The Bituminous Coal Institute has announced that a new sulfa drug "Phthathyl sulphathiazole" renamed sulfa-halidine, has been discovered which is said to be the most effective intestinal antiseptic yet found. It will probably be highly effective in treatment of infections like bacillary dysentery, a scourge of hot countries like India. Extensive laboratory tests at Texas University Medical School proved that even after a prolonged series of treatments laboratory animals evidenced no toxic effects.

At a Conference recently called by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to consider ways and means of improving the quality of fruit products manufactured in India, it was unanimously agreed that legislation should be undertaken to ensure that fruit products manufactured in India conform to certain standard of hygiene and quality. Until such legislation was enacted, it was suggested that manufacturers should adopt the "Agmark" system under which certain conditions and standards of manufacture are laid down. The Conference agreed that a levy of Re. 1-4-0 for 100 labels of 'Agmark' should be collected and the income utilised for the maintenance of a suitable inspection staff and for carrying on the necessary propaganda so that the public may be sure of obtaining articles of quality manufactured under hygienic conditions.

A Technical Mission from the United Kingdom, headed by Mr. G. S. Gowing of the Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., together with one other member of the Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., and one of the Power-Gas Corporation Ltd., the latter representing the Association of British Chemical Plant Manufacturers, will visit India to advise on the production of artificial fertilisers for increasing food supplies. The Mission, acting for the Government of India, will undertake the following:

1. Investigate and report to the Government of India on the technical problems involved in the manufacture of sulphate of ammonia in Britain in quantities up to 350,000 tons per annum.
2. Recommend, in the light of the raw materials and power available in India, the most economic method of manufacture.
3. Indicate the approximate capital cost of the plant or plants to be installed, and calculate the approximate cost of operations and production of finished sulphate of ammonia.
4. Recommend the most suitable site or sites for the erection of the plants concerned, taking into account the raw materials available and the most economic distribution of the finished products.
5. Estimate the amount and approximate value of plant which it will be necessary to import from outside India making the fullest possible use of materials and labour available in India.

(6) If, for any reason, it should appear that nitrogenous fertilizer, in a form other than sulphate of ammonia, can be more satisfactorily manufactured under Indian conditions generally or locally, consider and recommend from a technical point of view, the most economic method of manufacture of such alternative fertilizer.

(7) Estimate the capital and operating cost of manufacture of such alternative nitrogenous fertilizer.

Sir Azizul Haque, Industries and Civil Supplies Member, is calling a conference of leading industrialists who are expected to visit the U.S. sometime in autumn. The Conference is taking place in Delhi on the 29th instant. The following are among the invitees: Mr. G. D. Birla, Mr. N. R. Sarkar, Mr. J. R. D. Tata, Mr. K. Labbhai, Lala Padampat Singha, Mr. M. A. Isphahani, Sir Sultan Chinoy and industrialists from Hyderabad.

It is learnt that a British delegation of machine tool experts is expected to visit India in the next cold weather. The delegation will advise the Government on the possibilities of increasing the output of machine tools by establishing or augmenting the machine tool industry in this country. The delegation is expected to stay for about four months.

An American Trade Mission has arrived in London to discuss the supply and distribution of goat skins with representatives of the British Ministry of Supply. The world-wide shortage of leather has brought the problem of co-ordinating supplies to the forefront. At present most of Britain's imported goat skins come from India. In America goats are bred for their hides but not yet on a scale to satisfy the requirements of the country. Developments of breeding and tanning processes will form part of the Missions programme.

To associate public opinion as clearly as possible with Central Government's policy for food administration, the Government have reconstituted the Central Food Advisory Council to advise the Department of Food on matters connected with the production, procurement and distribution of foodstuffs, including the rationing and the nutritional aspects of food supply.

To supplement the food requirements of urban areas, the Government of India have decided to launch schemes for increasing the production and supply of fish as part of their 'Grow More Food' campaign. Dr. Bimal Prasad, Director of the Zoological Survey of India, has been appointed Fisheries Development Adviser to assist Provincial Governments in preparing suitable schemes of development and co-ordinating the plans on an all-India basis.

The Madras Government have sanctioned the establishment of a Hydraulic and Irrigation
Research Station with experimental models to investigate river training methods, dissipation of energy below drops of canals and allied problems. The research station will be located at Poondi and will, it is expected, begin to function before the end of the current official year.

