

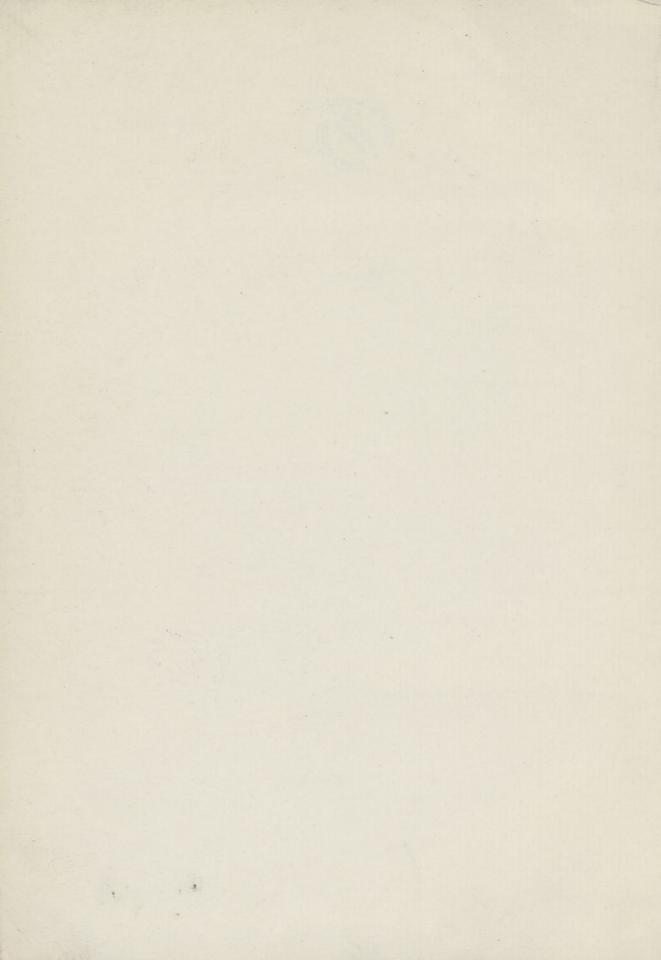
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"To the solid ground Of nature trusts the Mind that builds for aye."-Wordsworth

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Religion—a Changing Force?

T will always be a paradox that the gentlest and most lovable character in the whole of the recorded history of mankind should not only be the source of such bitterness and hatred as mark the story of Christianity, but also that He Himself should have been fully aware that the consequences of His teaching would constantly be averse from the spirit of His doctrine. Of all the utterances of Our Lord, that which displays most clearly His insight into the heart of man, and has been most completely fulfilled, is the declaration that he brought into the world not peace, but a sword. Not only did He knowingly set up insurmountable barriers between those who followed Him and their families, friends and fellows in the community, but also when He turned from the Jews to send the seventy disciples on their mission to the world, He informed His religion with an inflexible will to the conversion of the heathen-in other words, of those not of like belief-which in its methods and its results has belied the promise to mankind of peace and goodwill.

Too often in its history, the missioner of Christianity has been of the type of the inquisitor and the conquistador; the fate of its converts a degradation and an extinction no less complete in its results, if less drastic in its methods, than the fate which overtook so many of the Indians of Mexico and Peru. Not indeed that Christianity here stands alone. The first great tragedy of Calvary was a prelude to the beasts of Ephesus, the spectacular slaughters, the crucifixions and the pyres of Rome. If that tragedy was re-enacted time and again in the sectarian quarrels of European civilization through the ages, elsewhere, to name one instance only, the Moslem world enlarged the circle of the Faithful by the persuasion of fire and sword.

A post-War generation, weary of strife, in its desire to build "a brave new world", would have consigned all such antagonisms to the limbo of errors and absurdities of an outworn dispensation. Frank and open discussion of differences, and co-operation, despite these differences, of all of good-will in the promotion of common aims, were to take the place of sectional rivalries and obstructions. Leagues of intellectual co-operation, and international conferences and congresses sprang up on all sides to discuss and deal with every kind of problem which stood in the way of the advancement of mankind-moral, intellectual and social. The events of more recent years have brought a bitter disillusionment to those who thought that Armageddon had passed and the millennium was due to arrive.

The present, however, is no time for pessimism; and least of all does it befit science either to belittle what has been effected by co-operative effort since the War-and the sum total is by no means

negligible as the record of the non-political activities of the League of Nations can show—or to despair of the endeavour which is being made to keep open some of the ways to interchange of thought and mutual assistance, at a time when differences of outlook and tradition are being emphasized and barriers of mistrust are being re-erected. There are still matters of universal significance for mankind in which the co-operation of all may be invited, if indeed it be not essential.

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Yet, however strong the conviction that a sturdy, and at times dogged, optimism is the only creed for the man of science, as well as a necessary condition of constant progress in the understanding of Nature and the universe, there are whole departments of thought, with their corollaries in human conduct and affairs, from which the principle of universality, which is a condition of world-wide co-operation, seems to be excluded. Co-operation rests, ultimately, on a truth which, in a scientific sense, is universal—in fact, a 'law'. This is the ultimate principle, whether in dealing with the suppression of the drug traffic or with 'sanctions'. But in the field of religious beliefs, on a detached view, truth is relative to the object of belief, and departmental. The code of thought, and its materialization in action, which befits the Buddhist, cannot be reconciled with that of the Christian, however near their approach.

More than passing interest, therefore, will be aroused in many not directly concerned, and irrespective of religious belief, by the announcement that during the early half of the month of July representatives of the more important religions of the world are gathering in London at a World Congress of Faiths for the discussion of "World Fellowship" as a way to the solution of world problems—the problems of war and of social and economic difficulties, which seem inevitably to lead to disaster. Neither the validity nor the possibility of fusion of the religions represented will be under consideration; but each religion is invited to consider how, maintaining its individuality, it can best contribute to the common end.

The organization of the Congress, which opened on July 3, fully maintains the claim that it is both international and inter-religious. The international president is H.H. the Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda, and the chairman of the British National Council is Sir Francis Younghusband. The chairmen, speakers and openers of debate at sessional meetings have been selected with strict impartiality for their ability to further discussion,

without preference of creed. For the attainment of what may be taken to be the more general purpose of the Congress, the dissemination over the widest possible field of a knowledge of the varied lines of approach to the major problems of existence among different peoples and creeds, the greatest importance must be attached to the series of public meetings at which distinguished members of the Christian, Jewish, Buddhist, Hindu and Moslem religions, as well as of independent thought, will expound their respective conceptions of "The Supreme Spiritual Ideal".

To bring together representatives of these different faiths, some of which, it might be thought, would mix as readily as oil and water, for the discussion of such a topic as "world-fellowship" is in itself no mean accomplishment. It does at least lend some colour to the expectation of a not entirely unfavourable answer to the inevitable question, whether any practical outcome is to be anticipated from this attempt to secure cooperation among the more liberal spirits of the various religious beliefs in the solution of world problems.

In view of the past history of religious animosities, the whole project may seem Utopian, the forlorn hope of enthusiasm. Has the time really come when the lion will lie down with the lamb? Have these religious differences been composed, and is the odium theologicum a thing of the past? Perhaps we may construe current events as a turn in the tide. In the Education Bill which has now passed through Parliament, for example, we seem to be entering upon the final phase in a settlement of a denominational religious difference which has been an obstacle to progress in popular education for well over a hundred years, and a source of social disintegration for three times that period. The Church of England, it is true, failed to reach a satisfactory conclusion in its overtures to the Orthodox Church; but in other directions, as for example, recently in Finland, it has been more successful. Do these movements and others of a like character point to a weakening of the religious fibre, manifested in a lessening of the spirit of aggression, or do they represent a further stage in progress towards a higher development of religious activity?

To attempt an answer would involve a combination of prophecy and analysis which would be neither profitable nor appropriate here. This much, however, may be said. Religion as a social phenomenon, and not as an individual experience,

as the student of religions well knows, is a sublimation of group solidarity. In a supreme selfprotective effort it either proselytizes, expels, or exterminates: hence missionary effort and persecution, on the principle that he who is not for is against. This lies at the root of the quarrel of Nazi nationalism, a quasi-religious emotion, and the Confessionals in Germany, just as it inspires the persecution of the Jews. The Old Testament expresses it repeatedly in the reliance of the Hebrews on Jehovah, the god of battles, as the exclusive protector of the Chosen People.

To some extent at the present time this particularist spirit of self-protection has been diverted into the channel of nationalism. More potent, however, is the fact that an ever-increasing number, appealing in the conditions of modern civilization to a widening circle, is not content to rest in the particular, but must pass on to the universal. To such, neither restrictions of national distinction nor differences between creeds can weigh in the balance against the ethical principles explicit or implied in all the higher forms of religion. In this composite but practical creed, analogous to the jus gentium of the legists, it may be that they are feeling their way towards a further and higher stage in the development of religious belief, in which the theological differences which antagonize will be forgotten in the pursuit of a common and universal ethical purpose.

Colonial Policy and Scientific Research

M. ORMSBY-GORE has lost no time on taking up his duties as Secretary of State for the Colonies, in making clear his personal position in relation to a variety of problems with which he is confronted in colonial administration, and more particularly to the need for the active prosecution of research with a view to future development.

An address which he delivered recently, when presiding at the thirty-fifth annual Colonial Service dinner of the Corona Club, was broadcast, and was no doubt consciously directed to reach a wider public than his immediate audience. It will go far to allay some not unjustifiable feelings of uneasiness as to future developments, which for some time have disturbed informed opinion both at home and in the Dependencies. While Mr. Ormsby-Gore deprecated the discussions, in which the possibility of future sessions of territory had been debated, as likely to do more harm than good, he was emphatic in endorsing "the very clear statements" of the Prime Minister and of his predecessor in office, referring specifically among other dependencies to Tanganyika Territory. "Peace," he went on to say, "continuity of policy, social progress, and economic development are the greatest needs of the Colonial Empire."

With this all will agree, although there may be difference of opinion as to the best means by which they are to be attained. It is significant, however, of the confidence inspired by Mr. Ormsby-Gore's appointment, that it has made optimistic even so

sturdy a champion of the white settlers' claims in Kenya as Lord Frederick Scott, who, as he told the East African group of the Overseas League on June 18, sees hope for the future in the appointment of "a new Secretary of State for the Colonies, who knew East Africa, and had written . . . the best of all reports on East Africa".

While Mr. Ormsby-Gore is fully alive to the part which has been played, and must continue to be played, by the study of native institutions in their bearing on the further development of the native, there are two matters to which he directed attention as problems of public health confronting the Colonial Governments. Of these the first is the application of the newer scientific knowledge of nutrition. Mental and physical efficiency, as well as resistance to disease, he pointed out, are tremendously affected by nutrition; and he is not satisfied that the problems of nutrition have been adequately studied and the results applied in our tropical dependencies. After a reference to the generous offer of the Rockefeller Foundation to establish a special organisation in Uganda for the study of yellow fever, he spoke of the benefactions received by many Colonies from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, particularly in connexion with education, social services and libraries.

It is especially satisfactory to hear that Mr. Ormsby-Gore intends to devote his personal attention to the application of science to Colonial problems of agricultural development and public

health, and to watch with a vigilant eye the work of the education departments throughout the Colonies. In this connexion it may not be inopportune to note that Lord Linlithgow, Viceroy of India, in addressing the opening meeting of the Advisory Committee of Nutrition under the Indian Research Fund Association at Simla on June 18, referred to the relationship of improvement in sanitation, hygiene and nutrition among

the rural population to literacy among the women: "In default of female literacy," he said, "it will be found that, whenever supervision is removed, there will be a relapse into age-old customs, and that within a few months nothing will be left of the better living that has been so laboriously inculcated." The experience of India in the past ten years may not be without its lessons for the colonial administrator.

Land-Reclamation in Italy

Land-Reclamation in Italy:

Rural Revival in the Building of a Nation. By Cesare Longobardi. Translated from the Italian by Olivia Rossetti Agresti. Pp. xii +243 +29 plates. (London: P. S. King and Son, Ltd., 1936.) 12s. 6d. net.

