

closer co-operation between the Institute and the Society were continued. A mutually agreed document entitled "Memorandum to Members—Proposal to Amalgamate the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society" was circulated, together with an explanatory letter from the president. A joint amalgamation committee has been set up and is now engaged in more detailed discussions.

At the annual meeting, the president, Mr. J. A. Ratcliffe; the honorary secretaries, Dr. C. G. Wynne,

Dr. H. H. Hopkins and Mr. A. G. Peacock; the honorary foreign secretary, Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade; and honorary treasurer, Dr. D. A. Wright, were re-elected to serve for 1959–60. The newly elected vice-presidents were: Prof. F. Llewellyn Jones and Dr. G. B. B. M. Sutherland, and the newly elected members of council: Mr. D. W. Fry, Dr. V. E. Cosslett, Prof. F. C. Frank, Prof. W. E. Burcham, Dr. R. L. F. Boyd, Dr. R. A. Smith and Prof. D. H. Wilkinson.

S. WEINTROUB

SCHOOL MEALS IN ASIA AND THE FAR EAST

VARIOUS Food and Agriculture Organization conferences, as well as regional nutrition meetings convened periodically in co-operation with the World Health Organization, have emphasized the importance of supplementary feeding as a means of improving the nutrition of vulnerable groups. The First Regional Nutrition Committee in South and East Asia, which met in Baguio, the Philippines, in 1948, recommended a type of meal which could be supplied to school-children in the region. This meal pattern emphasized the use of cheap, locally available foods that would provide the children with all essential nutrients.

The Fourth Regional Nutrition Committee of the two Organizations, which met in Tokyo in 1956, considered a number of important factors relating to school feeding programmes; it recommended that the Food and Agriculture Organization should convene a school feeding seminar for countries in South and East Asia, at which the future development of school-feeding along sound lines could be discussed by appropriate country representatives.

Much of the Food and Agriculture Organization's practical work in school-feeding has been done in co-operation with the United Nations Children's Fund, the Organization providing the technical guidance in organizing and developing programmes based initially on dried skim milk and other supplies

made available by the Fund. This Fund has become increasingly interested in the long-term development of measures to improve the nutrition of children and has recently been authorized to increase the scope of assistance which it can provide. It was agreed, therefore, that the Fund should join the Organization in convening the seminar. Because malnutrition is often a serious problem among children of pre-school age, it was also agreed that consideration would be given to this important group of the population.

The seminar was designed to bring together, from the countries concerned, workers associated with various aspects of child-feeding programmes, in particular school-feeding programmes, for consideration of the problems met in developing them and of measures needed to improve and expand them on a sound nutritional and financial basis. The Government of Japan extended an invitation for the seminar to be held in Japan, and it was held in International House, Tokyo, during November 10–19, 1958. The seminar was attended by delegates from twelve countries in the region, as well as by representatives from the World Health Organization International Co-operation Administration, and Co-operative for American Remittances to Everywhere. A report on the seminar has now been issued (H.M.S.O., 2s. 6d.).

INDUSTRIAL HEALTH IN THE POTTERIES

DURING 1956–58, four members of the factory inspectorate carried out a survey of industrial health in the pottery industry in the Stoke-on-Trent area. The survey was undertaken with the advice of the Industrial Health Advisory Committee. This Committee was set up in 1955 by the Minister of Labour and National Service to advise him on measures to further the development of industrial health services in work-places covered by the Factories Acts.

On the advice of the Committee the Minister instituted two industrial health surveys, which were to be regarded as pilot surveys. The first was of all the factories in a particular area—the town of Halifax was chosen—and the report on that survey was published in 1958. The second was a survey of a specific industry—the pottery industry.

A number of considerations led to the choice of the pottery industry. Among them was the fact that it is geographically compact, and that, although over

a number of years much has been done in the industry to eliminate or reduce the known health risk, it was considered that a survey of the pottery industry would have particular interest in giving an opportunity to assess both the success of the measures so far taken and the continuing needs.

Although a survey of this kind offers no basis for comparing conditions in the pottery industry with those of other industries, it is possible to draw some comparison between present conditions in the pottery industry and those of the past. General conditions in the industry to-day are markedly different from what they were. The industry has done a great deal, particularly in the years since the end of the Second World War, to improve working conditions and to reduce the health hazards connected with pottery manufacture.

