

were delivered on the experiences of groups of men who were deprived of adequate diets in occupied territories, prisoners-of-war camps and elsewhere during the war. The chemistry of underground gasification of fuel was discussed by Dr. Demart of Belgium. The paper on the control of tsetse fly was of interest from the point of view of development of food production in Africa. The raw materials of rayon manufacture were discussed by Dr. Levenstein, and the production, properties and uses of seaweed rayon by Prof. Speakman.

Apart from the sectional meetings, there were several Congress lectures. These were delivered by: (1) Prof. L. Pauling (U.S.A.), on the

nature of bonds in metals and intermetallic compounds; (2) Sir Henry Dale (U.K.), on the part of chemistry in the new therapeutics; (3) Prof. P. Karrer (Switzerland), on some recent advances in organic chemistry; (4) Prof. A. Tiselius (Sweden), on the recent development in electrophoresis; (5) Prof. L. Hackspill (France), on La corbura de calcium et ses propriétés reductrices; (6) Sir Howard (U.K.), on some biological properties of chemotherapeutic antibiotics. Sir Robert Robinson delivered the closing address. The next International Congress will be held in 1949 in Holland.

## INDIAN STANDARDS INSTITUTION

THE Indian Standards Institution, referred to as ISI (pronounced "Eye-Sigh") for short, which brings India in line with other countries of the world, has been established under the auspices of the Industries Department of the Government of India. The Central Government has undertaken to finance this Institution for the first five years with an annual grant of two lakhs of rupees, which grant is being handsomely supplemented by the various Provincial and State Governments as well as the industry of the country. It is hoped that, in due course, industries will be able to support the Institution without any help from the Government.

There already exist in India certain standardisation organisations such as the Inspection Wing of the Directorate-General of Industries and Supplies, Central Standards Office of the Railway Board, Inspectorate Organisation of the Master-General of Ordnance, Development Organisation (Armaments) of the Defence Department, Bureau of Standards (Medical Institutions), Directorate-General of Indian Medical Service, Indian Drugs Act, Agmark Standards, etc. All these have been initially conceived to meet the requirements of a specific department of the Government who are large-scale purchasers of the industrial output of the country. The functions of the ISI, *vis-a-vis* these organisations will be to co-ordinate the standards of general interest prepared by them and promote them on an all-India basis.

ISI has its headquarters at New Delhi in Jaisalmer House on Mansingh Road. Affairs of the Institution are administered by the General Council, on which are represented departments of the Government of India, Provinces and States, professional societies of engineers and scientists, Chambers of Commerce, industries and other important interests. The Director is responsible for the conduct and activities of the Institution. The technical work for the preparation of standards is to be dealt with through various technical committees appointed by one of the five Divisional Councils, namely, (a) Engineering, (b) Buildings, (c) Textiles, (d) Chemicals and (e) Agricultural and Food Products Division Councils. Of these, it is proposed to organise only two Councils at present, namely, Engineering and Textile Division Councils.

The membership of the Institution is divided into two categories—the Sustaining Members and Ordinary Members. Sustaining membership is open to companies, firms, educational institu-

tions and other corporate bodies, while the ordinary membership is intended for individuals interested in the work of the Institution.

The producers as well as the large-scale consumers such as the Government Departments are well organised and can readily voice their opinions in the shaping of standards. It may be stated that with the establishment of popular governments at the Centre and elsewhere, the Government representatives on the various bodies of the Institution may be relied upon to keep in mind the interests of the masses. Eventually it may become possible to develop in the country such consumers' organisations as exist in the United States of America, United Kingdom and elsewhere.

It is the intention of the ISI to introduce what will be known as Standards Mark or Marks. The privilege for the use of these Standards Marks in conjunction with goods offered for sale will be granted to only such producers who give satisfactory evidence of their ability to exercise strict quality control on production and provide laboratory and inspection facilities necessary for ensuring that the goods they produce conform to the relevant Indian Standards.

It must also be realised that the opinion of both the consumers and producers must be backed by scientific tests and carefully planned investigations, and this is where the newly formed National Laboratories organised by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research will assist. Besides these Laboratories, all other specialised scientific institutions in the country will be called upon to lend facilities for the development of standards relating to their own field of speciality.

The task of standardisation on an international basis will be dealt with by the recently formed International Organisation for Standardisation, ISO (pronounced "Eye-So") with its headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland. The Indian Standards Institution is a member of the ISO and represents India in all matters of standardisation. It should be a matter of great satisfaction to us all that India has been elected to the Governing Council of the ISO for the next three years. India, through ISI, will also act as the Secretariat for the preparation of international standards for Lac and Mica.

Dr. Lal C. Verma, Assistant Director of the Physical Laboratories of the C.S.I.R., has been appointed Director of the Indian Standards Institution.