NE of the achievements of which Fascism can unreservedly be proud is the reclamation of great areas of land in Italy that for centuries had added little or nothing to the national wealth, and indeed had frequently, like the Pontine Marshes, been dangerous to human beings owing to the widespread prevalence of malaria. Waste land can be found in all countries, even in our own, densely populated as it is; it escaped enclosure in the old days because it could not be cultivated by the methods then in use. Considerable areas are, however, amenable to modern methods of cultivation, though the cost of reclamation might be too high to permit an economical return on the money For this reason land-reclamation is expended. scarcely proceeding at all in England, though occasionally private individuals embark on the enterprise out of sheer love of the work. Holland the great Zuyder Zee scheme is being financed by the Government, but it is regarded not as a financial but as a social investment, to provide land on to which the growing population may spread. In the western European countries the problem is complicated by the many private rights which, though long in abeyance, may burst into vitality as soon as there is any suggestion of the land being developed or taken over for public purposes. In countries ruled by a dictator as in Italy and Russia, such questions do not arise, and land-reclamation becomes simply a technical problem which can be carried out regardless of cost.

One of the greatest of the Italian schemes was described by Dr. Roberto Almagia in NATURE of June 15, 1935. There he shows how the great

Pontine Marshes have been converted from malarial swamps into good farming land. The present writer visited this region in April 1934 and was greatly impressed with the efficiency of the work and the adequacy of the houses and farm buildings. Hitherto it has been difficult for English experts to obtain information on the many administrative and financial problems involved. These are satisfactorily dealt with by Señor Cesare Longobardi, so that we now have a full account of the procedure and some statement of the cost of the work.

Reclamation has progressed rapidly since the Fascists came into power. In their first years of office, some 5,000,000 man days were given to this work; in 1933–34, their twelfth year of office, this had increased to nearly 18,000,000 man days. Some 4·7 million hectares are already in hand or completed, and marked increases in output of agricultural produce have already been obtained. The production of wheat, which before the War was less than 5,000,000 metric tons per annum, has risen to nearly 7,000,000 tons; net imports of wheat, formerly 1·4 million tons per annum, fell in 1934 to 235,700 tons only.

The Italian reclamation schemes extend also to the land which, though cultivated, is not properly utilized, especially to the well-known latifundia, agricultural properties on which farming is extremely primitive and extensive, where the farms form "a compact mass untraversed by roads, with no water system, infested by malaria, with hardly any permanent inhabitants". The latifundia are associated with what is known as the 'Southern Question', the group of problems arising out of the backward economic and social development of the south of Italy and the islands as compared with other parts of the country.

The general machinery for the reclamation is prescribed by the Mussolini Act which characteristically, as the author states, "does not lose itself in the maze of existing measures. It leaves them as they are and goes straight forward". It makes financial provision over a period of fourteen years for work amounting to 7,000,000,000 lire; it directs special attention to works nearing completion; and it opens the way for further developments which experience may suggest. Of the 7,000,000,000 lire, 4,300,000,000 was to be chargeable to the Treasury and the remainder to the land owners. The major part of the finance is provided in the form of 30-year annuities discounted to the parties concerned by several different institutions. The whole of the money has already been taken up, but there still remains much work to be done.

The author states that the Act was received with great enthusiasm by the whole country. projects submitted would have cost in the aggregate ten or fifteen times the amount available, and therefore rigid selection had to be exercised. The rights of the owners were in principal acknowledged, and, where curtailed, were said to be adequately but not excessively compensated. Preference was given for the execution of the work by consortia of landowners or public bodies, which appear to be something like the public utility societies of Great Britain. This method avoided the danger of supplanting private initiative by State intervention; at the same time it prevented the work from stopping directly the Government had fulfilled its part of the contract and before the landowners had completed theirs. The procedure is dealt with at considerable length. A special section of the Ministry of Agriculture deals with land-reclamation, and receives proposals or itself draws up plans. No project is accepted unless it shows considerable possibility of securing notable improvements in hygiene, demographic, economic and social conditions.

The plan being accepted by the Government, the landowners proceed to execute the works either themselves or through the consortium. They may provide all the money themselves or obtain Government grants or special loans from the agricultural banks. The arrangements seem to be very elastic. A very active body, however, is the National League of Ex-Service Men (Opera Nazionale per i Combattenti), whose name one sees painted up on the buildings in many of these reclaimed areas. The League has special privileges, and can demand the expropriation of landowners even if they are ready to reclaim the land. Whatever is reclaimed by the League is used for small holdings on which ex-Service men or their families are settled. Mussolini attaches great importance to this body as being, in his own words, "mobilised to perform a task with the urgency of which I am more than ever impressed, that of ruralising Italy". When the reclamation is completed, some internal migration and land settlement become necessary; a special commissariat exists to organise this. The migrants are mainly farm workers brought from more densely settled regions; in 1933, for example, some 15,000 farm workers were moved but only 500 industrial workers.

Economic law, however, still seems to operate to some extent in Italy, for we are told that the serious fall in prices of farm products after 1929 made it impossible for the landowners in some vears to meet their share of the cost, and consequently Government help had to be given. The portion of the costs chargeable to the landowners is divided between them in proportion to the advantage accruing to each as a result of the work. It is impossible to ascertain this precisely beforehand, hence a provisional apportionment is made and adjusted when reclamation is completed. The credit is held against each landowner by the consortium in the form of 30-year annuities, which rank as a charge on the land immediately after the land tax and the provincial and municipal surtaxes. As the landowners themselves were unable to pay the necessary money, various banks were established for the purpose of enabling them to do so.

Considerable details are given in regard to the larger schemes. The great Pontine Marsh is cut up into holdings of 25-75 acres according to the quality of the land, each furnished with a house, stabling for ten cattle, poultry run, pig sty, well, etc. The Ex-Service Men's League has obtained grants for the settlement of some 100,000 acres. Families are brought by the Commissariat for Internal Migrations; as they have no capital, the farms are taken from the League on a crop-sharing plan, the tenants receiving monthly advances in the shape of supplies and cash allowances from the League, which directs the management of the farm. When the head of the family has acquired the necessary experience and has returned the advances made by the League, an agreement is to be drawn up under which he will purchase the farm and the livestock from the League in fifteen annual instalments covering capital and interest at the official bank rate. The farms are grouped in batches of 130, around one of the three new towns, Littoria, Sabaudia and Pontinia. An expert adviser is available. The cost of the scheme is estimated at 7,000-25,000 lire per hectare; the purchase money therefore amounts to annual payments for fifteen years of sums varying from 200 to 630 lire per hectare, in addition to an annual payment of 70 lire per hectare as cost of upkeep and amortisation of the drainage works. These repayments, however, do not cover the Government contribution, but only that made by the concessionaires. No mention is made as to how the Government share is to be recouped. There is a similar, but somewhat smaller, reclamation scheme in the lower Piave region running towards the Adriatic, and others on the Brisighella in the Lower Apennines, the Sele Plain, the Tirso, etc. The book ends appropriately with some long extracts from Mussolini's speeches on various important occasions in connexion with reclamations.

Señor Longobardi's book gives the best account

at present available of Mussolini's remarkable achievements in land-reclamation. They are a challenge to other countries, and in reading about them, and still more in going over them, one is repeatedly asking whether such rapid improvements would be possible under the milder methods of western Europe.

E. J. Russell.

Determinism and Man

The Freedom of Man By Arthur H. Compton. (The Terry Lectures.) Pp. xii +153. (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press; London: Oxford University Press, 1935.) 9s. net.

SCIENTIFIC writers who have turned to the philosophical interpretation of science are invariably concerned with the relation between man and the physical and biological science he creates. These writers fall, roughly speaking, into three schools.

The first maintains that the methods that man has evolved for the study of the physical universe can be applied, without fundamental modification, to the study of mankind, and of man as an individual; that the determinism of physical science must apply equally to characteristics of the individual, and that from this can be deduced the behaviour of the mass. The universe, including man, is a complex machine. These are mechanists.

The second school sets man and his mind apart from the rest of the universe, asserts that although he is amenable to physical laws, these do not determine the whole of his actions, and that otherwise he is 'free' to act as he wills, in accordance with or against his moral conscience. There is a great variety of such philosophical idealists, ranging from the solipsist who maintains that the universe is created out of the elements of his (the particular solipsist's) consciousness, to those who believe that man, in the exercise of his will, is working out the law of a Superior Intelligence that exists outside man.

The third class asserts that man is a product of material nature, consciousness being a complex quality of the brain; that physical science has been produced by man in his struggle with the material world; that the scientific laws he finds operative to inanimate matter are not necessarily valid as they stand for the more complex problem arising when man, the active agent, is involved, the wider problem of 'man performing the social activity science', for example; but that this, being on a different level of complexity and abstraction,

will exhibit laws of a specific nature which have themselves to be the subject of study. This class composes materialists who are not mechanists.

Prof. Compton, in the lectures before us, shows himself to belong to the second school. By a scrupulously careful analysis, frequently hesitating to commit himself, he strives to bring out the relation between his scientific and his religious thinking; in the former, standing fast by strict verifiable evidence, in the latter, supplementing the numerous lacunæ in evidence with general argument based on human and emotional needs. It is clear that there is a vital distinction in criteria between the two modes of thinking, of which Prof. Compton is not too conscious. In this way, he deals with the much discussed question of determinism, with the basis of his belief in a Superhuman Intelligence that guides the destiny of the universe, and with immortality. He concludes that there is a psychic element in the universe standing outside matter and surviving it, an element that, operating along with material indeterminacy, directs the course of human action. It is in fact an assertion of extra-material psychic determinism; and yet, alongside this, he seeks, rather inconsistently it seems, to retain freedom of action for the individual.

The case is well and interestingly argued throughout, but, as with other writings of this nature, the author assumes that in countering the case of the mechanists, he is destroying the materialist point of view. He seems unable to distinguish between the position adopted by the Encyclopædists, the mechanists of the eighteenth century, and that of the modern materialist. Had he done so, he would have recognised that there are in reality several distinct problems of determinism; but if they are to be dealt with as one, then the different levels that fall within its scope must be made clear. There is the sub-atomic level, the mass-particle level, and the human and the social level. To equate concepts at different levels is to miss the essence of scientific abstraction.

Scientific experimentation at the particle level is intrinsically deterministic, and is associated

with a particular type of prediction. The language of science, and therefore the language of scientific explanation, formulated at this level, tends naturally to be carried downward and upward in common speech to the sub-atomic and to the social Immediately contradictions seem to emerge. When we talk of human or of sub-atomic determinism, are we talking about something that has a verifiable meaning of the same order as particle-determinism? What is to be meant by prediction in each of these cases? When we talk of 'freedom', how is it to be defined, or how are we to recognise it within each of the three categories? These are questions we must pose and answer before we can be certain that we are using words sensibly or asking sensible questions when we inquire: "Has determinism broken down in the sub-atomic field? Are we therefore 'free' human agents?"

The idea that there is a breakdown in detailed prediction does not disturb the materialist, as many imagine, although it has excited the idealists into thinking that they see an escape from the imaginary moral strangulation of a rigid mechanistic determinism. Determinism at the sub-atomic level with its associated 'probability prediction' is a very different story from that at the social level, where the fact that man may frequently predict his own behaviour is a crucial quality of the situation. Prof. Compton, in common with many other outstanding physicists, ought surely to see this, for the nature of the material handled and

the appropriate experimental methods are fundamentally different. Conscious living matter has qualities of a totally different order from those either of a particle or a photon. It is an active agent that can think, analyse and experiment. In the problem of 'man performing the social activity science', for example, man ranks as one of the determining forces in the situation. If we are to answer the question: "Is human action predictable ?" we have first to form the appropriate abstractions and devise an experimental technique, in order to create a basis for prediction at that level for this human process, to elucidate the laws exhibited. If man's actions are sometimes accompanied by a subjective sense of free-will. as they undoubtedly are, we have to discover the laws of free-will behaviour. All social predictions (and there are many of the small scale in the commercial and industrial world) are based on such laws. Their distinctive quality is that human beings as active agents form these laws and formulate them. As conscious beings, however, they can become aware of the laws they can make and therefore they can plan their future. That is the link between science and human

When viewed from this angle, 'freedom of man', the subject of these lectures, is not something already existing or to be argued into existence. It is something to be achieved. To rank it with determinism at other levels is to miss its essentially distinctive character.

H. Levy.

Structure of Metals and Alloys

The Structure of Metals and Alloys By Dr. William Hume-Rothery. (Monograph and Report Series No. 1.) Pp. 120+4 plates. (London: Institute of Metals, 1936.) 3s. 6d. net.

OF all the recent developments in metallography, the most outstanding has been that which has resulted from the invasion of the physicist and the physical chemist, both of whom have, in the past few years, applied their own methods of investigation more and more to the metals and their alloys. As a result, although most of the ideas reached by the use of the older methods have withstood this attack, other conceptions have had to be modified, and in one or two cases, drastically.

