Oilar Translates Pamphlets

THE Directory of Latin American Scientific Societies and Institutions published by the Office of Science and Technology of the Department of Cultural Subjects of the Pan-American Union, Washington, D. C., has been translated by Rozier D. Oilar, Latin American consultant of West Lafayette, Ind. The first one under review is entitled "Isotopes as Tracers in Plants. Science and Technical Section, Part IV," an authorized verbatim translation by the personnel of the Pan-American Union into Spanish of a paper by R. H. Burris of the Biochemistry Department of the University of Wisconsin as it appeared in the Botanical Review, March, 1950, Vol. 16, No. 3, pp. 150-180 (1952, 20c).

Isotopes afford an extremely useful means for following the absorption and transport of materials in plants and for elucidating the metabolic reactions of plants, the article states. This becomes possible with less expensive equipment for the stable isotopes and the Geiger Counter for radioactive isotopes. The latter is now assisted by radio activity which is artificially induced.

In its original English the entire paper may be found in the cited Botanical Review or a copy may be obtained from Dr. Burris, University of Wisconsin, Biochemistry Department, University avenue, Madison, Wisconsin.

The second pamphlet under review is Vol. II, Nos. 4 and 5, 48 pages (January-June, 1952, 20c). This issue is somewhat different from the usual kind with its sketches of historical, scientific, and technical developments and facts related to the Americas in conjunction with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO).

It contains a brief biography of Leonard de Vinci, in observance of the 500th anniversary of his birth and relates his numerous contributions as a scholar, artist, scientist, writer, mechanic, and architect. It also shows his discoveries of the inertia of matter, the center of gravity, and contains copies of his original drawings of the first flying machine, the first mechanical ventilator, and the first automatic-powered motor.

This pamphlet also contains a section entitled "Institute of Technical Research of San Pablo, Brazil." The 12 pages following describe the three eras of the Polytechnical School of 1893, the laboratories for testing strength of materials; the Analytical Laboratories, catering to specialized students; and the 1934 government decree which created the Institute of Technological Research of San Pablo, with all the added branches of chemistry, geology, physics, and aeronautics.

The third section entitled "Problems of Illumination," by Andres Levialdi, contains over six pages and describes phosphorous as a substance that changes certain forms of energy into visible rays. The author also points out certain foreign non-luminous elements which act as activators to certain chemical phosphorous.

The fourth section entitled "Scientific Facts" has briefs on various subjects such as cancer treatment, the age of the earth, atomic medicine, and flying saucers. Most of them are taken from the writings of United States scientists.

The fifth section which is entitled "News of Activities" has six pages of international scientific activities, meetings, etc., in the scientific fields.

The sixth section has five pages of briefs of scientific books and monographs.

The last section entitled "Review of Journals" contains four pages of brief references to many international scientific articles, all valuable as quick references.

DECHEMA Tables Begun

The DECHEMA Deutsche Gesellschaft für Chemisches Apparatewesen has started work on the third edition of the DECHEMA Tables of Constructional Materials. These tables first appeared in 1937 and have proved to be a valuable aid to chemists, engineers, chemical engineers, physicists, and manufacturers and designers of chemical apparatus and equipment.

The tables will deal with about 100 materials of construction of importance to the chemical equipment industry, and the behavior of each of these materials in the presence of 850 active chemical agents is indicated on individual sheets for each material.

The prospectus of the Third Edition (16 pages DIN A 4) includes a comprehensive survey of this work and may be obtained free of charge from the DECHEMA, Frankfurt/Main 13, Germany.

Fatty Acids Rise

The Association of American Soap and Glycerine Producers Inc. reports that fatty acid production in March was significantly above that of February's level and was above last March's figure. The total for saturated and unsaturated acids was 34.6 million pounds.

Disposition was higher than last month, totalling 36.7 million pounds. Total stocks on March 31 declined somewhat from the previous month's level to 34.3 million pounds, well below last year's level at that date.

A substantial rise in glycerin stocks is shown in preliminary Department of Commerce figures just issued. The total at the end of March, 1953 is 48.0 million pounds, compared to 42.6 million pounds at the end of February.

Domestic production of crude (including synthetic) increased 18% over February to a level of 21.0 million pounds. This is well above the level of production of crude glycerin in March, 1952. Taken together with January-February production, it represents a reversal of recent trends to lowered glycerin production, which have been stressed by producers of substitutes.

Walter Drack Dies

Word has just reached the national office of the American Oil Chemists' Society from S. J. Rini of Kraft Foods Company about the death of Walter Drack on February 20, 1953. He had been a member of the Society since 1944 and had worked for Kraft Foods since 1937. Prior to that year he had been employed by the Pearsoll Butter Company in Elgin, Ill. Mr. Drack was born in Switzerland on March 23, 1896. He had many friends in the margarine industry and in the fats and oil industries.