

leads to a form even more compact than the index method, and avoids the disadvantages of the latter while retaining its useful features. One point to be noted is that, to standardize the method and also to give the most rapid indication of the order of magnitude of the figure involved, the number after the indicator letter (*D* or *d*), representing the power of ten involved, should preferably be chosen so that the number before the letter lies between one and ten, as in the examples given. One further point is that the indicator letter will always occur sandwiched between two numerals, except in the representation of pure powers of ten where it would often be permissible to represent, for example, ten million by *D7* rather than *1D7*; in either case, however, because of its placing there should be no cause for confusion between this letter and any mathematical symbols in the text or any abbreviations for units of quantities involved.

In certain instances it is possible to avoid altogether having to denote a large number or a small fraction by using metric prefixes to represent decimal multiples or submultiples of the units involved (the terms used here, "deka" and "deci", stem of course from the corresponding metric prefixes); this, however, is not always a convenient procedure if we are dealing with a series of figures ranging over several powers of ten, while it is not possible to do this at all if the quantities involved are pure numbers. In any case, the metric prefixes form a collection to which it is absurd to apply the name "system"; the consistent adoption of the presently proposed notation would remove the need for such prefixes (except, perhaps, the most convenient ones between "milli-" and "kilo-") because it provides a much clearer and more direct indication of the order of magnitude involved, while this will also avoid the increasingly embarrassing problem of coining metric prefixes for multiples and submultiples outside the present limits.

Yours faithfully,

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Appointments

Dr W. H. Gutt has been appointed head of the **Building Research Station Materials Division**; **Dr L. H. Everett** has been appointed deputy head.

Announcements

Professor G. A. Barnard, University of Essex, has been elected president of the **Institute of Mathematics and its Applications**.

The **Science Research Council** invites applications from suitably qualified men and women engineers and teachers of engineering, for the 1970 **Whitworth Foundation Awards**. Candidates are asked to submit a paper of not more than 2,000 words, describing the project they would undertake if successful, by January 31, 1970. The awards may vary in length from three months to two years. Further details can be obtained from the Science Research Council, State House, High Holborn, London WC1.

An international training course on **Cell-Mediated Immune Reactions, with Special Emphasis on Molecular Aspects of Cell Surfaces** will be held in Stockholm, June 8-18, 1970. The course will be sponsored by EMBO and will be organized jointly by members of the departments of immunology, tumour biology and bacteriology at the University of Stockholm and the Karolinska Institute Medical School. Details of application can be obtained from Professor P. Perlmann, Wenner-Gren Institute, Norrtullsgatan 16, S 113 45 Stockholm, Sweden.

Awards under the **Royal Society and Nuffield Foundation Commonwealth Bursaries Scheme** have been made to the following: **Professor T. C. Chambers** (University of Melbourne) for study of the taxonomy, structure, evolution and geographical distribution of the fern genus *Blechnum*; **Dr P. M. Clifford** (McMaster University, Ontario) to study rock deformation; **Dr F. R. Hewgill** (University of Western Australia) for work on electron spin resonance techniques in studying oxidation of organic compounds; **Professor P. R. Jefferies** (University of Western Australia) to study methods used for research on microbiological oxidation of terpenoids; **Dr G. A. R. Johnston** (John Curtin School of Medical Research, Canberra) to study the active transport of likely amino-acid synaptic transmitters in the mammalian central nervous system; **Dr K. V. Krishna Rao** (Osmania University, Hyderabad) for research on organic and inorganic crystal structure analysis; **Dr C. F. Lim** (University of Singapore) to study the venomous marine snails of the family Conidae in the Australian area; **Dr J. V. Lovett** (University of New England, New South Wales) to work on cereals; **Dr K. G. Marathe** (University of Poona) to study modern methods in tracer applications and photochemistry; **Dr Soon Ng** (University of Malaya) to study various aspects of nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy; **Dr A. M. Nhonoli** (University College, Dar es Salaam) to learn new techniques in the investigation of anaemias; **Dr R. L. Oliver** (University of Adelaide) for work on granulite facies metamorphic rocks; **Dr G. I. Opat** (University of Melbourne) for research in theoretical elementary particle physics; **Dr G. S. C. Pillai** (Central Marine Fisheries Institute of South India) to study coral collections; **Dr E. Senogles** (University College of Townsville, Australia) to study gas phase free radical reactions; and **Professor T. G. Vallance** (University of Sydney) to develop and complete studies of altered mafic volcanic rocks and their metamorphic derivations from various areas in the British Isles.