The most recent adventure of the Institute of Metals in publishing a series of monographs, each of which is to deal authoritatively with some special aspect of metallurgical interest, could not, therefore, have commenced with a more suitable one than that under consideration, nor could a more proper author have been selected than Dr. Hume-Rothery, whose own contributions to this particular field of study are well-known. The position of metallography at the common boundaries of so many sciences renders it almost impossible for its workers to maintain contact with all the developments which have a potential bearing upon their own lines of work, and the Institute of Metals and Dr. Hume-Rothery have performed a service to the science of metals which cannot be acknowledged in terms too high.

Assuming merely that knowledge of modern physics and physical chemistry which may now reasonably be expected from the metallographer, the author has, in a manner as simple as the nature of his subject permits, described present-day conceptions of the electronic structure of the atom, the crystalline structure of the elements and their atomic radii, the solid solutions which form

the end phases of the equilibrium diagrams and the phases which occur in between. The concluding section of the book is concerned with the imperfections of crystals, a matter of supreme importance to the metallurgist, whose materials are all aggregates of crystals, which in normal circumstance are very far from perfect. It cannot be too strongly stressed, however, that the work is essentially scholarly, and although necessarily written with the needs of the metallographer chiefly in mind, contains matter of the most direct importance to the physicist, the physical chemist and the crystallographer. For many readers the general account given will probably be adequate, but for those who desire to study the subject matter of this monograph still further, the long lists of references to original work will be of first-rate value.

It is inevitable that almost every metallographer will find certain aspects of the work with which complete acquiescence is impossible—to the present writer, for example, there appears to be an inadequate appreciation of the solidity of the structure built up on the basis of what may perhaps be termed classical methods-but there can be no doubt that the author has performed the task assigned to him in a most praiseworthy fashion. Both to him and to the Institute of Metals most sincere congratulations must be offered for the publication, at a price within the reach of all, and at a time when it is perhaps most needed, of a really authoritative account of pioneer work which may well initiate an entirely new era in fundamental, theoretical metallography.

F. C. T.

Alpine Studies

The Structure of the Alps
By Prof. Léon W. Collet. Second edition. Pp.
xvi +304 +12 plates. (London: Edward Arnold
and Co., 1935.) 20s. net.

IN a review of the first edition of Prof. Collet's fascinating account of the building of the Alps (NATURE, 121, 412; 1928), the appeal of his work to mountaineers and holidayseekers, as well as geologists, was emphasised. That the book should have gone out of print and a revised edition be required is a tribute to its value and interest; also to the rapid progress of Alpine studies. Indeed, as the author states in his preface to this second edition, "a brilliant international gathering of geologists has been engaged in following the Alpine structure in the Western, as well as in the Eastern, Mediterranean regions, and new ideas of the structure of the Alpine Range have been presented". Prof. Collet has therefore added a new Part 6, consisting of six short chapters dealing with the Apennines, the mountain-arcs of Corsica, Sardinia and Elba, the Alpine Chain of southern Spain and the Balearic As many of these areas are becoming increasingly popular as tourist resorts (and for residence), Prof. Collet's descriptions of the rockstructures and their effects on the scenery will be highly appreciated.

The increase in length of the book thus necessitated has been to some extent offset by a reduction of detail in some of the chapters, such as that on the Jura Mountains. In this regard, the author's policy will doubtless be welcomed by the non-technical reader, especially as opportunity

has been taken to clarify parts of the text of other chapters, to add new diagrams, and to rewrite the chapters on Mont Blanc and the Aiguilles Ranges (to the knowledge of which Prof. Collet has himself made noteworthy contributions).

Some of the minor blemishes of the first edition have been removed. Students are no longer told (without supporting evidence) that the higher Pre-Alps represent a small part of Africa resting on Europe. Indeed, the new edition of the book convevs the impression of being less extremist in the matter of belief in the long-distance travel of overthrust sheets (nappes) of the earth's crust. approach to the more moderate views of the Austrian geologists is shown by the attribution of the East Alpine sheets to Kober's Zwischengebirge (or Zwischenmassiv). It is perhaps unfortunate that the author introduces the inelegant term "Betwixt Mountains" for these masses; although it is a literal translation of one of Kober's expressions, the areas involved are not always mountainous (as witness, the country within the Carpathian arcs). A better English equivalent, "median mass", has been in use for some years. It is a pity also that the termination -ides has been retained in such words as Metamorphides, Dinarides (G. Dinariden). Astronomers do not write "Leonides", or cause confusion by trying to pronounce the word!

But, whether or not we agree about these matters of detail, or about the views of the extremists of the Nappe theory school, Prof. Collet's volume is unquestionably of great value.

P. G. H. B.

Phenomena in High-Frequency Systems

By August Hund. (International Series in Physics.) Pp. xv+642. (New York and London: McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., 1936.) 36s.

This well-packed book of specialised information does not appreciably overlap the author's previous "High-frequency Measurements", and is intended to give a comprehensive and up-to-date discussion of the rapidly varying phenomena which the electrical communication engineer controls for useful ends, possibly often without understanding entirely the basic physical principles.

The thermionics of gaseous and vacuous valves introduces the subject matter, after a prefatory acknowledgment of the pioneer observers and developers of electromagnetic theory and electronics; generators of high-frequency power, modulators, demodulators, rectifiers and amplifiers receive detail treatment, and electro-striction is made an important division of the main subject; the serious aspects of electromagnetic theory then find a place, with applications to the more practical phenomena associated with propagation through ionized space and the technique adopted in directing radiated energy.

There are useful appendixes, but the last chapter on filters seems incomplete and redundant in view of the more comprehensive treatises now being issued. The author has a critical sense of the work of others, and his 'display' diagrams are specially helpful for the elucidation of the operation of complex valves and antennæ systems; the reviewer has still to find an explanation of what happens at the corners when a long wire is folded up to form a directive antenna.

L. E. C. H.

Die Allotropie der chemischen Elemente und die Ergebnisse der Röntgenographie

Von M. C. Neuburger. (Sammlung chemischer und chemisch-technischer Vorträge, herausgegeben von Prof. Dr. R. Pummerer, Neue Folge, Heft 30.) Pp. 106. (Stuttgart: Ferdinand Enke, 1936.) 9.30 gold marks.

THE author gives an account of all the elements which have been supposed to exist in allotropic modifications and, by taking account of the latest methods of investigation, particularly X-rays, he decides which of them actually exhibit allotropy. The crystal forms of the allotropes are specified quantitatively, with very complete references to literature and diagrams.

Although the text is commendably brief and clear, it fails in one or two cases to supply information which the reader would like to have, such for example as to whether explosive antimony is an allotropic form or not. The author, in fact, is concerned almost entirely with the results of X-ray analysis, and where this is not applicable he tends to remain silent. In its field, the book is of very considerable value and serves as a reliable guide through a large mass of data, much of it contradictory. It states clearly in which cases allotropy has been established and where it has not, and in the doubtful cases it presents the evidence in an unprejudiced way.

Soils:

their Origin, Constitution and Classification; an Introduction to Pedology. By Prof. G. W. Robinson. Second edition. Pp. xvii +442+5 plates. (London: Thomas Murby and Co., 1936.) 20s. net.

Prof. Robinson's novel treatment of soil science evidently 'met a long-felt want', for a new edition has been required in less than four years. The rapidly developing subject of pedology has many more intimate links with other branches of science than had the older agricultural chemical treatment of soils. At the same time, it bears more closely on those general questions of land classification and utilisation which are becoming increasingly urgent. Surveys and planning must be preceded by careful study of the objects to be classified and their relationships to environmental and historical factors. Prof. Robinson's book shows how far the modern science of soils has been able to go in the interpretation of the formation and behaviour of soils. graphical and genetic aspects are kept in the foreground throughout, while the more purely technical and agricultural ones are treated very briefly indeed. The book can be strongly recommended to workers in many branches of natural and applied science.

In the new edition the bibliography has been increased and the illustrations greatly improved. Quite recent work on the clay complex, base exchange and soil moisture are fully discussed, space having been gained by omitting the appendix on methods of analysis, which were well handled in Mr. C. H. Wright's recent book.

Official Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia No. 28, 1935. Prepared by E. T. McPhee. Pp-xxxi+971. (Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Canberra.) (Canberra: Commonwealth Government Printer, 1936.) 5s.

THE new issue of this valuable year book is planned on the usual lines, and even if the call for economy still curtails the size of the volume and curbs the desire of the editor in the presentation of available data, the scope is so comprehensive that little of real importance can have been omitted.

After a summary of the history of the Commonwealth, with the Act of Constitution in full, there follows a chapter on the climate and meteorology provided with statistics, graphs and a rainfall map. Among the many chapters of administrative and financial statistical detail, there is especially full treatment of vital statistics as disclosed in the census of 1933. It appears that the birth-rate in Australia has fallen to the relatively low figure of 16.4 per 1,000 from 27.1 in 1901. If this is low, the death-rate of 9.3 per 1,000 is one of the lowest in the world, so that the natural increase is still higher than in European States excluding Russia, the Netherlands, Spain and Italy. Increase by immigration, which was so high as 32,000 in 1927, fell to about 1,000 in 1934 after four years of actual loss by emigration. The volume has full particulars of agricultural production and mineral output. New Guinea is included in the survey. There is a useful bibliography.

Canadian Water Power Developments during 1935

By Dr. Brysson Cunningham

THE series of reports¹ recently issued by the Dominion Water Power and Hydrometric Bureau indicate that, during the year 1935, there was steady progress in the development of water power in Canada, resulting in a substantial addition to the aggregate power installation, which on December 31 last reached a total of 7,909,115 horse power, as compared with 7,547,035 horse power at the close of the preceding year. The accompanying table shows the distribution of power among the provinces of the Dominion. It is pointed out that while the increase in generating

Available and Developed Water Power in Canada, January 1, 1936.

Province	Available 24- at 80 per cer	Turbine		
Trovince	At ordinary min. flow (h.p.)	At ordinary six months flow (h.p.)	718,497 71,597 42,035 392,825 2,560,155 3,853,320 133,681 116,367	
British Columbia Alberta Saskatchewan Manitoba Ontario Quebec New Brunswick Nova Scotia	1,931,000 390,000 542,000 3,309,000 5,330,000 8,459,000 68,600 20,800	5,103,500 1,049,500 1,082,000 5,344,500 6,940,000 13,064,000 169,100 128,300		
Prince Edward Island Yukon and North- west Territory	3,000 294,000	5,300 731,000	2,439 18,199	
Total	20,347,400	33,617,200	7,909,115	

capacity is noteworthy, there is even greater significance in the continued growth of the demand for power, as reflected in the monthly records compiled by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which indicate a steady increase, month by month, over the figures for the previous year, amounting in general to more than 11 per cent. This increase, it is stated, is not confined to any one part of the Dominion but extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Among the chief installations inaugurated in 1935 were three additional units of 66,000 horse power each at the Canyon station of the Ontario Government on the Abitibi River, bringing the station up to its full capacity, as designed, of 330,000 horse power, and the addition of two 50,000 horse power units at Beauharnois, on the St. Lawrence River, by the Beauharnois Light, Heat and Power Company, bringing the number of units at that station up to eight, with an aggregate capacity of 400,000 horse power. This

latter installation, which has been already described in Nature, comprises very important control works on the St. Lawrence River, with the diversion of an authorised quantity of 53,072 cu. ft. per second from the river flow. These control works have now been completed. The MacLaren-Quebec Power Company has added a fourth 30,000 horse power unit to the High Falls installation on the Lièvre River, bringing it up to its total ultimate capacity of 120,000 horse power.

It is, accordingly, evident that the activities of the various companies and authorities engaged in hydro-electric exploitation continue unabated, but there is still ample scope for further development, since it is reliably estimated that Canada has an aggregate available water power totalling 20,347,400 horse power under conditions of ordinary minimum flow, and 33,617,200 horse power ordinarily available for six months of the year. Even these figures are probably understatements, for on the basis of the actual waterwheel installation throughout the Dominion, there is a realised excess of 30 per cent over the calculated quantities, so that it may confidently be stated that the actually recorded resources of the Dominion admit of a turbine installation of some 44,700,000 horse power, of which only about 18 per cent has so far materialised. Yet, even this relatively small percentage places Canada with its 722 horse power per 1,000 inhabitants in an outstanding position amongst the water power using countries of the world. The provinces of Ontario and Quebec jointly possess more than 81 per cent of the total developed power, representing, in Quebec, a proportion of 1,258 horse power per 1,000 inhabitants, and in Ontario, 712 horse power per thousand.

