Editorial

RECENT TRENDS IN CORROSION

THE losses due to corrosion of metals are enormous in all the industrially advanced countries of the world. Corrosion control methods assume urgent importance. This is particularly so, since a time may come when some of the common metals approach a point of exhaustion. Recent figures indicate that immediate attention should be given to the non-ferrous metals, and greater attention to ferrous metals. In the case of iron the losses due to corrosion are estimated to be about 7.6 per cent a year. Corrosion presents a challenge to industry and the government, emphasizing thereby the need for conservation of metal resources.

A large number of organizations devoted solely to corrosion have been formed in recent years: Centre Francais de la Corrosion (Paris); Metal Finishing Society, Rust Preventing Association, and Coating Society in Japan; Corrosion Prevention Association in New Zeland; South African Corrosion Council; Australasian Corrosion Association. The growing importance of corrosion problems is also apparent from the time allotted to them at scientific congresses abroad. A two day Symposium on 'Corrosion in the Chemical Industries' was held at Sydney during October 1960. About the same time the 32nd International Congress of Industrial Chemistry at Barcelona had a section on corrosion and also organized a 'Corrosion Day' under the auspices of the European Corrosion Federation. Sixteen countries were represented at the European Symposium on Corrosion Inhibitors held in Italy during September-October 1960. London was the venue of the First International Congress on Metallic Corrosion held in April 1961, and a large number of papers were presented by scientists from nineteen countries. There were fourteen sections covering various aspects of corrosion, and plenary lectures were delivered by experts in the field. Arrangements are being made for the Second International Congress on Passivity in Canada during the next year.

There were two exhibitions pertaining to corrosion in 1960. The Norwegian Industries Development Association in collaboration with the Norwegian Corrosion Research Federation arranged an exhibition against corrosion in Oslo, Norway. It included lecture courses and study groups. The Corrosion and Metal Finishing Exhibition held by 'Corrosion Technology' at Olympia, England is believed to have been the largest of its kind in the world. Two symposia were organized at this time. The latest addition to the list of journals is 'Australian Corrosion Engineering'.

It was reported in these columns last year (This Bulletin, Vol. 9, 24, 1960) that satisfactory progress in being made in India in the field of corrosion. Since that time the developments have been quite considerable, and the output of literature has increased by an appreciable extent. Indian scientists have presented technical papers in conferences devoted to corrosion and allied subjects organized here as well as in foreign countries. The National Laboratories and other Institutions arranged several symposia, and a Corrosion Refresher Course Corrosion was amongst the topics discussed at the CSIR symposium on 'Chemical Process Design' held during this year. The CSIR has also constituted various Committees pertaining to corrosion in order to stress the importance of corrosion research and outline plans for strengthening the current activities. The India Section of the Electrochemical Society has also been playing its part in this direction for the last ten years, by way of technical meetings, symposia, The Bulletin, and special publications. We have every reason to hope that the problem of metallic corrosion will be taken more seriously in this country, and that the advances in anti-corrosion measures will be quite rapid in the years to come.

—J. S.