

MATHEMATICAL TABLES

A NEW quarterly publication of the Division of Physical Sciences of the National Research Council, "Mathematical Tables and Aids to Computation," edited on behalf of the committee on mathematical tables and aids to computation by the chairman, Raymond Clare Archibald, will serve as a clearing-house for information concerning mathematical tables and other aids to computation.

Tools for computation have been greatly multiplied, especially during the past decade. These tools, or accounts of them, are to be found in the international range of book, pamphlet and periodical publication, not only in the fields of pure mathematics, physics, statistics, astronomy and navigation, but also in such fields as chemistry, engineering, geodesy, geology, physiology, economics and psychology. An attempt will be made to guide varied types of inquiries to such material.

The chief parts of each issue will normally be devoted to Articles, Recent Mathematical Tables (critical reviews), Mathematical Tables—Errata, Unpublished Mathematical Tables, Mechanical Aids to Computation, Notes, Queries, Queries-Replies.

It is hoped that through this quarterly workers in different fields may become conversant with published and unpublished mathematical tabular material and that the critical surveys of all tables in special fields may be especially useful. The corrections of errata in standard tables of importance and the publication of proofs of unreliability of other well-known tables ought also to save much misdirected effort. It is the belief of some members of the committee that such a publication may contribute to the war effort and become a permanent record of importance.

CONFERENCE ON ATTAINING MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS OF INSECTICIDES AND FUNGICIDES

A CONFERENCE was held in Columbus, Ohio, on February 14 to discuss the possibilities of stretching supplies of war-short fungicides, such as copper and mercury, and scarce insecticides, such as rotenone and arsenicals, by reducing dosages and increasing the efficiency of applying the unavoidably small amounts. Data on the subject were obtained by entomologists and phytopathologists in a number of state and federal experiment stations during the past season. The conference was scheduled originally for the New York meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science as part of the program of the American Association of Economic Entomologists, the American Phytopathological Society and the Biometrics Section of the American Statistical Association. It was held at this time so that the conclusions would be available before the coming growing season,

and participants could attend in conjunction with committee meetings of one of the constituent societies and related groups, which were held in Columbus on the preceding two days. The conference was aided by the cooperation of the National Research Council and several state and federal agencies.

More than 50 attended the conference, and many interesting phases of the relationship between dosage and pest control were discussed. Particular emphasis was placed on the utilization of the dosage-response technique in comparing (1) two or more materials or mixtures of materials and (2) different methods of application of the same materials. Suggestions for designing experiments to utilize dosage-response methods in 1943 are being prepared for distribution to participants in the conference and others who may be interested. A report of the results for 1942 will be issued later when the statistical analyses have been completed. Copies of these reports may be obtained by writing to the chairman of the conference, the undersigned, at Box 1106, New Haven, Connecticut.

C. I. BLISS

RARE CHEMICALS

THE following chemicals are wanted by the National Registry of Rare Chemicals, Armour Research Foundation, 33rd, Dearborn and Federal Streets, Chicago, Ill.:

1. Diethylmonobromogold
2. Paredrine Hydrobromide
3. d-malic acid
4. Glycuronic Acid
5. Ostruthin
6. Methoxycaffeine
7. Glyoxylic Acid
8. Thallium Bromide
9. Thallium Iodide
10. Antimony Triiodide
11. Thymus nucleic acid
12. o-nitrobenzaldehyde
13. p-Naphthylhydrazine hydro-chloride

TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC POSITIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT

MEN and women are sought to fill positions as technical and scientific aids in the Federal Government. They are needed to do research and testing in the following fields: chemistry, geology, geophysics, mathematics, metallurgy, meteorology, physics and radio. The positions pay from \$1,620 to \$2,600, plus overtime.

Applicants may qualify through experience or education. For the assistant grade, applications will be accepted from persons who have completed one year of paid experience or a war-training course approved by the U. S. Office of Education. One year of college study, including one course in the option applied for,

is also qualifying. Persons now enrolled in war-training or college courses may apply, subject to completion of the course. For the higher grades successively greater amounts of education or experience are required.

The majority of positions are in Washington, D. C., but some will be filled in other parts of the United States. There are no age limits, and no written test is required. Applications and complete information may be obtained from first- and second-class post offices, from civil service regional offices and from the commission in Washington, D. C. Applications will be accepted at the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., until the needs at the service have been met.

Trainee positions in technical and scientific work will be filled in Washington, D. C., and vicinity. The salary is \$1,440 a year plus overtime, and the only educational requirement is that the applicant must have completed one high-school credit of physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology or general science. There are no options.

Persons using their highest skills in war work are not encouraged to apply. War manpower restrictions on federal appointments are given in Form 3989, posted in first- and second-class post offices.

ATTITUDES OF STATE ACADEMIES TOWARD WARTIME MEETINGS

IN an effort to discover the attitude of other state academies toward meetings during wartime, and possible action regarding election of officers and publication of papers in the event of the cancellation of a meeting, Secretary V. Earl Light, of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science, questioned secretaries of all academies affiliated with the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Twenty replies have been received to date, the majority of them reporting that meetings will be held this spring. Encouraged both by the nature of these findings and by a canvass of a sampling of its members, the executive committee of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science decided to hold its nineteenth annual meeting in April.

The following academies plan to meet this year: Alabama, Colorado, Wyoming, Illinois, Kansas (seventy-fifth anniversary meeting), Kentucky, Louisiana (one day meeting), Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Wisconsin and Washington, D. C.

An Indiana Academy meeting is "probable"; Tennessee and Virginia are reported "undecided." Two states listed meetings as doubtful; New Hampshire (did not meet in 1942) and West Virginia. Only three academies replied that meetings definitely would

not be held: Mississippi, Northwest and South Carolina.

Secretary R. F. Paton, of the Illinois Academy, expressed what appears to be a general conviction that "state meetings are most important since the national meeting was cancelled."

In the event that no meeting is held, most academies indicated that they would follow the practice of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in retaining present officers. New Hampshire plans to elect new officers by mail ballot.

Continuation of publications may be anticipated on the basis of replies. Mississippi and South Carolina probably will not issue their journals, while West Virginia expects to postpone publication for at least a year. For the first time, several states will accept for publication articles which have not been presented at a meeting of the academy.

The Pennsylvania Academy has shortened its program; it has cancelled its annual banquet and transferred its scheduled meeting from the overcrowded Philadelphia area to more centrally located Harrisburg. The usual submitted papers have been dispensed with, and its program has been organized around reports of state agencies and departments on the role of research in the war and in post-war planning. The meeting of the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science has been postponed, but the Senior Academy has undertaken a broad program of assistance for high-school science clubs.

CHARLES E. MOHR,
President, Pennsylvania Academy of Science

PACIFIC DIVISION OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCE- MENT OF SCIENCE

THE twenty-seventh annual meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held from June 14 to 19 at Oregon State College. The executive committee met recently to consider the plans tentatively formulated during the past six months for the Corvallis meeting. Attention was given to the difficulties which have arisen during the past year in respect to the holding of conferences in general. After careful examination of the whole problem, and in the light of communications received from the Office of Defense Transportation, the Science Committee of the National Resources Planning Board and other organizations and individuals who have devoted thought to this problem, the executive committee voted unanimously to approve the holding of the meeting and to confirm the arrangements which have been entered into to date. Of three general addresses which will be presented in the course