

Considerable effort is devoted, also, to questions of animal and plant physiology. Studies of the mechanisms by which mammals, birds and man adapt to cold have provided important basic information on cell, muscle and metabolic activity, and also serve to explain practical problems such as the high death rate of newly born caribou. Fundamental plant processes such as translocation are investigated, and an exhaustive study is being carried out on strains of blue-green algae believed responsible for cattle deaths. Plant fibres such as cellulose—the skeletal material of plants—and the structure and function of plant cells are also examined.

Other studies involve fermentation mechanisms and enzymology, and the structures of proteins, carbohydrates and fats. One group, among its other projects, is engaged in long-term statistical studies of protein variability in wheat and wheat exports. The work has been expanded recently to include the effects of weather factors on protein content.

**Applied Chemistry.**—The Division of Applied Chemistry is concerned with supplying new scientific information for the development of Canada's natural resources and chemical industries. Although formerly much of the work involved solving immediate specific problems, a larger part of the Division's effort is now being devoted to more basic studies. This avoids conflict with industrial laboratories and consultants and, in addition to providing fundamental information, often produces practical results. For instance, a long-term investigation on the contacting of fluids and solids—an operation vital to many chemical engineering procedures—has resulted in a successful commercial operation for drying grain. The same method can be extended easily to chemical reactions and to removing liquids from other materials.

Another long-term project of considerable industrial potential has concerned the factors responsible for the stability, or the destruction, of suspensions of solids in liquids and a method was devised for easily separating almost any suspended solid from the liquid surrounding it. This work was expanded recently to include the separation of dissolved solids. It has been shown that virtually all dissolved salts can be removed from water by filtration through an appropriate medium, and tests with other materials are in progress. Then, too, the study of chemical reactions at very high temperatures—carried on over the past several years—has resulted in the successful preparation of a stable polymer that could not be produced by conventional means.

The twelve sections of the Division are: analytical chemistry, chemical engineering, colloid chemistry, kinetics and catalysis, metallic corrosion and oxidation, metallurgical chemistry, applied physical chemistry, physical organic chemistry, high polymer chemistry, high pressure, rubber and textiles. Much of the work falls under the general headings of petroleum or corrosion chemistry, in that several sections work on topics related to one of these fields.

**Pure Chemistry.**—The Division of Pure Chemistry is organized around a nucleus of outstanding Canadian chemists who direct about 50 young postdoctorate fellows from all over the world. The work consists of long-term fundamental investigations in physical and organic chemistry.

The work in organic chemistry includes investigation of the structures of alkaloids, studies of the infrared spectra of steroids, and the synthesis of porphyrins and of compounds labelled with isotopes. Other sections deal with chemical kinetics and photochemistry, the study of the ionization potentials of free radicals by mass spectrometry, Raman and infrared vibrational spectroscopy, and the application of high resolution proton magnetic resonance techniques to the study of hydrogen bonding and other molecular interactions. Still others study certain aspects of surface chemistry such as the thermal properties of simple solids and imperfections in the bulk and the surface of alkali halide crystals, the heats of micellization by microcalorimetry, and the thermodynamics and stress-strain relationships associated with the absorption of fluids by active carbons. There is also a small group interested in the chemistry of fats and oils, and one engaged in fibre research.