

on the precise meaning of the many special terms that have come into use among research workers and others. Relatively few such terms have been deliberately invented and defined on introduction into the literature, and even of these a large proportion tend, with time, to be loosely used, sometimes with a meaning very different from what was originally intended. In this way, ambiguity creeps in, causing confusion until action is taken to secure standardization, or at least definition, and indication of preferred usage. Among the groups to take action of this kind is the International Association of Wood Anatomists which, realizing the need for revision of the glossary produced in 1933, has recently published a new glossary of more than two hundred terms with definitions (*Tropical Woods*, No. 107; October 1957: International Glossary of Terms used in Wood Anatomy. Pp. 36. Zurich: International Association of Wood Anatomists, Universitätsstrasse 2; New Haven, Conn.: Prof. William L. Stern, 205 Prospect Street, 1957). By a fortunate coincidence, the second part of a British Commonwealth Forest Terminology was under compilation at the same time and agreement has been secured for all the terms included in both. Furthermore, it has been agreed that these English glossaries, co-ordinated so far as possible with the American equivalents, are to form the basis of multi-lingual glossaries for international usage. This is an important step in the right direction.

Gairdner Foundation Awards in Arthritis and Heart Disease

THE Gairdner Foundation has announced its first international awards in arthritis and heart disease, totalling 40,000 dollars. Medical scientists from Britain, the United States and Canada are included among the seven recipients. The Gairdner Foundation Award of Merit of 25,000 dollars has been awarded jointly to Dr. Alfred Blalock and Dr. Helen B. Taussig (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore) for their initial development of what is popularly known as the 'blue-baby operation' for congenital obstruction of the pulmonary artery. Three annual awards of 5,000 dollars each have been awarded to the following: Profs. H. M. Rose and C. Ragan (Columbia University, New York) for their discovery of an agglutinating reaction affording the first practical laboratory blood-test for the diagnosis of rheumatoid arthritis; to Prof. W. D. M. Paton (Royal College of Surgeons of England) and Prof. Eleanor Zaimis (Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, London) for their discovery of the methonium compounds, the first drugs effective in the treatment of high blood pressure; to Dr. W. G. Bigelow (University of Toronto) for his development of the technique of hypothermia for heart surgery.

Christmas Lectures at the Science Museum

CHRISTMAS lectures for children aged thirteen to seventeen years are to be given for the first time this year at the Science Museum. There will be two subjects: first, "From Man Power to Atomic Power" on December 31, repeated on January 1 and 2; second, "The Story of Flight" on January 5, repeated on January 6 and 7. The lectures will be illustrated by many demonstrations and the young audiences will be able to see such things as a Montgolfier hot-air balloon rising to the ceiling of the lecture theatre and a noisy and spectacular 'mock-up' of a gas

turbine. The lectures will commence at 2.30 p.m. and admission is free and without ticket.

Science Museum Exhibition on Controlled Nuclear Fusion

A SMALL exhibition at the Science Museum, South Kensington, open from December 18 until the end of March 1959, illustrates British research in the field of controlled nuclear fusion. The centre-piece of the exhibition is a one-third scale model of Zeta, the apparatus developed at Harwell. This model was shown in the exhibition held at Geneva last September in connexion with the Second International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, and simulates the flashing discharge which in Zeta produces fusion of atoms. Another scale model, which was on view for six months at the Brussels World Fair, shows the apparatus known as Sceptre III, which was made by Associated Electrical Industries, Ltd., and gives results similar to those obtained with Zeta. Examples are also shown of pioneer apparatus used at the beginning of this type of work twelve years ago.

Announcements

THE Agricultural University of Wageningen is organizing an international conference on "Enzymes and their Action", to be held at Wageningen during April 6-10. Further information can be obtained from Dr. H. Veldkamp, Laboratorium voor Microbiologie, Hesselink van Suchtelenweg 4, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

AN international conference on "Co-ordination Chemistry", under the sponsorship of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry, will be held in London during April 6-11. The conference is being organized by the Chemical Society, and further information can be obtained from the Secretary, International Conference on Co-ordination Chemistry, Chemical Society, Burlington House, London, W.1.

A SYMPOSIUM on "The Biology of Weeds" is being arranged by the British Ecological Society, to be held in Oxford during April 2-4. The programme will include papers on the ecology, systematics and physiology of weeds, the origin and development of weed floras, competition and population studies in weeds, and dormancy characteristics of weed species. Limited accommodation will be provided in Brasenose College. Inquiries should be addressed to Dr. J. L. Harper, Department of Agriculture, University of Oxford.

THE Institute of Physics is arranging a conference on "Some Aspects of Magnetism", to be held in Sheffield during September 22-24, 1959. The subjects to be covered by the conference are: (a) fundamental theories of ferro-, ferri- and antiferro-magnetism, including magnetic structure; (b) theories of technical magnetization processes, including hysteresis, coercivity, anisotropy and directional effects; (c) domain phenomena in bulk materials and thin films; (d) antiferromagnetism in metals and non-metals. Each session will be opened by an invited speaker, and other contributions should be submitted to the Conference Secretary, Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1, before January 31. Abstracts (but not preprints) will be circulated before the conference, the proceedings of which will not be published in full.