International Meetings

March 4, **Electroluminescent Solid State Devices**, London (Meetings Officer, The Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1).

March 5-6, **Relaxation Phenomena and Mechanical Properties of Polyvinylchloride**, Strasbourg (Secretariat IUPAC, Macromolecular Division Conference on PVC, Centre de Recherches sur les Macromolécules, 6 rue Bousingault, 67 Strasbourg, France).

March 23-25, **Use of Small Accelerators for Teaching and Research**, Oak Ridge (Mr J. L. Duggan, Special Training Division, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, PO Box 117, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830, USA).

March 23-25, **Structural Dynamics**, Loughborough (Mr J. M. Charles, Department of Transport Technology, Loughborough University of Technology, Loughborough, Leicestershire, UK).

April 1-4, **Thermodynamics**, Cardiff (Meetings Officer, The Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1).

April 6-8, **European Congress on Perinatal Medicine**, London (Professor P. J. Huntingford, St Mary's Hospital Medical School, London W2).

April 6-10, **Analytical Chemistry**, Birmingham (Society for Analytical Chemistry, 9-10 Savile Row, London W1).

April 7-10, **Experimental Stress Analysis**, Cambridge (Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, London SW1).

April 8-9, **Nuclear Gas Turbines**, Leicester (Secretary, British Nuclear Energy Society, 1-7 Great George Street, Westminster, London SW1).

April 12–17, **Geoscience Electronics**, Washington (Technical Conference Services, IEEE Headquarters, 345 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017, USA).

April 12–17, **Railway Cybernetics**, Tokyo (Foreign Department, Japan National Railways, 1–1 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo, Japan).

April 12–18, **Metal Spraying**, Paris (CEFRACOR, 28 Rue Saint Dominique, Paris 7, France).

April 13–18, **International Iron and Steel Meeting**, Luxembourg (Verein Deutscher Eisenhüttenleute, Breite Strasse 27, 4 Dusseldorf 1, Germany).

April 13–18, **Gynaecology and Obstetrics**, New York (Professor H. C. Taylor, jun., 630 West 168th Street, New York, NY 10032, USA).

April 14–16, **Industrial Carbons and Graphite**, London (Secretary, 3rd Conference on Industrial Carbons and Graphite, Society of Chemical Industry, 14 Belgrave Square, London SW1).

April 15–17, **Polymer Solutions**, Manchester (Secretary, The Faraday Society, 6 Gray's Inn Square, Gray's Inn, London WC1).

April 21–24, **Magnetics**, Washington (Magnetic Group, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, 345 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017, USA).

April 26–30, **Group Medicine**, Winnipeg (Dr R. E. Beamish, St Mary and Vaughan Streets, Winnipeg, Canada).

April 27–May 1, **77th Health Conference**, Eastbourne (Mr A. P. Wells, The Royal Society of Health, 90 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1).

May 17–22, **Photographic Science and Engineering**, New York (Society of Photographic Scientists and Engineers, 1330 Massachusetts Avenue, NW Washington DC 20005, USA).

May 18–22, **Mechanical Behaviour of Material**, Kyoto (Society of Material Science, 1–101 Izumidono-Cho, Sakyo-Ku, Kyoto, Japan).

May 19–21, **Signal Processing Methods for Radio Telephony**, London (Conference Department, The Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London WC2).