It is interesting to note the uses to which the power is put. Almost 88 per cent of the total hydraulic development is utilised in central electric stations, and represents more than 95 per cent of the main generating equipment of the industry which, in turn, generates more than 98 per cent of the total electricity produced for sale in Canada and for export. Although not specially remarkable in size or power, the view in Fig. 1 is interesting as an example of a recent development at Sault Ste. Marie, on the St. Mary River, Ontario. The installation is of 28,050 horse power

and belongs to the Great Lakes Power Company. Another channel of absorption is the pulp and paper industry, Canada's predominant manufacturing activity, which has hydraulic installations of 605,346 horse power and a motor installation for operation by hydro-electricity aggregating more than 1,029,000 horse power, or a combined mechanical installation of more than 1,634,000 horse power. In addition, the industry purchases large quantities of electricity from the central

industry in Canada. A particularly notable feature is the large volume of lower grade ore which can be, and is, profitably mined as a result of the low cost of power. In the latest Annual Report issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics on the mineral production of Canada, it can be seen that the Dominion produces, normally, about 90 per cent of the world's supply of nickel, 60 per cent of its asbestos, nearly 35 per cent of its cobalt, 12 per cent of its gold and lead, 10 per cent of its

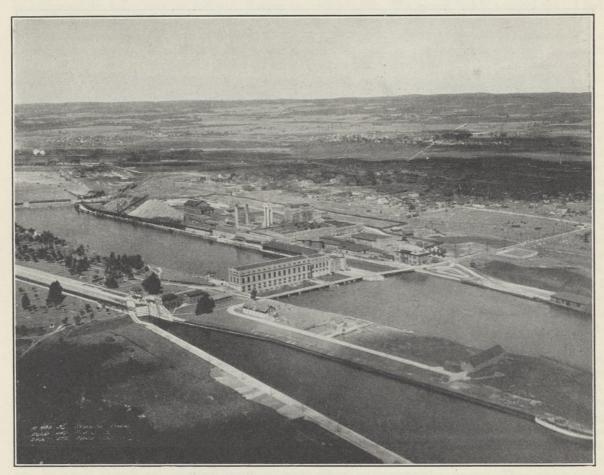


Fig. 1. Sault Ste. Marie development, St. Mary River, Ontario. 28,050 horse power. Great Lakes Power Co., Ltd. By courtesy of the Canadian Official News Bureau, London.

electric stations for use in electric boilers. Fig. 2 shows a development of 56,250 horse power at Smoky Falls on the Mattagami River, belonging to the Spruce Falls Power and Paper Company Ltd.

Water power is also a valuable aid to the mineral industries, and indeed its importance in this respect can scarcely be overstated. The convenient location of ample supplies of hydraulic power economically adjacent to mineral fields and centres of mining activities, and the consequent low price generation of power have been dominant factors in the successful development of the mining

silver, 15 per cent of its zinc and 13 per cent of its copper, besides being one of the major producers of the platinum metals and of aluminium, radium and uranium. Moreover, there is a wide field among the rocks of the great Laurentian Plateau or Pre-Cambrian Shield for the further exploitation of mineral deposits, remarkable alike as regards variety and extent, and this area contains nearly 60 per cent of Canada's available water power, an endowment which is highly favourable to economic development. The Report of the Water Power Bureau affirms that "so far as information is available, there is no present or

prospective mineral area, with the exception of some of the coal fields of the middle plains, where hydraulic energy cannot be made available as demand arises".

One of the most enterprising administrative organisations of the Dominion is the Quebec Streams Commission, which continues to maintain efficiently the desired regulation of flow on all the controlled rivers by means of its extensive system

regard to the regulation of operations, and the levying of rates and other matters connected with the production and distribution of electrical energy in the Province.

With these evidences of the energetic exploitation of its resources of water power, so realistically described in French as *la houille blanche* (white coal), it can be seen that Canada is more than counterbalancing its deficiency in natural fuel. At

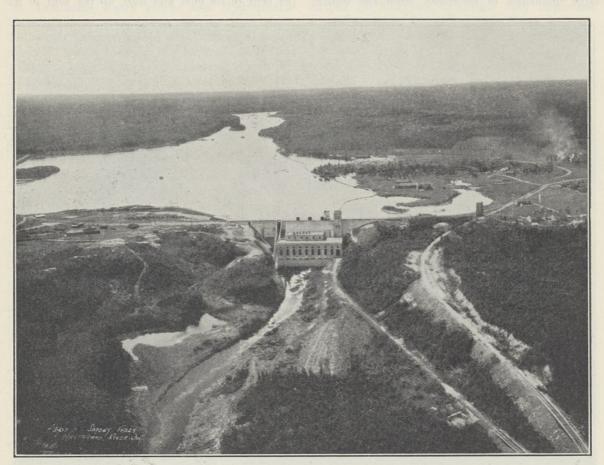


Fig. 2. Smoky Falls development, Mattagami River, Ontario. 56,250 horse power. Spruce Falls Power and Paper Co., Ltd.

By courtesy of the Canadian Official News Bureau, London.

of storage reservoirs in various parts of the province. The Commission now controls seventeen reservoirs, some of them of very considerable size. During the year under review, important legislation was passed by the Quebec Provincial Government extending the powers and activities of the Commission to the actual development and utilization of water power sites, the operation of hydroelectric installations and the production and transmission of hydro-electric energy, as also its purchase from other central electric stations and its re-sale to municipalities and other consumers. A new Commission, the Quebec Electricity Commission, has been created with wide powers in

a moderate estimate of equivalence, the present hydro-electric installations, on the record of their output for 1935, are shown capable of effecting a saving in coal of 19 million tons per annum, and since owing to the lack of geological coal deposits, the highly industrialised Provinces of Ontario and Quebec are under the necessity of importing supplies, it is obvious that the substitutionary power is of the highest importance to their commercial welfare.

¹ Hydro-electric Progress in Canada in 1935. Paper No. 1871. Water Power Resources of Canada, and Hydro-electric Progress in 1935: A Review of the Year's Activities. By the Hon. T. A. Crears, Minister of the Interior. Paper No. 1879. (Ottawa: Dominion Water Power and Hydrometric Bureau, 1936.)
² NATURE, 131, 788 (1933).

Indeterminism and Free Will

By Prof. E. Schrödinger

IT has become the orthodox view of physicists to-day, that the momentary state of a physical system does not determine its movement or development or behaviour, to follow; Nature is supposed to be such that a knowledge of state, sufficiently accurate for sharp prediction of the future, is not only unobtainable but also unthinkable. All that can be predicted refers to a large number of identical experiments, and consists in a definite statistics among all the possible developments to follow. The relative margin of indeterminacy (the 'spread' of the statistics) is large for a small system, for example, for an atom; but for large systems the margin is usually, though not necessarily, small, which makes it possible to account for the apparent determinacy of inanimate Nature.

Many eminent scientific workers, especially physicists, have tried to play with the idea that the apparent indeterminacy of animate Nature, that is, of living matter, might be connected with the theoretical indeterminacy of modern physics. What makes this play so fascinating and thrilling is evidently the hope (whether outspoken or concealed) of extracting from the new physical dogma a model of free-will, which the old one would refuse to yield. I consider this hope an illusion, for the following general reasons.

When observed objectively in other creatures, free-will actions do not call for a special 'indeterminist' explanation any more than other events. When two persons (or the same person on different occasions) react differently under apparently the same conditions, we feel compelled to account for it, whether the reaction is a passive or an active one, by a real, though unknown, difference of conditions, including, of course, character and temporary disposition on the part of the reacting persons. A poet unrolling before us the objective picture of free-will actions is just as concerned about proper causation (here called motivation) as the classical physicist was for inanimate Nature.

On the other hand, when regarded as a fact of self-observation, free-will has quite a different standing from scientific experience. The two are, as it were, in different planes, which do not intersect. Self-observed free-will I would analyse into two facts. First, indeed, a prediction, but not based on previous experience, certainly not in the way in which scientific prediction is. If I am the

actor, I just *know* what is going to happen, and that, apart from pathological cases, with the greatest amount of certainty which is ever met with in life. The *second* fact is a moral one: I feel responsible for what happens.

Now, it is true that this absolute prescience is a matter only of the very last moment before or when the action sets in, which it rather accompanies than precedes. Before that there is frequently doubt and even entire ignorance ('hesitation'). This antecedent period, together with the remarkable feeling of responsibility, entails the idea of choice between different possibilities for which a clue is sought in the modern views of physics. If that were right, it would mean either one of two things. First, that the laws of Nature are after all at "my" mercy. For if my smoking or not smoking a cigarette before breakfast (a very wicked thing!) were a matter of Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, the latter would stipulate between the two events a definite statistics, say 30:70; which I could invalidate by firmness. Or, secondly, if that is denied, why on earth do I feel responsible for what I do, since the frequency of my sinning is determined by Heisenberg's principle? The new physics does not shift St. Augustin's paradox by a hair's breadth.

In my opinion the whole analogy is fallacious, because the plurality of possible events, in the case of an action under free-will, is a self-deception. Think of cases such as the following: you are sitting at a formal dinner, with important persons, terribly boring. Could you, all at once, jump on the table and trample down the glasses and dishes, just for fun? Perhaps you could: maybe you feel like it: at any rate you cannot. Then, which of the virtually possible events are to be called possible under the auspices of free-will? I would say, just the one that actually follows.

Against this view cases might be quoted where the decision is really difficult, serious, painful, bewildering, when we are down on our knees before the Almighty to forgo it. But in this He is inexorable! We must decide. One thing must happen, will happen, life goes on. There is no ψ -function in life. I have always considered this having-to-decide as a strikingly close subjective correlate to the classical, the deterministic model of Nature. It ought to be emphasized that modern physics does not compel us to abandon this correlation. The material units which determine the

processes of life seem to be large enough for—possibly and even probably—safeguarding the essential course of these processes against any perceptible direct and immediate manifestation of the Heisenberg uncertainty.

The preceding remarks have been elicited by the first page of a highly interesting sketch by Prof. F. G. Donnan, "Integral Analysis and the Phenomena of Life" (Acta Biotheoretica, Series A, vol. 2, Pars 1, 1936; Leyden: E. J. Brill), though not by way of contradiction. Prof. Donnan is not concerned with the question of free-will. His idea

is that an organism is to be regarded as a 'historical' system, whose reactions at a given moment are not determined alone by its surroundings and by its momentary state, but also by what has happened to that organism during a certain previous period. This is a highly attractive view, and the mathematical treatment proposed by Prof. Donnan a very suggestive one—even if one should hesitate to agree with the view (which he considers essential) that some of the historical traces are not engraved in the momentary state otherwise than by modifying its reactivity.

The Institute of Experimental Psychology at Oxford

THE University of Oxford has recently enacted a statute establishing an Institute of Experimental Psychology, at which active work will be begun in the autumn. Dr. William Brown, Wilde reader in mental philosophy in the University, has been appointed its first director, with Dr. William Stephenson as his assistant. The management of the Institute is in the hands of a committee consisting of the Vice-Chancellor, a representative appointed by each of the boards of the Faculties of Medicine, Literæ Humaniores, Biological Sciences and Social Studies, together with the director.

Thus Oxford has at length officially fallen into step with the movement that has been going on for more than fifty years, the aim of which has been to free psychology from the exclusive tutelage of philosophy, and establish it as an independent, empirical and experimental science. Such freedom, however, does not imply separation, nor can the independence be more than a relative one.

In taking its place among the other natural sciences, the data of all of which provide grist for the philosophical mill, psychology will still look to philosophy, as they do, for the solution of some of the ultimate problems; though it will pursue its own proximate quests by its own empirical line of approach and the use of its own appropriate methods. Grouped together with the other sciences, again, and particularly with the biological and social sciences, there will be much overlapping and interlacing, which can only result in great mutual advantage to them all. Both these points have most wisely been taken into consideration in the constitution of the committee of management of the new Institute.

The foundation of this laboratory at Oxford is in a sense a historic event. For centuries, the University has been the home of philosophy, of which psychology has always been an integral and essential part. In the Middle Ages, Roger Bacon and Duns Scotus, no mean psychologists, stand out amongst its scholars. In the seventeenth century, the 'father' of modern psychology, John Locke, author of the famous "Essay Concerning Human Understanding", was a student of Christ Church. When the Wilde readership was founded in 1898, a distinguished psychologist, G. F. Stout, was appointed to hold it; and he was succeeded by a no less distinguished teacher of the science than William McDougall.

