CURRENT SCIENCE—50 YEARS AGO

Vol. II NOVEMBER 1934 p. 221

Bombay Government Fishery Scheme.—In our issue for November 1933 ("Science News", p. 184) attention was directed to the steps taken by the Government of Bombay, in pursuance of the recommendations made in Mr. H. T. Sorley's Report, to improve the supply of fish to the city of Bombay by introducing a system of transporting fish from the fishing grounds to the city by motor launches. It will be learnt with considerable satisfaction that the scheme has proved useful and that within one year the Government has already launched a third motor vessel in connection with the scheme. It is also learnt that enquiries are being made by the local fishermen regarding the feasibility and cost of converting ordinary fishing crafts into power boats. It may, therefore, be presumed that the local fishermen are beginning to realise the benefit to their trade by the adoption of rapid and modern forms of transport. The progress of the small beginning made by Bombay in improving its fish trade should be watched with keen interest by other parts of India, especially Bengal and Madras, where primitive transport methods are still employed, in spite of an increasing demand for fish and a consequent rise in prices.

It is not yet fully realised that Fishery Industry is next only to Agriculture in this country. To relieve the distressing poverty of the masses and to improve their diet, it is absolutely essential to develop the fishery resources of India along scientific lines at an early date as was pointed by us in the October issue of 1933.

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Presentation of Papers before Scientific Meetings.—We are quoting below the suggestions made by the Group of Divisional Officers of the American Chemical Society (*Cf., Ind. Eng. Chem., News Edn.*, 1934, **12**, 300) for the effective presentation of papers by authors before scientific meetings convened for the purpose of reporting and discussing research work. Repeated criticisms levelled against the method of preparation of papers are generally valid and it is hoped that by observing the suggestions, the authors would materially assist in improving the scientific value of the meetings.

1. *Arrangement of Material.*—Manuscripts as prepared for publication are seldom suitable for oral presentation. The paper should convey clearly to the hearer: (*a*) the purpose of the work, (*b*) the experimental method, (*c*) the results obtained, and (*d*) conclusions. The nature of the material and the time available for presentation will determine the degree of emphasis to be placed on each sub-division. The author should make certain by trial against his watch that the essential points can be adequately presented in the time allotted to the paper.

2. *Statement of Purpose.*—Orient the audience clearly as to the nature and purpose of the work. A lengthy historical review is generally out of place.

3. *Technique.*—Describe the experimental method employed so as to indicate the principles involved. Omit details of apparatus or procedure unless there is some particularly novel development. Such data may be included in the published paper but will bore your audience.

4. *Statement of Results.*—Present the results graphically, preferably with diagrams. Lantern slides are more clearly seen than hand-drawn charts. These slides should be of standard size (3·25 × 4 inches) and should project clearly on the screen. Regardless of who has made the charts or slides, try them from the point of view of the audience before presenting them at the meeting. Do not read tables, a procedure which wastes time and destroys interest but point out the general trend of the data.

5. *Conclusions.*—Summarise the evidence and discuss the importance of the results or conclusions to the particular field of research involved.

6. *Manner of Presentation.*—Do not read from a manuscript verbatim. Talk directly to your audience in

a clear, loud voice. Do not face black-board or screen while speaking. Articulate distinctly.

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New Carl Zeiss Quartz Spectrograph.—As a result of many years' experiments Messrs. Zeiss have now put on the market their all-metal Quartz Spectrograph "(Qu) 24". The instrument is of extremely attractive design and completely enclosed. The spectrum can be photographed over the whole range from 2000 Å to 5800 Å, special importance having been attached to good definition of the lines in the region between 2000 Å and the short wave end of the visible spectrum. The total length of spectrum is about 230 mm. on the 24 × 6 cm plate. In order to enable scientists in India to examine this spectrograph Messrs. Adair Dutt & Co., Ltd., will, as they inform us, exhibit the instrument during the next Science Congress Exhibition in Calcutta. We do not doubt that a large number of our readers will be interested in this product of a world-renowned firm.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILVER JUBILEE MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF MICROBIOLOGISTS OF INDIA

The twenty fifth Annual Meeting of the Association of Microbiologists of India is being organised as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology during December 7–9, 1984 at Pantnagar.

A series of Symposia are being organised on the following areas of microbiology and microbial technology: 1. Developmental microbiology, 2. Alcohol production, 3. Microbial production of fine chemicals, 4. Biopesticides and biofertilizers, 5. Microbial waste disposal, 6. Extrachromosomal genetic elements and drug resistance.

Eminent national and international scientists are expected to deliver keynote lectures in the above areas of microbiology. Those desirous of participating and who are not members of the Association may submit three copies of abstracts.

To commemorate the Silver Jubilee Meeting, three best post presentations are to be suitably awarded.

Further information can be obtained from: Prof. B. N. Johri, Convener, Department of Microbiology, C.B.S. & H. G. B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar 263 145.

THE WORLD'S WEATHER ON THE SMALL SCREEN

Picking up weather satellite transmissions has either required considerable capital outlay for special equipment or very specialised knowledge to build the apparatus oneself. But now a British company has produced a low priced system that requires very little skill in operation.

The MMS 1690 can receive images from all the world's weather satellites, and can be used for commercial as well as leisure activity. The system consists of a 32-element antenna, a gallium arsenide based preamplifier, a down converter, a main receiver, a scan converter and a colour monitor.

Once the antenna is fixed to a vertical mast it needs no further adjustment. The display resolution is 265 lines, each of 256 pixels obtained with 64 grey levels. Monochrome and colour images can be displayed and the picture can be enlarged (× 2) to expand the visual display.

The signals can be recorded on cassette to build up a library of changing patterns which, when replayed through the scan converter, simulate time lapse sequences.

Information gained can be applied to farming, aviation, shipping hydroelectricity generation and any field where the weather plays a part.

Further details can be had from Microwave Modules Ltd, Brookfield Drive, Aintree, Liverpool, England L9 7AN. U.K.