CORROSION

The subject of metallic corrosion and its prevention has been dealt with under the "Editorial' periodically in this Journal, in view of its importance from the industrial and economic viewpoints. Under the caption "Corrosion and Defence' (This Journal, Vol. 16, April 1967) it was pointed out there is need for effective coordination between civilian and defence research in the field of corrosion. This is more urgent today, and should cover all areas of corrosion activities.

The National Bureau of Standards, U.S.A., has proposed that a separate Institute for Corrosion Research be established, with an annual budget of $ 2-3 million and a staff of about 185. Corrosion costs the U.S.A. an estimated $ 10 billion a year in preventive maintenance and wasted materials. This proposal would be an enlargement of the current programme of the Institute of Materials Research of the Bureau. The Office of Science and Technology is also interested in the formation of a separate Institute (Scientific Research, Vol. 4, No. 7, 1969).

The activities in India in this area have increased significantly during the last few years —by way of basic and applied research, courses at graduate and post-graduate levels, technical meetings—symposia—conferences, and publications. These developments are well focussed in the articles entitled "Corrosion Activities in India" published by us to cover the years 1966 and 1967 (October 1967 and April 1968 issues).

At the present time it is highly desirable to maintain proper liaison between the work of academic institutions, industrial laboratories and defence wings on the one hand, and between several scientific and technical organizations on the other. In this connection it may be pointed out that in the U.K., there is a move to have an Institute of Metal Preservation comprising the Institute of Metal Finishing, Corrosion and Protection Association and Institution of Corrosion Technology (Anti-Corrosion Methods and Materials, Vol. 16, April 1969). It is to be hoped that earnest efforts in these directions will be made in India during discussions by the several bodies tackling the problem of corrosion, so that unnecessary wastage is minimised and economical anti-corrosion techniques are evolved.

—T. L. R.