An age-long tradition was there; the conversion of rational into empirical psychology had already But as yet there was no established laboratory in which systematic research could be prosecuted. One is tempted to ask why Oxford should have lagged behind when Cambridge, London, Manchester, Edinburgh forged ahead, in company with most other European and American universities, following the lead of Wundt at Leipzig. Was it opposition from the ancient vested interests of philosophy? Was it the belief that scientific psychology was a mere appendage of physiology? Did the terms of the Wilde readership, excluding experimental psychology explicitly from its purview, stand in the way? Of recent years, at any rate, it was none of these things. Before the Great War, McDougall was able for a time to direct a laboratory, housed in rooms belonging to the Department of Physiology, and having access to apparatus in use there. Solid work had already begun; and, but for the upheaval of the War years and their aftermath, it might have become permanent. But the accommodation was then urgently needed for other purposes, and funds were unavailable; so the project had to be abandoned.

During Brown's fifteen years' tenure of the Wilde readership, several attempts were again made in this direction; but, though encouraged by much friendly sympathy on the part of the authorities, the same lack of funds and rooms in which to house a laboratory made it impracticable. Last year, however, a generous offer of £10,000 was

made through the Wilde reader for this purpose; and it was gladly accepted by the University. The curators of the University Chest will provide the necessary accommodation; and a further sum of £500, together with a grant of £150 a year for five years from the Rockefeller benefaction for research in the social sciences, is to go to the Institute.

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Centenary of Darwin's Visit to the Galapagos Islands Issue of Commemorative Stamps by Ecuador

DISTINGUISHED men of science have, before now, been commemorated on postage stamps by countries sufficiently civilized to value their achievements, but it does not appear that any

particular event in the history of science has hitherto been celebrated in this way. It has been left to the Republic of Ecuador to mark, by the issue of a special series of stamps, the centenary of a critical point in the development of the evolution theory. It was on September 16, 1835, that Darwin first landed on Chatham Island in the Galapagos group, where, as he wrote in his "Journal of Researches", "we seem to be brought somewhat near to that great fact—that mystery of mysteries-the first appearance of new beings on this earth". The influence of what he saw there on the later development of his thought is now a commonplace of biological teaching, although some modern

writers on evolution might be well advised to read again his own account of his observations and the conclusions to which he was led.

The six stamps which are here reproduced bear designs associated with the islands or with Darwin's visit, the introduction of a portrait of Christopher Columbus being apparently suggested by the Ecuadorean name for the group, "Archipelago of Colon". The portrait of Darwin is taken from a well-known photograph now hanging in Down

House; it represents him in his old age, and is probably that by which he is best remembered, although at the time of his visit to the Galapagos Islands he was, of course, a young man of twentysix years. A view, presumably representing some place in the islands, has a group of coconut palms in the foreground. If this is correct, it indicates a change in the flora since Darwin's time, for he notes in his "Journal", "I saw nowhere any member of the palm family". Two of the designs represent reptiles characteristic of the islands, one of the land iguanas and one of the giant tortoises from which the group takes its name. How many zoologists, one wonders, associate "Galapagos" with the



Fig. 1. Stamps issued by the Ecuadorean Government in commemoration of the centenary of Darwin's visit to the Galapagos Islands in the Beagle in 1835.

familiar but etymologically obscure word "carapace"?

It is important to remember that one of the things that struck Darwin on visiting the islands was the abundance of individuals, especially of some of the larger reptiles. This density of population has now become a thing of the past, and the accounts of recent travellers make it clear that unless adequate protection can be given, the disappearance of this unique fauna is only a matter of time. It is therefore a subject for congratulation that the Ecuadorean Government has taken an enlightened view of its responsibilities. It has declared the greater part of the archipelago a Nature reserve, in which no hunting or collecting is allowed except by special permission for scientific purposes. Further, a list has been drawn up of the species more immediately

threatened, and the killing or capture of these is prohibited, except that the inhabitants may kill some of them for food.

Many scientific bodies on both sides of the Atlantic have expressed their approval of the steps taken, and have offered to co-operate in rendering them effective. A committee of the British Association, under the chairmanship of Sir Edward Poulton, is at present considering what can be done to organise this international co-operation with the Ecuadorean Government.

W. T. CALMAN.

Obituary

Prof. A. A. Bowman

BY the death on June 12 of Prof. A. A. Bowman at his home in Glasgow, British philosophy has lost one of its most effective and attractive personalities.

Prof. Bowman was fifty-three years of age. Except for the period of the War, he had spent his life in the study and teaching of philosophy, first in Glasgow, then in the United States, finally again in Glasgow. He took his degree in classics and philosophy: and after a post-graduate year in Germany, he served his apprenticeship to teaching in Glasgow. In 1910 he was elected professor of logic at Princeton, New Jersey, becoming later administrative chairman of the Department of Philosophy. In 1926, at more than a little material sacrifice, he accepted a call to return to his old University. For one year he held the chair of logic: and from 1927 until his death the chair of moral philosophy. At no time in the long history of that illustrious chair has its holder exercised a stronger personal influence upon his students, upon the University as a whole, and upon Glasgow and the west of Scotland, than Bowman exercised during his short tenure.

Bowman was profoundly a man of peace, and ardent in service of its better organization. The War, however, especially the last months of it, was one of the decisive experiences of his life. He was in the United States. But from the beginning of the War he was restless. In 1915 Princeton gave him leave of absence. The British authorities in the United States, thinking him (quite rightly) medically unfit for active service, refused to recruit him. He came home at his own expense, found some complaisant medical officer to pass him for home service, then, being in the army, badgered his superiors until finally they let him go to France. After a few months campaigning, he was captured in the Lys break-through of April 1918 and sent to a prison camp. That, which seemed to be the end of his service, proved in fact to be his opportunity. Conditions in the camp were deplorable. Bowman's fluency in German made him the natural centre and unofficial leader of the camp. With tremendous resolution, he threw himself into the task first of improving those conditions through negotiation with the German authorities, and then of raising and maintaining the morale of his fellow prisoners. His main instrument for that purpose was a system of tutorial classes which had to be carried through without books or material or facilities of any kind; indeed, with almost no other resource than his own erudition and the persuasiveness of his teaching. He gave lectures and instruction in literature, in philosophy, in contemporary history (especially German and Russian), and in the history of art; and on groups of men quite unfamiliar with these themes, he made a profound impression. He taught them really to save their souls; and he was inspired in the task. That experience sharpened and developed his powers of leadership and of public speech. He had always been a good teacher; the prison camp made him one of the most brilliant and powerful expositors of his time.

Both in the United States and in Scotland Bowman had immense influence. Of slight and even frail physique, he had superb spiritual energy and insight, unshakeable courage, and, as has been noted, quite unusual powers of expression. Scholarship was natural to him: and although his flair was for speculation at once bold and thorough, it was always backed by solid learning. All his life he was an ardent student of classical and of modern literature. He had read widely in social theory and history. He was a good critic of painting. Especially in later years, his studies in the philosophy of religion had drawn him into the field of cultural anthropology, in which he had a vast and intimate knowledge of a great variety of primitive civilizations. All this equipment he brought into fullest play in the ordinary business of his crowded class-room. His students, indeed any audience which he addressed, fell instantly under his spell. For his learning, his humour and his eloquence were no more than the instruments of a man of richest personal quality-of deep insight, of rare imaginative power, and of profound moral and social convictions. In philosophy, he held by the Idealist tradition in which he had been nurtured. He gave it a metaphysical form of his own which his early teachers would have found strange. But he never moved from their conception as to the nature and importance of the issues with which philosophy is concerned. In his hands philosophy was a way not only of thought but also of life. He had worked out his system in the grand style, compact, articulate, thorough and comprehensive, and he presented it with uncommon power.

Bowman's great work was done in the class-room and on the public platform. The tale of his publications is small: a volume of sonnets-the fruits of his prison camp experience—two or three pamphlets and a few articles in learned journals. Happily there is a bigger book almost ready for the press; and it may be hoped that in the large mass of manuscript material which he has left, enough will be found in readily publishable form to give to others than his own students, some idea of the reflections of one of the most original, interesting and courageous minds of H. J. W. HETHERINGTON. our time.

Prof. Margaret Benson

PROF. MARGARET BENSON, whose death on Saturday, June 20, is mourned by a wide circle of friends, is known best to botanists as one of the leading palæophytologists of the last generation. Much of her early work on fossils, which began about 1904, has long been incorporated into the text-books; but it is only a year since she published her last paper on the subject. Her best work was done at a time when the technique of fossil cutting was in its infancy, and for years she cut her own sections at a small lapidary bench in a shed in the grounds of the Royal Holloway College, with a cutting machine worked by a gas engine. She left her valuable collection of fossil slides to the College.

Prof. Benson's industry and single-mindedness were quite exceptional, and were combined with a very real flair for knowing what a fossil might yield and how a structure might be interpreted. She was trained in research at Newnham College, Cambridge, and University College, London, and her early work there on the embryology of Amentiferæ, for which the D.Sc. of the University of London was conferred on her in 1894, is now a classic. In October 1893 she was appointed head of the newly founded Department of Botany at the Royal Holloway College. The Department flourished under her, and in 1912 the University conferred on her the title of University professor of botany, which chair she held at the College until her resignation in 1922.

Prof. Benson was a great traveller and collector; and the botanical garden, museum, herbarium and well-stocked laboratories of her College to-day bear witness to her indefatigable enthusiasm and wise foresight. In the Michaelmas term of 1897 she was granted leave of absence in order to visit the professors of botany of Brussels, Heidelberg, Tübingen, Basle, Strasbourg and Paris in their respective laboratories during term. This tour she made with the view of securing the best information for the equipment of a botanical laboratory. In later years she made two journeys to the antipodes, and on both occasions brought back quantities of valuable specimens. Her botanical work is of enduring value, and she inspired many generations of students with E. M. B. a love of the subject.

Prof. A. A. Noyes

THE death of Arthur Amos Noyes, director of the Chemical Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology, which occurred at Pasadena on June 3 as the result of an attack of pneumonia at the age of sixty-nine years, has deprived physical chemistry of another of its pioneers of the Ostwald Noyes may be regarded, indeed, as the American prototype of Sir James Walker, who died last year. Just as Walker was Ostwald's first British student at Leipzig, Noves was the first American. Of them, Ostwald remarks in his autobiography: "Both are not only distinguished as investigators and teachers, but belong also as men to the best examples of this diversified race".

For nearly twenty years the research laboratory of physical chemistry of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which Noyes directed and to which he personally contributed half the expenses of maintenance, was the centre of this branch of science in the United States, and many of the leading American physical chemists may be counted among his students. His own contributions to the ionic theory of electrolytes and to the principles of qualitative analysis were of primary importance in the modern development of these two fields.

Modesty and thoroughness were the chief characteristics both of Noyes' work and of his character. He sought no honours: he leaves many friends.

JAMES KENDALL.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Mr. Arthur D. Carey, known for his explorations in Central Asia, for which he was awarded the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society in 1889, on June 11, aged ninety-one years.

Prof. Ira E. Cutler, emeritus professor of zoology in the University of Denver, on May 25, aged seventy-

three years.

Prof. W. E. Dalby, F.R.S., emeritus professor of engineering in the City and Guilds College, Imperial College of Science and Technology, University of London, on June 26, aged seventy-two years.

Prof. Ivan Hönl, professor of bacteriology in the University of Prague, known for his work in combating the scourge of tuberculosis in Central Europe, on June 7, aged seventy years.

Mr. Frank Merricks, past-president of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy, and a member of the Geological Survey Board in 1920-26, on June 8, aged seventy years.

Sir Charles Nathan, C.B.E., member of the Executive Council of the Australian Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in 1927-28, on June 5, aged seventy-six years.

News and Views

Retirement of Prof. W. A. Bone, F.R.S.

AT the end of the present session, Prof. W. A. Bone vacates, under the age limit, the chair of chemical technology at the Imperial College of Science, which he has held for the past twenty-five years. A graduate of Owens College, Manchester, he studied under Prof. H. B. Dixon and later, when lecturer there in chemistry and metallurgy, he carried out those classical investigations into the slow and explosive combustion of hydrocarbons which have done so much to elucidate the mechanism of their oxidation, and enabled him to formulate the hydroxylation theory. In 1905, he became the first Livesey professor of coal gas and fuel industries in the University of Leeds, and there laid the broad foundations of the new branch of science, fuel technology; there also, in collaboration with McCourt, he invented and developed surface combustion. At South Kensington, Prof. Bone was faced in 1912 with the task of building up a new Department of Chemical Technology, and under his inspiring leadership a research school of world-wide reputation has been created. His field has covered high-pressure explosions and gas reactions, flame spectra, the study by high-speed photography of flame movements in gaseous explosions, the chemical constitution of coal and gas reactions in the blast furnace. At a dinner on June 17, given in honour both of Prof. Bone and Mr. W. C. Hancock who is also retiring from the lecturing staff of the Department, a distinguished gathering including many old colleagues and students assembled, and suitable presentations were made. Fortunately Prof. Bone's retirement does not mean the ending of his scientific activities, for the College authorities, strongly supported by industry and other outside bodies, are providing a new research laboratory in which he will be enabled to pursue those investigations on which he is still actively engaged.

