

## SCIENCE NOTES AND NEWS

### TECHNOLOGICAL STUDIES

The Government of India have set up an All-India Council for Technical Education to promote and co-ordinate technique. In order to attain a uniformly high standard of education and examination throughout the country the All-India Council has established six All-India Boards of Technical Studies in the following main branches of engineering and technology; Engineering and Metallurgy; Architecture and Regional Planning; Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology; Textile Technology; Applied Art; Commerce and Business Administration.

### COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

The Government of India have decided to continue the existing constitution for the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in view of the unanimous opinion of the members representing industry and science on that body. They have also decided to abolish from April 1, 1947, the Industrial Research Utilisation Committee which was an advisory body to assist the Council.

### INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

Sir Ardeshir Dalal has been unanimously elected President of the Court of the Indian Institute of Science for 1947-48 in place of Sir M. Visvesvaraya who resigned from the presidency of the Court owing to reasons of health.

### REPORT OF PANEL ON COIR INDUSTRY

A drive for the improvement and expansion of coconut cultivation and for stepping up the production of coir in India is urged by the Panel appointed by the Central Government in respect of coir, rope, cordage and other fibre industries.

A target production of 229,125 tons of coir is specified by the Panel who suggest improved and mechanical methods in the retting of husks, proper grading of fibre and better communications in the coconut-producing areas. Coir can be easily impregnated with bituminous and resinous materials, which provides a unique opportunity for exploiting its uses in many directions. The Panel emphasise that India should make fuller use of the raw material by retting all available husks and by establishing roperies in Travancore, Cochin, Malabar and Bombay so as to absorb more coir. The need for the establishment of Coir Textile Institute, preferably a co-operative organization of all producers in close association with Government, is also stressed.

\* The Panel recommend steps for growing sisal in India and duty-free import of manila and sisal fibres, a tariff on imported rope, financial assistance to the industry for research purposes and a reduction in the tariffs imposed by countries importing coir mats and matting.

### PRODUCTION OF MANGANESE IN INDIA

A new process which will enable India to extract manganese directly out of her own stocks of manganese ore, of which she is the second biggest producer in the world, is described in the March issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*. The process which is worked out in the laboratories of the Indian Standard Metal Company, Ltd., Bombay, enables the extraction of the metal from ores and also electrolysis of aqueous solutions to produce pure manganese.

### VITAMINS FROM INDIGENOUS SOURCES

The Committee of the Technical Panel of the Food Department of the Government of India for the planning of vitamin production, has recently examined the question of the preparation of concentrates of vitamin A from shark liver oil, carotene from carrots, grasses and green leaves and vitamin C from common Indian fruits like *amla* and guava. It has suggested that vitamin C from such cheap sources as *amla* might be produced in the form of syrup taking care to preserve the vitamin content, and recommended that a certain proportion of edible oils and fats, provided they are not used for frying, could be fortified with carotene. These fortified oils could with advantage be given to the "Vulnerable sections" of the population.

### CERAMIC INDUSTRY IN HYDERABAD

The Nizam's Government have sanctioned a scheme designed to develop ceramic industry at a cost of Rs. 12 lakhs during the first five years. A ceramic factory for the manufacture of crockery, insulators, sanitary wares, firebricks, fireclay, etc., will be established. The daily output is expected to be five tons of mixed crockery goods and insulators and 20 tons of firebrick and fireclay. The requisite materials are available in abundance in the State.

### LINSEED OIL IN AUSTRALIA

A special variety of linseed oil, known as "Walsh" is to be produced in Australia. Contracts with flax-growers in several of the States for the supply of the necessary seed have been arranged by a leading oil marketing company. "Walsh" is resistant to rust, and there is an extensive world-wide market for the product. It is expected that in a few years Australia will be self-supporting in regard to linseed, imported from India at present.

### DEVELOPMENT OF AMAZON TRACTS

Under the auspices of UNESCO a team of scientists, headed by Dr. E. J. M. Corner, are in Rio de Janeiro making preliminary studies for the establishment of an International Institute of the Hylean (Greek, for forestry) Amazon, probably at Para, Brazil.

Staffed by experts in all branches of science, the UNESCO Institute will study botanical, zoo-

logical, chemical, geological, meteorological, anthropological and medical facets of the area, as well as its potential habitability in terms of non-indigenous peoples.

Special attention will also be given by the scientists to medicinal products and other raw materials whose extraction may now be feasible with the use of modern equipment and methods. Explorers have pointed out that tribes in certain regions of the Amazon live totally free of cancer, raising the possibility that some element in their diet will provide a cure for the dread disease. The Amazon is also the largest forest region in the world, and its rubber resources are believed to be almost limitless.

#### MANGO-SEED KERNELS AS CATTLE FEED

Animal Nutrition workers at Izatnagar, India, report that mango-seed kernel forms a new source of valuable cattle feed, fairly rich in

The agenda of the session includes several scientific reports of economic consequences of the second World War for India, conditions of Indians in South Africa and the Asian Relations Conference in India which was held in March and April this year.

#### RESOLUTION AT CHEMISTS' CONGRESS

The Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry at London, approved by acclamation the resolution sponsored by the Organic Chemist, Professor G. Morales Macedo of Peru.

The resolution said: "The eleventh International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry declare their wish that in future the science (chemistry) must be applied only to establish good relations and fraternity among different countries of the world."

#### B.H.U. COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Sadgopal has been appointed Professor of Oil and Soap Technology in the Department

### AN APPEAL EMERGENCY COMMITTEE OF ATOMIC SCIENTISTS

(INCORPORATED)  
ROOM 28, 90 NASSAU STREET, PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

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DEAR FRIEND,

Through the release of atomic energy, our generation has brought into the world the most revolutionary force since prehistoric man's discovery of fire. This basic power of the universe cannot be fitted into the outmoded concept of narrow nationalisms. For there is no secret and there is no defence; there is no possibility of control except when the aroused understanding and insistence of the peoples of the world.

We scientists recognize our inescapable responsibility to carry to our fellow-citizens an understanding of the simple facts of atomic energy and their implications for society. In this lie our only security and our only hope. We believe that an informed citizenry will act for life and not for death.

We need \$1,000,000 for this great educational task. Sustained by faith in man's ability to control his destiny through the exercise of reason, we have pledged all our strength and our knowledge to this work. I do not hesitate to call upon you to help.

Faithfully yours,  
A. EINSTEIN.

[We are confident our readers will extend their hearty and generous support to Prof. Albert Einstein's Appeal.—EDITOR.]

protein and carbohydrates. The feed is prepared by shelling the seed, slightly crushing the kernel and incorporating it up to three seers in the ration. The animals, after taking to the feed, gain weight and develop a healthy appearance.

#### SOVIET SCIENTISTS TO REPORT ON INDIA

"A Study of India" is the subject of a joint session of the History and Philosophy, Economics and Law, Literature and Language Departments of the Soviet Union Academy of Sciences which has opened in Moscow to discuss investigations of Soviet scientists in India's History, Literature and Economics.

of Industrial Chemistry at the College of Technology, Benares Hindu University.

#### AWARD OF PH.D. DEGREES

The following research scholars have been awarded the degree of the Doctor of Philosophy:—

- (1) Mr. O. Ramachandraiah (Andhra);
- (2) Mr. M. S. Muthanna (Madras);
- (3) Miss G. Sharada Bai (Bombay).

#### ERRATUM

Vol. 16, No. 6, June 1947, page 167: Article on "Technical Education in India": In the footnote read "Address by Mr. N. R. Sarkar" and "Address by Sir N. N. Sarkar".

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