

cates briefly the general character of the scientific work of the Institute during the year. Prof. van den Berghe continued his own study of the biology of the tsetse flies of Bugesera and Mimuli (Ruanda) and at Jirangi, and also on the sexual and asexual cycles of *Plasmodium atherui*. Other work was concerned with the isolation of factors of growth of trypanosomes, and a histopathological study of the hypophysis of small African mammals. In nutrition, besides an extensive study of maternal milk and the variation of its content of amino-acids and proteins as a function of the period of lactation, the nutritional value of native beers was also investigated in the region of Lake Kivu and Ruanda-Urundi and the experimental kwashiorkor of swine was studied. An investigation of the fauna of the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi was launched and also of the methods and seasons of reproduction of the birds of Tshibati. In physical anthropology a study of the growth of Africans in Ruanda-Urundi was initiated and besides an inquiry into the rural economy of Ruanda-Urundi, one was commenced into the low birth-rate of the people of the Mongo tribe. In the physical sciences observations of solar radiation and of the radio-electric activity of the Sun continued, as well as studies of the functional efficiency of dwelling houses at Bagira, Kabunambo and Usumba.

#### International Council of Scientific Unions

THE Yearbook of the International Council of Scientific Unions, 1959 (Pp. 77. The Hague: International Council of Scientific Unions, 1959), provides a comprehensive reference work on the unions. Besides lists of members of the Executive Board, national members of the Council, of countries adhering to the Union, and of officers of the International Scientific Unions, it gives the membership of the Special Committees and other organs of the International Council. There is also an alphabetical list of these officers and members, the Statutes and Rules of the Council, the text of the agreement between the International Council and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the reports for 1957-58 of the Secretary-General of the International Council. The Commissions of the Unions are also detailed and there is a calendar of arrangements for 1959.

No. 2 of Volume 1 (1959) of the *International Council of Scientific Unions Review* includes D. L. V. Berkner's presidential address to the eighth General Assembly of the Council. It also includes the remarks of Sir Harold Spencer Jones, the secretary general, on some affairs of the Council and the reports of the Special Committees for the International Geophysical Year, for Oceanographic Research and for Antarctic Research. The constitution of the Committee on Contamination by Extra-Terrestrial Exploration and of the Committee on Space Research is recorded and the report of the former committee is also given. This Committee believes that there is a real danger that exploration attempts made within the next few years may produce contamination of extra-terrestrial bodies, which would complicate or render impossible more detailed studies when the technological problems of landing sensitive scientific instruments on the Moon and planets have been solved. It recommends that a specific code of conduct representing a reasonable compromise between the early initiation of lunar and planetary exploration and the need to safeguard future research should be drafted with the minimum of delay.

#### Council for the Preservation of Rural England

THE twenty-eighth annual report of the executive of the Sheffield and Peak District Branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England for the year 1959 (Pp. 28. Sheffield: Council for the Preservation of Rural England, Sheffield and Peak District Branch, 1959) is seriously concerned as to the preservation of the National Parks. It emphasizes the importance of public opinion exerting effective pressure through such bodies as the Council for the Preservation of Rural England if the Peak District National Park, and other national parks, are not to be seriously damaged. At the present time the executive is seeking to prevent the desecration of the Manifold valley by a motor road and is opposing a major attack on the Green Belt of the Sheffield Development Plan—at Middlewood in the Don valley. With the local authorities and others the Branch vigorously opposed the proposals to prospect for opencast coal in the Troway valley, but the recent Government statement that areas of natural beauty will no longer be marred for this purpose should put an end to prospecting in this area. It is pointed out, however, that absence of national funds prevented the Peak Park Branch from petitioning against the Waterworks Bill which proposes to submerge the Oler valley, one of the few remaining valleys leading to the heights of the Peak District National Park.

#### Society of Environmental Engineers

A SOCIETY of Environmental Engineers has been formed to provide a forum, by meetings, publications and visits, for the exchange of information and views among those engineers who are concerned with the development of equipment to withstand shock, vibration and other forms of environmental conditions, and who carry out research in these fields. The first meeting was held in London on May 29. Some fifty members and guests attended and papers reviewing the field of work were presented by Mr. D. A. Nutt (Armstrong Whitworth Aircraft, Ltd.), Mr. F. I. L. Knowles (Ministry of Supply) and Dr. P. Grootenhuis (Imperial College of Science and Technology). Future meetings are to be on November 25 and February 17 at the Imperial College. The first annual general meeting of the Society will be held on March 30 at the Royal Society of Arts. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Society of Environmental Engineers, 42 Manchester Street, London, W.1.

#### Progress of Chemical Engineering

IN the presidential address to the Institution of Chemical Engineers on April 28, Sir Hugh Beaver discussed the development and progress of chemical engineering in Britain, particularly in comparison with other countries. Pointing out that chemical engineering was now acknowledged as the fourth great technology, Sir Hugh thought that the Zuckerman Committee's estimate of our requirements of chemical engineers was too low. The figure of about 4,400 was below the present membership of the Institution—5,900 in 1959, and recent calculations of membership put the figure for 1965 at 8,800 and for 1967 at 11,100. Although the rate of increase had changed greatly in the past eight years, only in the past two or three had it approached the rate of increase in the United States. All these calculations, however, involved a change of attitude and policy as