The classic industrial disease of the pottery industry was lead poisoning, due in part to the lead glazes used. By the middle 1940's the use of low-solubility

or leadless glazes had become so widespread that it was considered practicable to prohibit the use of any glaze that was not either leadless or of low solubility. This was not an easy requirement for all firms to comply with, and the glazed tile industry was faced with a particularly difficult problem. Intensive research enabled all firms to be in a position to comply with the requirement when it became law. The other source of lead poisoning was the colour used in decorating the ware. Higher standards of cleanliness and improved methods of dust control have, so far, dealt with this hazard, with the satisfactory result that in recent years lead poisoning has virtually been eliminated from the industry.

Another major achievement of the industry, this time in reducing the risk of pneumoconiosis, has been the substitution of alumina for powdered flint in the placing of china for the biscuit fire. When it became clear that alumina was a satisfactory alternative, the china industry, in spite of some technical problems involved, agreed that the flint should be replaced by alumina. By 1947, when this change was made compulsory, all firms in the industry had in fact changed over.

Work on the control of dust in the making processes, where there is a health hazard from pneumoconiosis, is continuing. For some years the British Ceramic Research Association has been working on the dust

problems of the industry, and has done much valuable research work into the behaviour and control of dust given off in certain processes. The Research Association has already designed dust-control plant for the processes of towing and hollow-ware fettling which is proving most effective. Work is in progress on the control of dust in the dust tile-making processes, and to determine the most suitable material for workers' overalls where there is need to protect them against dust.

To provide a continuing forum for discussion of the health and safety problems of the industry, the Chief Inspector of Factories in 1956 appointed a Joint Standing Committee of the Pottery Industry. With the help of the British Ceramic Research Association, it has published an advisory booklet on dust-extraction in the pottery industry. It has also directed the attention of industry to the dangers inherent in the use of hydrofluoric acid in cleaning gold, encouraging the use of other methods which it has made known.

The aim of the survey was to present an objective picture of existing conditions in the industry and to indicate outstanding problems. The visits made by the inspectors have been followed up by action to secure improvements. The work that requires to be done in order to deal with outstanding problems is under examination by the Joint Standing Committee (H.M.S.O., 5s.).

DEVELOPMENTS IN TRAINING

A SERIES of five papers on training were given at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, to an audience of two hundred directors and industrial executives during January and February, 1957. They have now been reprinted and form a valuable addition to the scanty information available for those concerned with all aspects of training in industry*.

The first, by Prof. J. Z. Young, deals with the fundamental aspects of learning by drawing on biological studies of organisms at all levels of complexity. Developing the importance of perception in learning, W. D. Seymour, of the Department of Engineering Production in the University of Birmingham, produces evidence to show that carefully devised training procedures for manual skills which take

* *New Developments in Training: Five Studies in the Efficient Communication of Skills*. Edited by Frank A. Heller. (New Development Series No. 3.) Pp. 80. (London: Polytechnic Management Association, 1959.) 5s.

account of recent findings will usually halve the normal learning period. In the third lecture, Mrs. W. Raphael, assistant director of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology, describes the in-plant training being carried out in seven European countries and shows that the training provided for operatives exists largely in name only. F. A. Heller, head of the Department of Management Studies at the Polytechnic, shows how the development of managerial skills can be approached from the same biological and analytical points of view as any other skill training. Like other lectures in the series, he pays special attention to the methods rather than to the content of training programmes. The fifth lecture was given by S. D. M. King, director of Organization and Training, Ltd., who used case-studies to illustrate the importance of relating training to a carefully devised policy at all levels of an organization.

ERGONOMICS

THE development of modern industry with the substitution of mechanization for craftsmanship has brought new problems; the machine has reached the point where it is no longer the limiting factor in production and this in turn is imposing new stresses and strains on the operator, who can no longer be left to get along as best he can. That this was beginning to happen began to be realized about fifty years ago, and early developments in fitting the job to the man, like the motion study of Gilbreth, were part of scientific management for

increasing production through reduction of fatigue. Men of the biological sciences began to become aware that people at work were worthy of study and that remarkably little was known about their capabilities and aspirations.

It took the added stress of two world wars to stimulate any real interest. A start was made in the First World War when groups of physiologists and psychologists such as the Industrial Fatigue Research Board in the United Kingdom started work. Between the wars progress was slow, perhaps because a general