

there; page 135: the heading is given as *mycelia sterila* but included in it are *Poly-porus*, etc.

In the chapter on principles of plant disease control, the measures advocated are not the best in several instances. This chapter is in need of thorough revision.

On going through the book, one is left with the impression that it has been prepared in haste, without strict verification of the statements made. The author would do well to revise the book and bring out a corrected edition.

T. S. R.

### Books Received

*Applied Electricity* By H. Cotton. 2nd Edition. (Cleaver Hume Press Ltd.), 1953. Pp. xii + 482. Price 18 sh. 6 d.

*The Wealth of India*. Edited by B. N. Sastri. (C. S. I. R. Publications Division), 1953. Pp. xx + 236 + xxix. Price Rs 18.

*Crime Investigation*. By Paul L. Kirk. (Interscience Publishers, N.Y.), 1953. Pp. 806. Price \$ 10.00.

*The Chemistry and Physiology of the Nucleus*. Edited by V. T. Bowen. (Academic Press, Inc.), 1952. Pp. ix + 402. Price \$ 7.00.

*Signal, Noise and Resolution in Nuclear Counter Amplifiers*. By A. B. Gillespie. (Pergamon Press, Ltd.), 1953. Pp. ix + 155. Price 21 sh.

*The Elements of Nuclear Reactor Theory*. By Samuel Glasstone and Milton C. Edlund. (MacMillan & Co.), 1953. Pp. 416. Price 35 sh.

*Dissociation Energies and Spectra of Diatomic Molecules*. By A. G. Gaydon. 2nd Edition. (Chapman & Hall), 1953. Pp. xiii + 261. Price 35 sh. net.

*Ferrous Analysis (Modern Practice & Theory)*. By E. C. Pigott. 2nd Edition. (Chapman & Hall), 1953. Pp. xxvii + 690. Price 84 sh. net.

*BCG Vaccination*. (World Health Organization), 1953. Pp. 307. Price \$ 3.00.

*The Comets and Their Origin*. By R. A. Lyttleton. (Cambridge University Press), 1953. Pp. 173. Price 25 sh.

*Die-Gasturbine*. By Von J. Kruschik. (Wien Springer Verlag), 1952. Pp. xi + 469. Price \$ 15.00.

*Radiations and Living Cells*. By F. G. Spear (Chapman & Hall), 1953. Pp. xii + 222. Price 18 sh. net.

*Historical Metrology*. By A. E. Berriman. (London J. M. Dent & Sons. Ltd., New York, E. P. Dutton & Co.), 1953. Pp. xv + 224. Price 16 sh.

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## SCIENCE NOTES AND NEWS

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### Endeavour Prizes

The Imperial Chemical Industries, Limited, Publishers of the scientific review, *Endeavour*, have offered the sum of 100 guineas to be awarded as prizes for essays submitted on the following subjects: Radio-Astronomy; Colour and Chemistry; Biology in World Affairs; Science and Safety in Transport; Science and Art; Scientific Contributions to Medicine; Scientific Societies and Their Role; Power and Civilization. The competition is restricted to those who are under 25 years of age on 1st June 1953.

The essays, which must be in English and typewritten, should not exceed 4,000 words in length and only one entry is permitted from each competitor. In judging the results, special attention will be paid to the originality of approach to the subject, and great importance will be attached to literary style.

Entries should reach the Assistant Secretary,

British Association for the Advancement of Science, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1, before 1st June 1953.

### New Issue of *British Pharmacopoeia*

The first edition of the *British Pharmacopoeia* appeared in 1864 under a Section of the Medical Act, 1858, which provided for the original publication and periodical re-publication. On 2nd March 1953, appeared the eighth *British Pharmacopoeia*, now under the official sanction of the Medical Act, 1950, and for the first time published by the Pharmaceutical Press on behalf of the General Medical Council (Price 50 sh.)