May 24–27, **Nuclear Reactors and Radioisotopes**, Toronto (Canadian Nuclear Association, 11 Owest rue Adelaide, Toronto 1, Canada).

May 24–28, **3rd International Congress of Social and Preventive Medicine**, Venice (Segretaria del III Congresso Internazionale di Medicina Preventiva e Sociale, Ospedale al Mare, 30126, Lido di Venezia, Italy).

May 25–30, **5th IMEKO Congress**, Versailles (Institute of Measurement and Control, Dr S. S. Carlisle, 20 Peel Street, London W1).

May 26–29, **Studies in Modern Fabrics**, London (The Textile Institute, 10 Blackfriars Street, Manchester 3, UK).

May 30–June 6, **6th Congress of International Federation of Prestressing**, Prague (Mr P. Gooding, Terminal House, Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1).

June 1–5, **Nondestructive Testing**, Hannover (Secretariat der 6 ICNT, Postfach 1424, 3 Hannover, Germany).

June 1–6, **6th World Mining Congress**, Madrid (Mr A. G. Readett, International Department, National Coal Board, Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, London SW1).

June 1–6, **Mineral Processing**, Prague (Ustav Pro Vyskum Rud, Modranska 23, Prague 4, Czechoslovakia).

June 8–10, **Chemical Reaction Engineering**, Washington (Dr R. L. Goring, c/o Research Department, Central Research Division, Mobil Research and Development Corporation, POB 1025, Princeton, New Jersey 08540, USA).

June 14–20, **Large Dams**, Montreal (Secretary, US National Committee, International Commission on Large Dams of the World Power Conference, c/o Engineers Joint Council, 345 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017, USA).

June 22–25, **6th International Thyroid Conference**, Vienna (Dr R. Hofer, Medizinische Universitätsklinik, Garnisonsgasse 13, 1090, Vienna, Austria).

June 28–July 4, **4th International Congress of Radiation Research**, Evian (Secrétaire Général, Congrès International de Radiobiologie, Fondation Curie, 26 rue d'Ulm, F 75 Paris 5, France).

June 29–July 1, **Mendel Colloquium**, Brno (Secretariat of the Mendel Colloquium, Moravian Museum, Brno, Czechoslovakia).

July 3–25, **Gondwana System**, South Africa (Dr W. T. de Kock, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, POB 395, Pretoria, South Africa).

July 6–10, **Microwave Spectroscopy**, Bangor (Meetings Officer, The Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1).

July 7–9, **Scientific Management of Animal and Plant Communities for Conservation**, Norwich (Dr A. S. Watt, Botany School, University of Cambridge, UK).

July 7–10, **Stock and Recruitment**, Aarhus, Denmark (Mr B. B. Parrish, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, Marine Laboratory, POB 101, Victoria Road, Torry, Aberdeen, Scotland).

July 7–10, **Chemistry and Physics of Organic Scintillators and Liquid Scintillation Counting**, California (Dr C. T. Peng, School of Pharmacy, University of California, San Francisco Medical Center, San Francisco, California 94122, USA).

July 8–9, **Catalytic Oxidation—Principles and Processes**, London (Dr J. F. Gibson, The Chemical Society, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN).

Sabbatical Itinerants

In the hope of providing some practical assistance in the good cause of mobility between laboratories, *Nature* advertises the needs for housing of families about to take up periods of sabbatical leave. To begin with, no charge will be made for advertisements like this. It is hoped that a period of experiment will show what form these advertisements could most usefully take and whether they are effective.

Vacant: Furnished family home, University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica, for up to 6 persons, large garden, lovely outlook, domestic and garden help available; vacant end of June 1970 to end of September 1970. Please contact, by air-mail, Professor D. A. N. Hoyte, PO Box 93, Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica.

Vacant: From early July 1970 for 1 year, 4 bedroomed furnished and detached house in New Malden, Surrey. Garden, garage and full central heating. Frequent train service, 20 minutes to Victoria or Waterloo. Please contact Dr B. P. Dash, Department of Geophysics, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London SW7.