical College; and of major extensions to the Sunderland College of Art. After a general review of the Willis Jackson report on the "Supply and Training of Teachers for Technical Colleges", the programme committee recommended that the Advisory Council should take appropriate steps to implement the recommendation that industry should be more fully acquainted with the staffing problems of colleges; that through the programme committee it should prepare a comprehensive programme of part-time courses of training for technical teachers, and that a proper service of organizing tutors should be established. The first series of short initial training courses for new teachers in technical colleges was held at Middlesbrough, Newcastle and Workington.

The International Institute for the Conservation of Museum Objects

THE International Institute for the Conservation of Museum Objects was founded to provide a permanent organization to co-ordinate and improve the knowledge, methods and working standards needed to protect and preserve precious material of all kinds. Dissemination of information on research into and development of all processes connected with conservation, both scientific and technical, is an essential part of its function. A substantial grant from the Gulbenkian Foundation, covering the next three years, has recently been received by the Institute. Since 1950 the Institute has expanded continuously, until now it has members in more than thirty countries and in most major museums of the world. It has published its journal, *Studies in Conservation*, which carries out the Institute's policy of disseminating information, since October 1952 (hitherto published twice yearly, but quarterly beginning 1959), and *Abstracts of the Technical Literature on Archaeology and the Fine Arts* since 1955. Members are kept in touch with each other by means of the *News Letter*, which also carries items of special interest, and which has been published by the American Office of the Institute since 1952. One of the most important functions of the Institute is to be able to put members in touch with the appropriate experts in any particular field of conservation. This is a service which is constantly expanding, and although up to the present time it has been available to members only, it is hoped to be able to extend the service to the general public in 1959. The Institute, while not possessing a laboratory of its own, is in touch with all institutions which specialize in technical research and development relating to the care of artistic patrimony, and has become one of the internationally recognized channels for the communication of their results.

In order to increase the international character of the Institute, the former Management Committee retired in January 1958, and was replaced by a ten-member Council, representing approximately the present topographical distribution of members of the Institute. Its members are: *President*, W. G. Constable; *Vice-Presidents*, Dr. P. B. Coremans, Dr. H. J. Plenderleith, F. I. G. Rawlins; *Secretary-General*, N. S. Brommelle; *Treasurer*, S. Rees Jones; *Ordinary Members of Council*, R. J. Gettens, Dr. S. Paramasivan, Dr. A. van Schendel, G. L. Stout; *Membership Committee*, Dr. Paul Coremans, Sheldon Keck, Dr. Arthur van Schendel, Mme. Magdeleine Hours, the Secretary-General (*ex-officio*). Information concerning the Institute can be obtained from the assistant secretary, Miss R. M. Spielman, c/o The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London, W.C.2.

Electric Technology, U.S.S.R.

THE increasing importance of Russian scientific and technical literature is reflected in the appearance of journals comprising selected papers and articles translated from the Russian. A recent addition to this series is *Electric Technology, U.S.S.R.* (four volumes comprising approximately 700 pages per annum. Annual subscription £20 (56 dollars); single volumes £6 (17 dollars). London and New York: Pergamon Press, 1958), containing translations of articles from *Elektrichestvo*, the leading Russian journal dealing with heavy-current electrical engineering and, incidentally, one of the oldest electrical journals in the world. It is proposed to publish in the new journal only those articles from *Elektrichestvo* having the greatest general interest and value. The publishers state, however, that they will be able to provide a translation of any article which has appeared in the Russian journal. The contents of the first issue represent papers selected from *Elektrichestvo*, Nos. 1–4, 1957, and cover a wide range of topics, including, for example, short-circuit transients on long lines, the problem of impulse tests on the turn insulation of a high-voltage machine, the use of amplidyne and transistor amplifiers in industrial drives, the measurement of earth resistances and the stabilities of measuring instruments using 'Magnico' and 'Alnico'.

While it is no doubt true that the existing abstracting, translating and reprint services cover the field of Russian scientific literature very satisfactorily and provide the scientist and engineer with copies of specific papers which he may wish to consult, there does appear to be a useful purpose to be served by a journal which selects, translates and publishes at intervals the most important Russian articles in a given field. Such a publication enables the reader not only to form some picture of the range of work being done in his field but also to read, from time to time, an important paper in full, without requiring to take special steps to obtain it in translation. *Electric Technology, U.S.S.R.*, is a welcome addition to the literature of electrical engineering.

International Glossary of Wood Anatomy

IT is very satisfactory to find that action is being taken in several scientific fields to secure agreement