Société de l'Industrie Minérale: Foreign Members

AT a general meeting of the Société de l'Industrie Minérale, St. Etienne, held on May 24, it was decided that the Society should, for the first time, elect honorary members, the terms of the modified statute being that "the title of Honorary Member can be given by the General Meeting to persons of foreign nationality who have promoted the mineral industry or the society by their works". The first elections under the new statute are: Sir Robert Hadfield; Dr. C. E. Guillaume, director of the International Bureau of Weights and Measures; Prof. L. Denoël, professor of mining in the University of Liège; and Prof. P. Fourmarier, professor of geology in the University of Liège. The Société de l'Industrie Minérale, which was founded in 1855, is one of the leading associations of French engineers, and has a roll of nearly two thousand members.

Meyer Medal for Plant Introduction

THE Mever Medal of the American Genetic Association, for distinguished service in plant introduction, was presented on June 13 to Mr. P. H. Dorsett, who for more than forty-five years has been associated with the scientific work of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mr. Dorsett was instrumental in bringing together the largest collection of soy bean varieties that has ever been made. Two expeditions to China were undertaken to make this collection. On the first trip Mr. Dorsett and his son, the late James Dorsett, collected more than two thousand samples from Nanking and its vicinity. On the second expedition, Mr. Dorsett and Dr. William J. Morse, soy bean expert of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, collected more than six thousand samples which were sent to the United States for test. A total of some two thousand distinct varieties of soy beans was obtained from these samples. These are being tested to determine their value to the American farmer. Some of them are already being widely used. The soy bean is a relatively new plant immigrant in the United States, but in 1935 five and a half million acres were planted with it, and forty million bushels of the dry beans were harvested. Mr. Dorsett also took part in three expeditions to obtain new varieties of plants to Brazil (1913-14) and to the West Indies in 1927-30. He was instrumental in bringing into the U.S. valuable citrus varieties and many rare ornamental plants. The Meyer Medal is awarded at intervals by the Council of the American Genetic Association for distinguished services in plant introduction. It is named in honour of the late Frank Meyer, pioneer plant explorer of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and had its origin in a fund left by Meyer to his fellow workers in plant introduction, who decided to use it for this purpose. Meyer spent the last nine years of his life in plant explorations in China. Among previous recipients is Mr. H. N. Ridley, who was responsible for the introduction of Para rubber into the East Indies.

Newton Manuscripts

An interesting sale of manuscripts is advertised by Messrs. Sotheby and Co., 34 and 35 New Bond Street, on July 13 and the following day. Readers of NATURE may remember the "Portsmouth Papers", strictly a "Catalogue of the Portsmouth Collection of Books and Papers written by or belonging to Sir Isaac Newton", published by the Cambridge University Press in 1888. The then Earl of Portsmouth presented the scientific part of these papers to the University, and an influential syndicate of the University issued a catalogue of the whole, and took a copy of the more important letters that it did not keep, and returned these to Lord Portsmouth. The Portsmouth family, which has a connexion with

Newton, has put the manuscripts, or such as they have now, in the hands of all serious workers, from Horsley to L. T. More. Viscount Lymington, the heir of the Earl of Portsmouth, has now instructed Messrs. Sotheby to sell them. It might thus seem that there was little except personal matters to find. Many of the letters have been published, accurately or inaccurately, whole or in part, in various wellknown sources. But the list includes, for example, such items as "three thick folio volumes", which we did not know of, relating to the Mint and containing documents in Newton's hand. It makes one leave in suspense the Cambridge report, that "Newton's manuscripts on Alchemy are of very little interest in themselves", probable as this may seem in itself, and though the syndicate contained one notable chemist. Also Messrs. Sotheby have added some celebrated portraits to their list. The sale should be well attended; for though most of the contents that are valuable are available, many would like a copy of Newton's beautiful handwriting and that of his contemporaries, apart from those that contemplate a more extensive purchase.

National Inland Water Survey

THE first Annual Report of the Committee appointed in January, 1935, jointly by the Minister of Health and the Secretary of State for Scotland, "to advise on the Inland Water Survey for Great Britain, on the progress of the measures undertaken and on further measures required and, in particular, to make an annual report on the subject", has been awaited with keen anticipation in many quarters, and especially by those engaged in the use and exploitation of the water supplies of Great Britain. It was scarcely to be expected, however, that during the first year of its existence, the Committee would be able to achieve any remarkable results. duty was, naturally, to review the existing conditions and to ascertain the extent to which processes and methods in vogue could be adapted to some uniform and standardized system of procedure. The purpose of the survey, as set out in the Report now issued (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 3d. net.), "is to correlate the information at present obtained from all sources, to extend and increase the sources of information, and to make the information readily available for the use of the interests concerned". This has involved exploratory investigations in various directions and the issue of inquiries, which took the form of a detailed questionnaire (reproduced in an appendix to the Report) to which replies have been received from about 3,000 bodies and persons. The replies show that there is a good deal of information available, but that it is varied in type and date, is insufficient and lacks co-ordination and distribution—an endorsement of the conclusions arrived at by the British Association Committee in its report to the Leicester meeting, 1933.

The present Committee has, accordingly, directed its attention to the means by which an improved system of gauging and recording could be attained. At the same time, it has been conscious of the

desirability on economical grounds of adopting as gauging stations a number of structures not originally designed for the purpose, and of obtaining measurements from weirs of a type perhaps not best suited to the end in view. It is of opinion, as advocated in NATURE (Nov. 5, 1932; and again, Aug. 4, 1934), when the matter was first under public consideration, that the Catchment Boards of England and Wales, established under the Land Drainage Act, 1930, are the appropriate bodies to instal gauging stations on rivers and to make and record the measurements of the flow of the rivers which they control. The co-operation of the Catchment Boards has therefore been sought with results which are described as encouraging, and, as there is a large area in England and Wales not yet under the jurisdiction of any catchment board, the Committee has concentrated attention for the time being on areas for which Catchment Boards have been appointed. As regards underground water, the aid of the Geological Survey has been enlisted with the approval of the Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. In estimating the value of the existing gauging stations for measuring overground water, an examination has been made of three selected rivers—the Nene, the Thames and the Clyde—and a section of the Report deals with each of them in detail. After setting out its proposals for the publication of data, the Committee concludes the Report with an expression of satisfaction at what it has been able to accomplish in the first year of its existence.

Britain's Largest Hydro-Electric Development

An aggregate of 102,000 kilowatt of plant is installed in five power stations in Kirkcudbrightshire and Wigtownshire in the south-west of Scotland. When the Water-Power Sources Committee presented its report in 1924, this portion of Scotland was defined as a place where there were possibilities of water-power development, but it was not surveyed as no commercial outlet for the power could then be visualized. The formation of the Grid, by providing the necessary power outlet, showed how a commercial application was possible, and the present hydroelectric scheme was developed as an important factor in the Central Scotland Grid scheme. In the Electrical Times for June 25 there is a detailed account of this scheme, called the Galloway Water Power Scheme, which generates the greatest amount of hydroelectric power of any station in Great Britain. In any power scheme the peak units are by far the most expensive. With steam generation, for example, a large amount of plant capacity has to be provided to cover the period of maximum demand. Daily peaks also occurring at regular intervals are expensive owing to the stand-by coal required. In these circumstances, we can see that hydro-electric plant, which can pick up and drop load at very short notice either in normal operation or in emergency, is a very valuable asset. The Galloway undertaking is unique amongst power stations, as it was planned and carried out as a peak load station instead of supplying the usual basic load. It has already proved valuable during the sharp rise and fall of the Glasgow industrial load at the midday dinner hour and other similar occasions. It is satisfactory to learn that after the results of the first twelve months' operation of the first half of the scheme, which includes the two power stations of Tongland and Glenlee, having plant aggregating 57,000 kilowatt, the financial future of the undertaking seems assured.

"Concerning Human Progress"

Dr. H. S. Harrison was characteristically stimulating in his presidential address to the Royal Anthropological Institute on June 30, when he spoke "Concerning Human Progress". Unquestionably his choice of a topic was apt to the needs of contemporary thought, which may well look to the anthropologist for guidance on such questions as the direction and mechanism of human development. Dr. Harrison's conclusions, however, gave his hearers little cause for complacency. He showed no little courage in electing neither to attempt a strict definition of progress, nor to lay down canons of discrimination between upward and downward, in the direction of change. In the event, however, when once he had pointed out that the idea of progress is a modern growth, which did not affect human development until the latter part of the nineteenth century, this deliberate omission enabled him, speaking more especially as a technologist, to demonstrate the essential opportunism of cultural development in the past, which has moved continually forward, backward and sideways, without knowledge of what the direction might be, and not infrequently has led to a dead end. Social progress, he went on to point out, has had no better guidance; but as codes of conduct and actual behaviour are the objective revelations of the mind of man, individually or collectively, and both the material and immaterial products of the human mind have trespassed far beyond the biological necessities, the question arises whether the mind of man has been moulded in response. Dr. Harrison, quite rightly, stressed the apparent paradox that, so far as the evidence goes, there is little, if any, difference to be discerned in physical character and brain power between the earliest example of Homo sapiens and the man of to-day. If we look for the directional factor which might have brought about a change in the heart and mind of man, of those forces which have been put forward as active in organic evolution, use-inheritance alone appears to fulfil the requirement, but is ruled out of court, owing to its general repudiation by the biologist. Hence, Dr. Harrison concluded on a note of pessimism, "the mind of man . . . has little sense of direction, and if it may be said to have an ultimate aim, that aim is too obscure for formulation."

The Osborne Reynolds Ridge

The recent letters in Nature from Prof. W. Schmidt and Prof. H. Stansfield, describing their observations of a capillary wave on the surface of water, are a reminder that important published observations may be forgotten for many years. Prof.

Stansfield now finds that this phenomenon was described by Osborne Reynolds in 1881. Reynolds produced the wave by dropping oil on water, and also observed it in the open air, perhaps when he was fishing, as he says it looks like a line of gut floating on a river, where the water eddies up to the surface in deep pools. About forty years later, there was fresh activity in the study of moving films. In September, 1921, the late Mr. E. Edser quoted Reynolds's paper at a meeting of the Faraday Society, and described experiments showing that the moving film of oil sets in motion a thin layer of water beneath it. Five years before, in Toronto, Prof. J. Satterly had noticed a 'ripple' which moves up a glass tube in advance of the liquid meniscus, when the tube is being filled from below; this and other effects similar to the Reynolds ridge were under investigation there. Five years later, Burdon of Adelaide published a photograph of oil spreading on the surface of water, clearly showing the Reynolds ridge in advance of the visible oil film; and in the same year, 1926, Edser included this photograph and a discussion of the ridge in Appendix IV of his "General Physics for Students". When the rising generation of physicists see the Reynolds ridge, they should recognize it at once as an old friend.

Syria and Crete: Further Discoveries

SIR LEONARD WOOLLEY'S further report on his excavations in Syria is a striking justification of the prescience which sought in the area at the mouth of the Orontes evidence for the early relation of the civilizations of Crete and western Asia. The evidence which has been brought to light since the dispatch of his first report (see NATURE of June 13, p. 979) carries the story of the Ægean connexions of Syria from c. 900 B.C., the point at which the settlement at Tell Sheikh Yusuf begins, back to the Middle Minoan age of Crete, somewhere between 1700 and 1580 B.C. At Tell Atchana, a mound near the bank of the Orontes, half-way across the Amk plain in the rear of the Amanus mountains, Sir Leonard reports in The Times of June 25, trial excavations in a single trench, which lasted for no more than a fortnight, produced evidence of the existence in the heart of Syria of a city settlement, which was predominantly Cretan in character, and was deserted entirely not later than the twelfth century B.C. At an earlier stage of its history this city had been ravaged by fire and sword, as was shown by the evidence of the large buildings, of which the firescarred remains were uncovered. Here the floors were littered with fragments of pottery, among which Syrian wares were mingled with sherds showing characteristic Minoan motifs, as well as with specimens of the art of, at present, unknown provenance previously reported. The evidence indicates that the destruction of the building took place before the Late Minoan age began. The find of a Minoan bronze sword is balanced by a Mesopotamian bronze axe and chisels and cylinder seals. The link between Crete and the site on the Amk plain has yet to be demonstrated; but a clue is afforded by the ridgetop acropolis site at the head of the delta, where surface finds on one hand match the pottery of various periods at Tell Sheikh Yusuf, and on the other include fragments of Mycenæan and Cypriote bronze age wares corresponding with the later levels of Tell Atchana.

