

effects of chemical compounds on the vital organs at the cellular level.

5. As much of the foregoing is still in the realm of limited knowledge, it would be desirable to identify and encourage active liaison and cooperation between workers in research centres already concerned with these types of study.

#### *Programme timing*

All the objectives just mentioned fall broadly speaking into three phases of work.

The first phase would be to appraise present systems of compound classification, and make revised recommendations in this regard on the basis of the points outlined under section (2) on 'objects of the Working Party'. This leads logically to a consideration and selection of the crucial experimental profiles of the vital organs on which new safety criteria should be based.

The second phase would involve the setting up of studies to determine the primary effects of selected examples of various classes of compounds on the biological activity and function of different tissues, having appraised the techniques available to obtain such mea-

surements and values. The results of these studies will provide some of the data essential for working out the basis of the new safety criteria discussed as part of the first phase.

The third phase would comprise an analysis and critical evaluation of all the data thus far obtained, their relevance to the objectives of the working party's study, and, on the basis of this, the formulation of recommendations to revise regulations pertaining to safety, particularly of chemicals and non-disease related compounds.

A programme carried through on the lines suggested above would be a first step in the protection of the public health, and a safeguard against the irreversibility of internal pollution. It would help the pharmaceutical industry, which presently feels some of the restraints imposed on it by government agencies to be useless and hampering, while in other fields industry would like more guidance and tighter controls. It would streamline production and research and allow for the introduction of more efficient safer products in a shorter period of time. Finally, it would provide guidelines for justifiably proposing changes in existing legislation.

## CONGRESSUS

### **India**

#### **8th International Symposium on the Chemistry of Natural Products**

*in New Delhi, 6-12 February 1972*

The Symposium will be devoted mainly to the following topics for which it is proposed to organize separate sections: 1. Alkaloids. 2. Polyphenolics. 3. Terpenoids and steroids. 4. Macromolecules of biological interest (proteins, peptides, nucleic acids, etc.). 5. Carbohydrates, lipids and related substances. 6. Other topics in natural products chemistry including physical methods of structure and determination.

The deadline for sending in abstracts is 1 September 1971. Further information by Prof. S. Rangaswami, Secretary, 8th IUPAC Symposium, Indian National Science Academy, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 1 (India).

### **Switzerland**

#### **Third International Congress for Stereology**

*in Berne 26-31 August 1971*

Under the auspices of the International Society for Stereology the meeting shall comprise interdisciplinary sessions on basic stereological methods, their mathematical foundations and their application to various disciplines. Analysis of shape, topological properties, size distribution and number of particles on microscopic sections shall receive special attention. Further topics include sampling problems and instrumentation, particularly automatic image analysis and data processing. Information and provisional program by: Third International Congress for Stereology, Anatomisches Institut der Universität, Bülhstrasse 26, CH-3000 Bern (Switzerland).

## ACTUALITAS

### **International Cell Research Organization (ICRO)**

1. *Training Courses.* One of the main activities of ICRO is the organization of training courses on topics of high novelty and on modern techniques in cellular and molecular biology: Principles and techniques of tissue and organ culture; Genetics and Physiology of Bacterial viruses; Energy transducing systems on the sub-cellular level; Methods in mammalian cytogenetics; Membrane Biophysics; DNA-RNA Hybridization; Biogenesis of Mitochondria; Embryology and Epigenetics; Interaction between Animal Viruses and host cells, application of computers to experimental work in biology and chemistry; Methods in molecular biology, etc. The courses generally last 3-5 weeks, and include 16-20 young participants (sometimes more). The ICRO courses are fully inter-

national, both the teaching staff and the participants coming from the largest possible number of countries.

2. *The Problem of Developing Countries.* Most of the past ICRO courses have been organizing in European countries - east and west - but the demand from developing countries is increasing steadily. ICRO activities in developing countries may tend to give preference to topics of potential economic usefulness, such as applied microbiology, microbial protein production, fermentation industries, soil microbiology, plant genetics, etc.

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