The decision of the Central Glass and Silicate Research Institute Committee to recommend that the Central Glass and Silicate Research Institute should be located at Calcutta, was announced by Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, Chairman of the Committee, at a luncheon given in his honour. Sir Shanti Swarup expressed his gratification at the keen interest shown in the matter by industrialists and scientists of Calcutta and at the handsome donations promised for the Institute.

Kashmir and Soviet Russia, which have a common frontier recently exchanged certain varieties of paddy. Experiments conducted at the Kashmir Rice Breeding Farm in pursuance of the rice research scheme worked in collaboration with the Imperial Agricultural Research Council, New Delhi, indicate that the Russian variety matures 4-6 weeks earlier than the indigenous variety thereby enabling Kashmir to have two paddy crops annually.

The Senate of the Calcutta University, at its meeting held recently, accepted an annual grant of Rs 6,000 to the University from the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust for five years towards the recurring expenditure for the maintenance of the Cyclotron laboratory.

The High Commissioner for Australia in India, Lt.-Gen. Sir Iver Mackey, had addressed six of the Universities in India inviting their views on the subject of an exchange of University teachers and students between India and Australia. "It is the opinion of a number of influential Indians and Australians", he writes, "that interchange of students and teachers, besides conferring benefits upon the individuals concerned, provides one of the best means of promoting knowledge, understanding and goodwill between the participating countries. It is with this belief that I submit the matter for your consideration".

The Government of Mysore have donated a capital grant of Rs. 1 lakh for opening a Metallurgical Department at the Indian Institute of Science. A recurring grant of Rs. 15,000 for a period of five years has also been made.

It is announced that the Rockefeller Foundation have made a grant of up to Rs. 15,000 to the National Institute of Sciences of India, as a contribution towards the support of scientific journals in India.

Mr. K. R Narayanan, a graduate of the Travancore University, has been awarded the Tata Scholarship of Rs. 16,000 for higher studies in England. He will join the London School of Economics to study politics, economics and journalism.

Dr. B. B. Day has been invited to address the Convocation of the Madras University scheduled to be held on the 24th of August 1944.

The Madras University, it is understood, has appointed Dr. Dinshaw R. Nanji, n.s.c. (Bir.), as Professor in the proposed College of Technology. He is at present Consulting Technologist in Birmingham and will be joining the university as soon as passage facilities are made available. Dr. M. A. Govinda Rao, M.A., Ph.D. (Lond.), is the Reader.

The Bombay University has awarded the Rustomji Rancheti Desai’s gold medal for 1944 to Dr. P. L. Narasimha Rao of the Indian Institute of Science, for his thesis on "Synthetic investigation in phenol group".

The ashes of Sir P. C. Ray have been preserved in an urn in his room in the University College of Science, Calcutta. The urn is placed on his favourite cot which he had used for years. It is proposed to preserve the room as a museum exhibiting his books, clothes and a few of his articles of furniture.

The Trustees of the Lady Tata Memorial Trust announce the Awards of the following Scholarships and Grants for the year 1944-45:

I. International Awards for research in diseases of the blood with special reference to Leucæmias—

(1) Prof. L. Doljanski, of Jerusalem: To continue studies on (i) Leucotic cells and agent of fowl leucosis in vitro, (ii) The X-ray susceptibility of leucotic agent, (iii) The cell affinities of oncogenic viruses and the mutual relationship between Roux sarcoma agent and agent of fowl leucosis. (Grant of £ 400 third year’s Award.)

(2) Dr. Jacob Furtth, of American nationality, Cornell University Medical College, New York: To continue the work in progress upon the Leucæmas like diseases of fowls and their leucotic agent to determine the nature of viruses and their relation to leucæmas and associated neoplasms lymphomatosis, myelomatosis, endotheloma, sarcomas, etc. (Grant of £ 400, tenth year’s Award.)

(3) Dr. P. A. Gorris, Guys Hospital, London: To continue the studies in the genetics of mouse Leucæmias. (Grant of £ 70, fifth year’s Award.)

(4) Dr. A. H. T. Robb-Smith, Nuffield Reader in Pathology and Morbid Anatomy, Oxford University: To continue the aid to the establishment of a “Lymphonode Registry” in the School of Pathology at Oxford to aim at better classification and follow-up of human cases showing progressive hyperplasias and neoplasms of the lymphoreticular tissues including cases of leucæmas, lymphadenoma, lymphosarcoma, etc. (Grant of £ 550, fifth year’s Award.)