Recent Acquisitions at the Natural History Museum

MRS. CONSTANCE THORBURN has presented to the Department of Zoology of the Museum seventeen water-colour drawings of British mammals executed by her husband the late Archibald Thorburn. Purchases for the Department include a collection of small mammals, mostly rodents, including some rare and little-known species from the Cameroons; and a small collection of European birds obtained on their northward migration in April and May by Mr. C. G. Bird, at Rio d'Oro, on the north-east coast of Africa. Dr. C. T. Trechmann has generously presented to the Department of Geology a large and valuable collection (including more than 200 type and figured specimens) of Mollusca collected by him from the West Indies. The Mineral Department has received as a gift from Mr. Arthur Earland sea-bottom deposits collected from the Weddell Sea in the Antarctic by the "Discovery" expedition, together with the crystals of gypsum, calcium oxalate, and the new mineral earlandite which had been picked by him from the samples collected. Among the purchases is a series of minerals from Brazil, including a beautiful, table-cut, strongly dichroic aquamarine, spodumene of three kinds and quartz in many different forms and habits. A series of well-shaped crystals of lapis-lazuli and three iridescent limonites from Queensland also have been bought.

Mathematics in Bombay

A very interesting experiment in the teaching of mathematics is being carried out in the University of Bombay. Prof. John Maclean, of Wilson College, has had the commendable courage to break away from the beaten track of academic mathematics by devising a special course for his students, dealing mainly with the uses of elementary mathematical methods in the description of quantitative phenomena. The course forms the subject matter of a recent book by Prof. Maclean entitled "Descriptive Mathematics", which was noticed in NATURE of March 7, p. 382. In the Bombay Intermediate Arts and Science examination in March, alternative papers were set: one being of the traditional academic type, whilst the other, entitled "Statistics and Nomograms", was designed to test the efficacy of the new course. Out of a total of 1,400 students, about twenty took this paper. Its questions cover a wide field, and range from Newton's interpolation formula, probability and frequency distributions to transcendental equations and the construction of various types of nomograms. It will be interesting to study the results of this experiment for, judged by the examination paper in conjunction with Prof. Maclean's book, the new course is certainly designed not only to stimulate interest, but also to render a rigorous presentation

of the basic ideas in mathematics much more vivid and powerful than that provided by the stereotyped courses.

Scientific Research in Australia

THE ninth annual report of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Commonwealth of Australia (Canberra: Government Printer, 1936. 4s. 8d.), covers the year ended June 30, 1935, and gives brief accounts of the work of the various divisions in which the work is organised. Weed problems are receiving a considerable share of attention, particularly on the entomological side, through the introduction and distribution of insects which attack the plants in other countries. Investigations are being initiated into contagious bovine mastitis, a serious disease prevalent in dairy herds throughout the world, and an attempt is being made to establish at a dairy farm near Melbourne a normal herd free from the disease. The rabbit pest and the testing of seeds continue to receive attention, and in addition to its investigations on weed pests, the Division of Economic Entomology has been investigating means of preventing the attack of sheep by blowflies. The Division of Animal Health has discovered new and more effective methods of administering anthelmintics for the control of internal parasites of sheep, while the Division of Animal Nutrition has studied the 'coast disease' of sheep, drought feeding and the processes of wool growth. Soil problems, timber preservation and seasoning, the preservation and transport of fruit and chilled beef have been investigated by other Divisions. Even the brief accounts of these investigations contained in the present report indicate that the work of the Council is making noteworthy contributions to the welfare of the basic industries and occupations of Australia.

Geological Survey of Australia

When the Commonwealth of Australia was established, the administration of mining affairs, including geological work, was left with the six independent States. The consequence is that Australia is to-day the only dominion without a national geological survey, a situation which is viewed with grave dissatisfaction by its scientific workers. Every effort hitherto made to remedy the position has failed owing to official opposition from some, but not all, of the State Departments of Mines. A conference between Commonwealth and State officers, held in Melbourne last month, was but little more successful than any of its predecessors. Political, rather than scientific, considerations appear to dominate the issue, and this further failure to agree upon the establishment of a national body, either by the Commonwealth alone or by the States acting jointly, is greatly to be regretted.

Economic Products of the British Empire

Vol. 34, No. 1 of the *Bulletin of the Imperial Institute* has been published by the Institute itself, but the general format remains practically unaltered. This number contains an important report by the

Imperial Institute Advisory Committee on Hides and Skins on a series of hides prepared experimentally in Southern Rhodesia with the view of improving the material turned out by the natives. It is shown that a simple method of drying the hides which was recommended by the Committee gives excellent results, as it did in the case of earlier experiments in East Africa, and is a great improvement over the ordinary native methods of sun-drying. An article by Mr. M. H. French, of the Tanganyika Veterinary Service, records the work which has been done in that Territory to improve the quality of the clarified butter (ghee) produced there. This product, although little known in Great Britain, is of great importance in tropical regions, since when properly prepared and stored it will keep almost indefinitely under conditions in which ordinary butter turns rancid in a few days. An article by Dr. E. O. Teale, mineral adviser to the Government of Tanganyika Territory, describes recent developments in gold mining in this country. Another article gives a brief outline of the mineral resources of Johore, one of the little-known Unfederated States of Malaya. Alluvial tin ore is being mined in three different areas. In another area iron ore is being mined, and unworked deposits are known to occur in three further regions. Gold and china clay are being produced in small amounts, wolfram has been found in one locality, and prospecting for coal is being carried on in two places.

National Bureau of Standards

A REPRINT from the annual report of the U.S. Secretary of Commerce, 1935, describes briefly the more important of the developments of the Bureau of Standards during the last twelve months. Scientific workers and engineers are making increasing use of its facilities. The testing of supplies and materials has increased by 15 per cent over the previous year. This is partly due to the building activities of various Government agencies. Having received an exceptionally pure sample of the metal gallium, its freezing point was determined and found to be $29.780^{\circ} \pm 0.005^{\circ}$ C. The melting point of this element is so low that the crystals melt to a liquid on a hot summer day. An investigation has been completed on the efficiency of a large number of rust-preventing materials with particular reference to their use in preventing corrosion in aviation engines during storage. Certain types of materials have been found to be extremely effective for this purpose and for use as general rust preventatives. Laboratory tests of numerous types of oil filters show that some of these devices are most efficient in removing impurities formed in the oil during service. Two formulæ were developed for ink powders which make a writing ink superior to the present federal specification. Work has shown that the superior properties of the English clays are apparently due to the presence in them of certain natural fluxes which are not found in American clays. These fluxes have been identified and studies are now being made of American clays modified by the addition of fluxes. A code for the safety glass used in automobiles has been formulated. It was developed by the co-operation of manufacturers and users of glass and motor-cars. It specifies tests for wire glass, heat-treated glass and laminated glass which ensure satisfactory safety glass.

Scientific Horticulture

The fourth year-book of the Horticultural Education Association ("Scientific Horticulture", from the Editor, Mr. R. T. Pearl, South Eastern Agric. Coll., Wye, Kent, 3s. 6d. net) presents many helpful contributions. Several papers describe the special considerations of gardening in various parts of England, or discuss the horticultural needs of a particular industry, such as cider-making; and the number of articles which achieve the difficult blend of science with practice shows a gratifying increase over previous year-books. There are also articles which summarize the findings of research stations. Dr. W. F. Bewley writes on "Twenty-one years' Glasshouse Research at Cheshunt", whilst Mr. R. B. Dawson portrays the origin and work of the Board of Greenkeeping Research. Prof. R. J. D. Graham has collected the results of the late Laurence Baxter Stewart on vegetative propagation, and his tables, showing the times and seasons when difficult cuttings may be rooted, will be of very real value to gardeners. Plant pathology has two papers: "The Phytophthora Disease of Strawberry" by Mrs. N. L. Alcock and Mr. D. V. Howells, and "The Virus Diseases of Glasshouse and Garden Plants" by Dr. K. M. Smith. Very useful reviews of the present position of research into vernalisation and into photoperiod are given by Dr. O. N. Purvis and Prof. F. G. Gregory respectively. Messrs. W. J. C. Lawrence and J. Newell describe "Seedling Growth in Partially Sterilised Soil", and Drs. Kidd and West issue a warning about the gas storage of apples. They show that the harmful concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere of the store varies with temperature and also with the oxygen content. The president of the Association, Mr. H. L. Jones, chose the subject "Horticultural Education in North Wales" as the title of his address. The contributions are rarely reports of new work, but serve, in an admirable manner, to make available the more abstruse, and often isolated, findings of research in pure science.

Sands, Clays and Minerals

The April number (Vol. 11, No. 4) of Sands, Clays and Minerals, published by Mr. A. L. Curtis, Westmoor Laboratory, Chatteris, once again brings home to readers the fundamental purpose of this magazine. The editorial reiterates that at any rate a partial solution to the problem of unemployment lies in opening up the vast unexploited mineral resources of the British Empire. Numerous industries depend on minerals as raw materials, and increased production leads to increased activity in these industries, with a corresponding fall in unemployment. Certain minerals now being obtained from foreign sources might be produced wholly or in part within the British Empire. Obstacles to optimum development of such resources are not irremovable, though at the present time they

loom large. Possibly if the responsibility for economic development were taken from bureaucratic bodies and sharply dissociated from political circles, a more rapid advance could be achieved. It is the practical men, technologists and experts who are best equipped to regulate development of mineral wealth now lying dormant within the boundaries of the Empire. Indirectly such men are already furthering this object, both in an advisory capacity and by their contributions to magazines such as this. Several articles follow in illustration of the importance of mineral wealth. Mr. W. G. Boden writes of Canadian radium, showing how important it has become in the fight against cancer. Mr. L. Sanderson describes the rare metal niobium found in association with columbite and which is destined to play an important part in steel stabilisation and welded construction for service in the embrittling zone of temperatures. In addition there are descriptions of the mineral wealth of East Africa, Southern Rhodesia and the Gold Coast. Publicity of this character obviously furthers the case for utilization of British resources to meet British demands.

Distribution of Insecticide by Shot-Gun

In a report from Science Service (Washington, D.C.) dated April 25 a patent is announced, and briefly described, embodying the application of insecticides by means of shells discharged from a kind of gun. The idea is an American invention, which claims that shot-gun shells can be loaded with compressed wads of insecticide instead of lead shot. When such a shell is fired, the force of the explosion ejects a wad like a bullet, and when it has travelled a certain distance, it breaks down into a cloud of ultra-fine dust. The distance at which the dissolution of the wad will occur depends upon its make-up-its compactness and moisture content. This distance, it is claimed, can be calculated so that the dust cloud can be discharged on a desired tree or crop. The advantages of the method, as claimed by the inventor, are safety of the operator from the effects of a toxic dust; elimination of cumbersome and explosive spray or dusting equipment; practically no labour; and effective distribution of an insecticide in otherwise inaccessible places.

Biochemical Research at the Franklin Institute

WE have received the third volume (1934-35) of "Reports of the Biochemical Research Foundation of the Franklin Institute". In a foreword, the director, Dr. Ellice McDonald, points out that this issue marks the withdrawal of the Cancer Research Laboratories of the Graduate School of Medicine from the University of Pennsylvania and their inception as the Biochemical Research Foundation of the Franklin Institute. The ostensible reason for this withdrawal is the refusal of the University to allow patenting of medical or biochemical discoveries for the continued furtherance of research activities, though not for personal profit. The Institute has decided that the past research done on the cancer problem should be made an avenue of approach to the more general area of other diseases. The objects of the new Foundation are the study of the processes of disease from a chemical point of view, the study of new organic chemical compounds for their therapeutic value and the study of longevity and the diseases of age, with the hope of prolonging the span of life. The present volume contains reprints of some thirty papers published by the staff of the Institute and the Cancer Research Laboratories and their colleagues, dealing in general with various aspects of both normal and abnormal tissue metabolism.

Business Mental Activity and Management

MR. W. R. DUNLOP, of 57 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1, who for a number of years has been interested in the study of business mental activity from the point of view of management and administration, and with particular reference to the logic and probability of decisions, desires to get into touch with a logician with a taste for probability arguments and a psychologist interested in the underlying psychological factors. It is desired, if possible, to arrange a private meeting for joint discussion at which an experienced business manager with introspective ability would also be present. The object would be to get a combined opinion on Mr. Dunlop's method and to make proposals for further studies and investigation. Mr. Dunlop would be greatly obliged if any reader would assist him in getting into touch with specialists willing and competent to collaborate in the direction indicated.