The *British Pharmacopoeia*, 1953, is a complete revision. Each drug is discussed in a monograph covering such matters as chemical formula, description, solubility, methods of identification, assay and dosage in the various preparations available. For the first time, Latin



has been abandoned in the main title of the monographs (nearly 750 in all) and English is used with Latin as a sub-title. Doses are expressed in the metric system only, except for those substances and preparations commonly used or prescribed in the Imperial system. A series of 25 appendices describes standards for materials used in official tests, and descriptions of chemical, physiological and biological assay procedures. The new *British Pharmacopœia* becomes official from September 1, 1953.

### Twenty-Sixth International Congress of Industrial Chemistry

The Twenty-sixth International Congress of Industrial Chemistry will be held in Paris during 21st to 27th June 1953. Sectional meetings will be held on Chemical Analysis; Minerals; Ceramics; Resin; Rubber; Cellulose; Paper; and Textiles, etc. Further details can be had from the Secretary, XXVI Congress International De Chimie Industrielle, 28, rue Saint-Dominique, Paris VII.

### Sixth International Congress of Microbiology

The Sixth International Congress of Microbiology will be held in Rome during September 6th to 12th of this year. In addition to plenary sessions and meetings under the various sections, symposia on the following subjects have been planned to be held: Bacterial Cytology; Microbial Metabolism; Nutrition and Growth Factors; Growth Inhibitors and Chemotherapy; Morphology, Biology and Systematics of the Actinomycetales; and Host-Virus Interactions. For fuller particulars, please write to: G. Sanarelli, Segreteria del Congresso, Istituto di Igiene, Citta Universitaria, Rome, Italy.

### Antibiotics from Soil, Plants and Other Sources

A symposium on "Anti-Bacterial Substances from Soil, Plants and Other Sources", was held on 26th and 27th March 1953 in Bombay under the auspices of the Pharmaceuticals and Drugs Committee of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. In the absence of Col. R. N. Chopra, Chairman of the Committee, Dr. B. Mukerji, Director, Central Drug Research Institute and Member of the Pharmaceuticals and Drugs Committee, presided.

Twenty-one papers dealing with the isolation, testing, standardization, therapeutic uses and mode of action of anti-bacterial substances from various sources were presented at the symposium. It is proposed to publish the proceedings of the symposium in the form of a brochure consisting of abstracts of various papers and discussions thereon.

### Effects of Tannage on the Properties of Leather

Specific information regarding the effects of different tannage on the properties of leather has recently been obtained by Dr. J. R. Kanagy and associates of the National Bureau of Standards, U.S.A. Leathers tanned with chrome alone were compared with those tanned first with chrome and then re-tanned with vegetable tannins. The results in general indicate that each of the two types of leather has certain definite advantages, and that choice of tannage should depend largely on the properties desired in the finished leather.

Both methods of tanning are widely employed in the leather industry. In general, the more rapid chrome-tanning is now chiefly used for lighter leathers, such as calfskin shoe uppers and kidskins for gloves, while the two-step process is used for heavier leathers such as soles, belting and heavy uppers.

The test results showed that the vegetable tannins tend to decrease water resistance, reduce strength and increase thickness. However, on the whole, the properties produced by use of the vegetable tannins tend to make the leather more comfortable for shoes and to increase cutting value (percentage of useable hide).

### Calorie and Body-Weight

Between 1943 and 1949, the Ministry of Food, U.K., regularly made large-scale investigations of the calorie value of food reaching the consumer and the changes in average body-weight. Subjects of the investigations were housewives and men and women employed in light industries. Every year, 3,000 to 4,500 people were put on the scales and 20,000 to 30,000 furnished information about food eaten and the state of larder stocks.

Graphs plotted from this information showed a striking resemblance. During the last two years of the war, there was an increase of about 140 calories per head per day in the foods consumed, and men put on about 1½ lb. in weight, women 3 lb. In the first two post-war years, the daily calorie intake fell by 120 and men lost 1 lb., women ½ lb.; from 1947 to 1949 the energy value of the diet rose by 120 calories and men's body weight rose by 2 lb. and women's by 3 lb.

Commenting on the investigations, the Ministry of Food take the view that on certain broad assumptions, changes in body-weight can be taken as an index of the adequacy of food supplies and of the state of peoples' health.