

industries by providing the necessary background. The present opportunity should not be lost in laying the foundations of this industry on sound lines.

The Government of India have suggested that Indian Manufacturers might prepare a consolidated statement of their requirements of heavy chemicals and obtain them through Messrs. *Imperial Chemical Industries*, who are in close touch with the world markets with regard to these commodities. While this arrangement will provide a temporary and easy solution to the problem, this remedy will, in the long run, prove worse than the disease, as it will only serve to perpetuate our dependence on foreign supplies to nourish our industries. The Central Government should take a broader and more generous view of the problem and help the establishment of these key industries in the country. Such a step would be in the best interests not only of India, but also of the Empire. The industrial prosperity of Canada, Australia and other

Dominions, has proved to be a source of great strength to Britain in the present crisis; flourishing chemical and engineering industries in India would, in a similar manner, constitute great assets to Britain in war as well as in peace.

It is for the Central and Provincial Governments to move in the matter of organising and mobilising the material resources and technical talent and help the country to enter on the second phase of industrial development. It would be a grievous mistake if the Government should lose this opportunity. A Board of Scientific and Industrial Research or a National Research Council should be constituted to deal with all the aspects of the problem. The *Industrial Research Bureau* which is now miserably staffed and financially starved, may be reconstituted into a bigger and more comprehensive body and provided with ample funds to finance schemes of industrial research.

Biological Abstracts

THE announcement that *Biological Abstracts* will undertake a more complete abstracting of current literature in bioclimatology and biometeorology will be welcomed by research workers interested in medicine, public health, ecology, agriculture, forestry, botany or zoology, geography and other sciences. The increasing interest in climatic and meteorological factors in their relation to biology, medicine and agriculture is one of the significant trends of modern science. Ecologists, foresters, horticulturists and entomologists are all concerned with the interrelationships between climatic and meteorological factors on the one hand and the organism with which they work, on the other. Increasing attention is now being paid to bioclimatology and biometeorology in various countries and the situation necessitates

the ushering in of a mechanism for bringing together the scattered literature in this field. The abstracting journals of broad scope like *Biological Abstracts*, are admirably suited for such a synthesis and by inaugurating this service *Biological Abstracts* will be fulfilling a very important function.

The section Bioclimatology-Biometeorology will appear within the section Ecology in *Biological Abstracts*, and will be edited by Mr. Robert G. Stone of the Blue Hill Observatory, Harvard University. Under the sectional publication plan, this material will be found not only under Section A, "Abstracts of General Biology", but also under Section B, "Abstracts of Experimental Animal Biology", Section D, "Abstracts of Plant Sciences" and Section E, "Abstracts of Animal Sciences".