(5) Dr. Werner Jacobson, Part-time Sir Halley Stewart Fellowship at the Strange-ways Research Laboratory, Cambridge: To continue the study of making a histo-chemical study of the argentaffine cells of the gut epithelium, with a view to determining whether they are the source of the intrinsic factor of Castle, and hence their bearing on the problem of pernicious anaemia and other blood diseases. (Grant of £ 300, seventh year’s Award.)

(6) Provisional Grant of £ 400, to the worker under Prof. Witts to confirm Dr. Jacobson’s research,
II. Indian Scholarships of Rs. 150 per month, each for one year from 1st July 1944 for scientific investigations having a bearing on the alleviation of human suffering—

(1) Mrs. Alamela Venkataraman, B.A., M.Sc., Haffkine Institute, Bombay: “Synthesis of Sulphanilamide Derivatives.” (Second year’s Award.)

(2) Mr. Arobinda Roy, M.Sc., University College of Science, Calcutta: “The Absorption Rate of Different Edible Oils Used in India and the Effect of Vitamins A and D and Hydrogenation." (Second year’s Award.)

(3) Miss Violet DeSouza, M.Sc., Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore: “The Investigation of Strains of Yeast and Other Hybrids as Sources of the Vitamin B Complex.” (Second year’s Award.)

(4) Mr. Narayan Gopal Joshi, B.Sc., Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay: “Vitamin Metabolism in Cancer with Special Reference to Ascorbic Acid and Glutathione.” (First year’s Award.)

(5) Mr. P. K. Bhattacharyya, M.Sc., University College of Science, Calcutta: “Investigations on Anti-Bacterial Substances Produced by Moulds.” (First year’s Award.)

(6) Mr. S. Dattatreya Rao, B.Sc. (Hons.), Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore: “Investigations on the Influence of Tocopherol and Fat on the Absorption and Utilisation of Carotene and the Function of Carotene in the Animal System.” (First year’s Award.)

MAGNETIC NOTES

Magnetic conditions during April 1944 were less disturbed than in the previous month. There were 12 quiet days, 17 days of slight disturbance and 1 day of great disturbance as against 12 quiet days, 17 days of slight disturbance and 1 day of moderate disturbance during the same month last year.

The quietest day during April 1944 was the 14th and the day of the largest disturbance the 2nd.

The individual days during the month were classified as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quiet days</th>
<th>Disturbed days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7, 11, 13, 14, 17-23, 25</td>
<td>1, 3-6, 8-10, 12, 15, 16, 24, 26-30, 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One magnetic disturbance of moderate intensity occurred during the month of April 1944 while no magnetic storm was recorded in April last year.

The mean character figure for April 1944 was 0.63, being the same as that for April 1943.

Magnetic conditions during May 1944 were far less disturbed than in the previous month. There were 20 quiet days and 11 days of slight disturbance as against 12 quiet days and 18 days of slight disturbance during the same month last year.

The quietest day during the month was the 15th and the day of the largest disturbance the 1st.

The individual days during the month were classified as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quiet days</th>
<th>Disturbed days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3, 5, 8-17, 19-23, 25, 26, 30, 31</td>
<td>1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 18, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No magnetic storm occurred during the months of May 1943 and 1944.

The mean character figure for the month of May 1944 was 0.35 as against 0.58 for May 1943.

M. PANDURANGA RAO.

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following:


“Biochemical Journal,” Vol. 37, Nos. 5-6.


“Journal of Chemical Physics,” Vol. 11, Nos. 12; and Vol. 12, Nos. 1-3.


“Discovery,” Vol. 4, No. 11; and Vol. 5, No. 1.


“Experiment Station Record,” Vol. 90, Nos. 1-3.

“Indian Farming,” Vol. 4, Nos. 10-12.


“Indian Forester,” Vol. 70, Nos. 4-6.

“Mathematics Student,” Vol. 7, Nos. 3 and 4.

“Indian Medical Gazette,” Vol. 75, Nos. 3, 4 and 5.


“Science,” Vol. 98, Nos. 2546, 2548-51, 2553-56, 2558-59; and Vol. 99, Nos. 60-68.


“Science and Culture,” Vol. 9, Nos. 10-12.

