In the second Chapter Mr. B. Ramarao contributes a paper on gold investigations in Mysore and gives an excellent summary of the gold mining activities, and more particularly of the recent and current attempts of the Geological Department to reopen some of the ancient mines. In a diagrammatic representation showing the percentages of gold production of each of the principal producing countries in the year 1940 it is shown that Africa produced about 41% of gold. Europe about 12%, Asia about 9% (of which India's share is 0·7%), Australia about 6%, Central America about 5% and North America about 27%. Almost all the gold produced in India goes to the credit of Mysore State. An excellent case has been made out in this paper for extending prospecting operations to other promising areas not only in the State but also in other parts of India.

Mr. Lakshmana Rao's paper on the road metals and lesser minerals details suitable quarry sites for building material and road material and on the occurrence of some economic minerals like lime kunkur, clays, corundum, quartz and felspar.

Mr. M. B. Ramachandra Rao's contribution on 'Geophysical Prospecting for Graphite' has a negative value in that it finds that the results of geophysical prospecting give no indications of workable deposits. Mysore Geological Survey Department also leads the rest of India in having introduced geophysical methods for engineering and prospecting problems and Mr. Ramachandra Rao has already a fine record of work to his credit in Mysore and elsewhere in this direction.

The last paper is a 'Note on Bowenite and Talc picrolite from 'Holinarsapur area' by Mr. Tirumalachar.

This record, suitably illustrated by diagrams, maps, and plates keeps up the traditions of the publications of the Mysore Geological Survey Department.

C. MAHADEVAN.

Eradication of Water-Hyacinth and Production of Compost Manure. By Megh Nath Basak. (Brochure issued by the Directorate of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal).

In this brochure, Mr. Basak has drawn attention to the urgent necessity of securing complete eradication of water-hyacinth from the Provinces of Bengal and Assam. Not only has the extensive occurrence of water-hyacinth rendered navigation in many parts of the Provinces hazardous, and affected agriculture, a conservative estimate placing the annual loss of deep-water paddy due to depradation by the weed at eleven crores of rupees, but also has raised acute problems of water pollution and public health.

Various methods suggested, in the past, for eradiction of the pest have, in practice, not been successful owing to the heavy financial burden they involve. The manufacture of different substances, such as starch, fibre, paper-pulp, etc., from water-hyacinth has also not proved economically feasible.

During 1946, composting of hyacinth, by improvising Dr. Acharya's 'Bangalore' Method to suit local conditions, was carried out at selected centres in Bengal under the supervision of Mr. Basak. In the light of experience gained then, he has advocated production of compost from hyacinth all over the Provinces as a means of eradicating the pest, at the same time securing a valuable manure. Extensive data have been cited to show that the sale of the composts produced would more than compensate the cost of the production.

While further information regarding the extent by which incidence of the pest has been brought down in the areas where composting was carried out in 1946, and also regarding the response of crops to hyacinth-composts, would have been particularly useful, the publication of the pamphlet is to be welcomed as showing a way of tackling the problem. Success in this direction lies in a concentrated effort by the Governments and Public Organisations, no less than by private agriculturists.

C. R. H.

INDIAN STANDARDS INSTITUTION CHEMICAL DIVISION

MORE than one hundred and ten chemical manufactures have already been referred for purposes of standardisation to the Chemical Division Council of ISI., which was inaugurated today in New Delhi by the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookherjee, Minister for Industry and Supply.

The Council on which all the units of chemical industry in India are represented has elected Dr. H. L. Roy of the College of Engineering and Technology, Jadavpur (Bengal) as Chairman.

Pointing out the fact that Indian industry had offered maximum co-operation with the Indian Standards Institution in all its aspects of work, the Hon'ble Dr. Mookherjee observed that while the Government realised their ultimated responsibility in respect of legislation for enforcing standards, industry's helpful attitude in this matter proved that, meanwhile standards could be fixed and enforced by mutual co-operation between the Government and industry. The establishment of the Chemical Division could help to raise the standard of production, he said, not only in the chemical industries themselves but in all those other industries which depended on the utilisation of chemicals.

It was pointed out at the meeting of the Council that besides the 110 odd subjects proposed by members of ISI for the attention of the Chemical Division, the latter was also interested in the work of the International Standards Organisation relating to a number of items such as petroleum products, varnishes, paints, etc., rubber,—plastics and general definitions relating to Chemical and Physical Test Results. The Chemical Division will take over the organisation of the secretariat for the International Standards Organisation's Committee for Shellac.