

SPOTLIGHT

on Mintek's 'Gee Whiz' quiz on SATV

'Gee Whiz', a nationwide schools' science and technology competition, is being screened on SATV1 on Friday evenings at 18:00. Twenty-seven schools from all over South Africa are taking part in the series, which will run for 13 weeks. The participating schools were selected on the basis of their performance in the National Youth Science Olympiad and in Mintek's Minsa science competition, which has been organized on an annual basis since 1988.

In each programme, teams from three schools (each of which is represented by three students) answer questions covering a broad range of scientific and technical topics. The first nine programmes are preliminary rounds, the winners of which will participate in three semi-final rounds. The winners of the three semi-finals will then compete in a final

round that will yield the overall winning team.

The competition, which was planned and organized by Mintek and SATV, is sponsored by the Chamber of Mines of South Africa, Eskom, the Industrial Development Corporation, and the Foundation for Research Development, which also provided bursaries for the winning team. Prizes for the winning schools were donated by HiPerformance Systems.

It is hoped that the series will encourage promising students to choose careers in science and technology, and that these entertaining and informative programmes will increase South African public awareness of the importance of science and technology.

Book news

Publications of The Institute of Metals

The following three publications are available from The Institute of Metals, 1 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5DB, England.

- *Microscopy of oxidation*, edited by M.J. Bennett and G.W. Lorimer. 1991. 426 pp. £65.

This international conference on the theme of the application of microscopy in oxidation studies discusses how the direct observation and analysis of oxides, together with the identification factors that influence oxidation reactions, are essential steps towards a fundamental understanding of the oxidation of alloys under service conditions. The major improvements in microscopy and analytical techniques have brought this goal one stage nearer.

- *Building in steel 1991*. 1991. 140 pp. £35.

Architects and designers have been taking advantage of steel as a building material for most of this century; yet, through technological advances, including improvements to the material and imaginative design, the use of steel has seen a dramatic resurgence during the past decade. This highly illustrated volume of proceedings concentrates on the envelope, and covers a wide range of topics on architecture and structural design in low-rise industrial and commercial construction.

- *Early metallurgical sites in Great Britain BC 2000 to AD 1500*, edited by C.R. Blick. 1991. 112 pp. £9.95.

This highly illustrated book documents fifteen archaeologically authenticated sites of importance in the history of metallurgical development in Britain pre-dating the time that Columbus crossed the Atlantic. It will be of interest to all those who wish to see the visible remains of the work of the early metallurgists, who did so much to advance the materials base of our civilization.

- *Kirk Othmer encyclopedia of chemical technology*, edited by J.I. Kroschwitz and M. Howe-Grant. Chichester (England), John Wiley, 199-1997. Per set £2900 (also available in individual volumes).

The publication of a completely new fourth edition will begin in September 1991. The fourth edition, ECT-4, firmly grounded in the tradition of its predecessors, will also look forward into the 21st century. The twenty-seven volumes will appear as follows: Volume 1, September 1991; then, beginning in 1992, four volumes a year will be published in 1997, a total of 25 alphabetical volumes. The set will be completed in 1998 with the publication of the Supplement and Index volumes. In addition to coverage of traditional subjects, there is much new material: 20 per cent new article titles covering new materials and processes; a greatly expanded section on analytical chemistry with individual articles defining techniques and nearly 800 pages on instrumentation and methods; over 450 pages on biotechnology; and over 500 pages on computer topics.