Thomas Gray Memorial Trust

THE Royal Society of Arts, through the Thomas Gray Memorial Trust, the objects of which are "the advancement of the Science of Navigation and the Scientific and Educational interests of the British Mercantile Marine", is offering the following prizes for competition in 1936: a prize of £100 to any person who may bring to their notice an invention, publication, diagram, etc., which is considered to be an advancement in the science or practice of navigation, proposed or invented by himself in the period January 1, 1931-December 31, 1936; a prize of £100 for an essay on the following subject: "What are your views as to the effectiveness or otherwise of Part II. of the Merchant Shipping (Safety and Load Line Conventions) Act, 1932, with special reference to vessels engaged in the carriage of oil and timber cargoes, and with particular regard to actual sea experience?" Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.2.

International Association for Quaternary Studies

THE Association internationale pour l'Étude du Quaternaire européen, which met last at Leningrad in 1932, will hold its third session at Vienna on September 1–5. Prof. A. Penck is honorary president, Prof. G. Götzinger is president and Dr. O. Ampferer is president of the Organizing Committee. On this occasion, however, in accordance with a resolution passed at Leningrad, the scope of the Congress is to be the Quaternary in general and not the Quaternary of Europe only. Communications have already been

promised on questions previously arranged for discussion in relation to the Quaternary of Austria and the Alpine glaciations covering stratigraphy, chronology, morphology, climate, prehistory and speleology. MM. Menghin, Kyrle, Beninger and Liebus will devote attention to the palæolithic period. Arrangements have been made for two excursions while the Congress is in session. Of these, one will visit the loess regions of the Danube Valley (Gottweig, Krems) and the other those in the neighbourhood of Vienna (Laaerbeg). At the close there will be a one-day excursion to the Drachenhöhle of Mixnits, while on September 7-8 an excursion will visit the loess of Weinviertel. Finally, a long excursion has been arranged for September 9-25, to visit the Austrian Alps and adjacent terrain. An illustrated guide-book is in course of preparation. Membership is a condition of attendance at the Congress, the annual subscription being 10 schillings (Austrian) or two dollars. In addition to the privilege of attendance at the Congress, members receive copies of reports which cover the progress of quaternary studies from 1908 until 1935. There are at present 180 members of the Congress drawn from twenty-five nations. munications relating to the Congress or to membership should be addressed to Drs. Götzinger and Ampferer, Geologische Bundesanstalt, Rasumofskygasse, Wien III, or to the General Secretary, Herr H. Gams, Botanische Institut, Innsbruck-Hötting.

Announcements

It is announced that the Right Hon. Viscount Hailsham, the Lord Chancellor, has accepted the chairmanship of the British Empire Cancer Campaign.

At the meeting of the Paris Academy of Sciences on May 25, Paul Portier was elected a member of the Section of Medicine and Surgery, in succession to the late Charles Richet.

Dr. H. J. Plenderleith, of the British Museum Research Laboratory, has been appointed professor of chemistry at the Royal Academy in succession to Dr. A. P. Laurie, whose term of office has expired. The professor of chemistry gives six lectures at the Royal Academy, in October and November. They are primarily intended for the Royal Academy students, but are open free to students of other art schools and Royal Academy exhibitors of the year who may wish to attend.

The Council of the Royal Meteorological Society has awarded the Howard Prize for 1936 to Cadet John Burton Davies, of H.M.S. Worcester. The subject of the competition was an essay on "The Causes of Fog over the Open Sea and in Coastal Waters".

WE much regret that the name of Prof. A. C. Seward, who is retiring from the chair of botany in the University of Cambridge which he has held since 1906, was inadvertently omitted from the list in NATURE of June 27, p. 1063, of those on whom the honour of knighthood has been conferred.

On the occasion of the Congress of Psychiatry held at Rome on April 3, a bust of the neurologist and psychologist, Prof. Sancte de Santis, was unveiled by Prof. Ponzo.

Dr. Marshall C. Balfour, representative in Greece of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, has been awarded the silver medal for distinguished services by the Greek Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters in recognition of his researches on malaria control in the Peloponnese and Macedonia.

The eleventh International Congress of Psychology will be held at Madrid on September 6–12 under the patronage of the Spanish Republic and the presidency of Prof. E. Mira of Barcelona. The official languages will be Spanish, English, French, German and Italian. Further information can be obtained from the general secretary, Dr. José German, Instituto Nacional de Psicotecnica, Alberto Aguilera 25, Madrid.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:

A lecturer in anatomy in the University of Birm-

ingham-The Secretary (July 7).

A scientific officer (physics or engineering) in a Government establishment in the south of England—The Secretary, Royal Engineer Board, Regent's Park Barracks, Albany Street, London, N.W.1 (July 7).

A technical assistant (male) in the Air Defence Experimental Establishment, Biggin Hill, Kent— The Superintendent (July 7).

A lecturer in production engineering in the County Technical College, Wednesbury—The Director of Education, County Education Offices, Stafford (July 9).

An assistant lecturer in civil engineering in the City and Guilds College, Imperial College of Science and Technology, Prince Consort Road, South Kensington, S.W.7—The Secretary (July 10).

Chemists (male) at the War Department Chemist, Woolwich Arsenal—The Under-Secretary of State (C.5), The War Office, London, S.W.1 (July 10).

A lecturer in mechanical engineering in the Heanor Mining and Technical School—The Director of Education, County Education Office, St. Mary's Gate, Derby (July 11).

Two assistants (Grade I), one assistant (Grade II) and two junior assistants in the Directorate of Explosives Research; and an assistant (Grade II) in the Directorate of Metallurgical Research in the Research Department, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich—The Chief Superintendent (July 11).

A lecturer in mathematics in the University of Aberdeen—The Secretary (July 17).

A lecturer in physiology in the University of Birmingham—The Secretary (July 17).

A demonstrator in human physiology in the University of Manchester—The Registrar (July 18).

A professor of social anthropology in the University of Oxford—The Registrar.

Letters to the Editor

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. He cannot undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts intended for this or any other part of NATURE. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.

NOTES ON POINTS IN SOME OF THIS WEEK'S LETTERS APPEAR ON P. 39.

CORRESPONDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTACH SIMILAR SUMMARIES TO THEIR COMMUNICATIONS.

Correlation between Scattering and Recoil in the Compton Effect

As is well known, the experiments of Bothe and Geiger¹ and of Compton and Simon² on the correlation between scattering of individual X-ray quanta and electron recoil gave results in complete agreement with the theoretical explanation of the Compton effect, based on the conservation of energy and momentum in each scattering process. The entirely negative results of the recent attempt by Shankland³ to find such a correlation in the scattering of γ-rays from radium was therefore most unexpected, and it seems desirable to repeat the experiments under conditions as well defined as possible and especially using the much more homogeneous γ-rays from thorium4.

For this purpose, experiments have been carried out, using a source of 10 mgm. of RaTh filtered by 0.5 cm. lead. The γ-rays next passed through a hole of cross-section 1-x1.5 cm. in a lead block 30 cm. thick. The scattering angle was 30° both for the electrons and the quanta, the scatterer was a sheet of paraffin wax of 0.05 cm. thickness. A single counter was used for the detection of the scattered quanta and one for the electrons; the two counters were identical except that the electron counter had an aluminium window with thickness 0.04 mm. and diameter 2 cm. The distance from the counter to the scatterer was about 8 cm.

In a single experiment the coincidences were counted together with the kicks in each of the counters. To determine the number of chance coincidences a lead sheet of thickness 2 mm. was placed in front of the $\beta\text{-counter}$; the reduction in the number of single kicks caused by the presence of the lead plate was counterbalanced by placing a weak source of RaD close to the electron counter. The number of kicks in the γ-counter was not changed by this procedure. The coincidences found with the lead plate in position give the number of chance coincidences in the first experiment. The following results were obtained in two different series of experiments:

Kicks per minute			Coincidences per hour				
Wit	thout	scatterer	With B	scatterer	Total (with- out lead plate)	Chance (with lead plate)	Differ- ence
I	120 120	28 120	195 195		6.5 ± 0.6 11.7 ± 0.9	2·3 ± 0·3 8·6 ± 0·7	4·2 3·1

In the second experiment the number of chance coincidences was increased by exposing the γ-counter to a weak source of RaD. The experiments show that coincidences exist between the β- and the γ-counter in a number which is well beyond the experimental error.

The number of kicks in the γ-counter due to the presence of the scatterer was 1.0 per minute. This was found by replacing the scatterer by a block of paraffin wax of known weight, the proportionality between the weight of the scatterer and the number of kicks being tested by separate measurements. If for each scattered quantum recorded by the γ -counter the corresponding electron was recorded by the β-counter, the number of coincidences would thus be 1.0 per minute. This is, however, reduced considerably by a number of circumstances, such as lack of homogeneity of the primary radiation, scattering within the scatterer, etc., which are difficult to take into account accurately. A rough estimate gives for the expected number of coincidences about 8 per hour, in substantial agreement with the value actually found.

These experiments would, therefore, seem to confirm the usual theory of the Compton effect in every respect.

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¹ Z. Phys., 32, 639 (1925).

² Phys. Rev., 26, 289 (1925).

³ Phys. Rev., 49, 8 (1936).

⁴ Since the experiments recorded above were finished, an account of similar experiments leading to the same results has been published by Bothe and Maier-Leibnitz (Göttingen Nachr., 10, 127; 1936).

Conservation Laws in Quantum Theory

In connexion with the new experiments on the correlation between scattering and recoil in the Compton effect by Bothe and Maier-Leibnitz, as well as those by Dr. Jacobsen recorded above, both contradicting the conclusions regarding the absence of such a correlation arrived at by Shankland, I should like to make the following brief comments upon the renewed discussion1 on a possible failure of the laws of conservation of energy and momentum in atomic phenomena, to which Shankland's experiments have given rise.

When in an early attempt² at a generalisation of the classical radiation theory suited to meet the puzzling dilemma of the wave and corpuscular character of radiation, doubts were expressed regarding the validity of the conservation laws for individual quantum processes, the situation was quite different from what it is to-day. Not only have subsequent experimental discoveries made us familiar with similar paradoxes regarding the behaviour of electrons and other material particles, but above all has the establishment of rational methods of quantum mechanics and electrodynamics proved the compatibility of the existence of the quantum of action with the strict validity of the conservation laws in all such phenomena as electron diffraction and Compton Moreover, the examination, initiated by Heisenberg, of the complementary limitations in quantum theory of measurements of mechanical quantities as well as of electromagnetic field components³ has completely removed every paradox in this respect. The essence of the argument may be said to be that any attempt at an unambiguous spacetime co-ordination in quantum phenomena implies a renunciation of the strict application of the conservation laws, due to the essentially uncontrollable exchange of energy and momentum between the object under investigation and the rigid bodies and clocks which define the space-time frame; conversely, any well-defined application of the conservation laws in quantum phenomena implies an essential renunciation as regards space-time co-ordination4.

As the fundamental relations between the wave and particle aspects of light and matter can be expressed in full conformity with the relativity principle, the still unsolved difficulties of quantum electrodynamics, emphasised by Dirac in connexion with this discussion, can scarcely be attributed to any incompatibility between the foundations of quantum theory and relativity theory. The root of these difficulties may rather be looked for in the atomistic nature of electricity, which is as foreign to classical physical theories as the quantum of action itself. The rational incorporation of these different aspects of atomic problems in a comprehensive theory will probably claim entirely new points of view, taking the essentially atomistic structure of all measuring agencies into consideration; but at the moment there would seem to be no reason to expect that this would involve any real departure from the conservation laws of energy and momentum.

Finally, it may be remarked that the grounds for serious doubts as regards the strict validity of the conservation laws in the problem of the emission of β-rays from atomic nuclei are now largely removed by the suggestive agreement between the rapidly increasing experimental evidence regarding \$\beta\$-ray. phenomena and the consequences of the neutrino hypothesis of Pauli so remarkably developed in Fermi's theory.

N. Bohr.

Institute of Theoretical Physics, Copenhagen. June 6.

¹ P. Dirac, NATURE, **137**, 298 (1936). E. J. Williams, NATURE, **137**, 614 (1936). R. Peierls, NATURE, **137**, 904 (1936).

² N. Bohr, H. A. Kramers and J. C. Slater, *Phil. Mag.*, **47**, 785 (1934).

N. Bohr, H. A. Rosenfeld, Kgl. Danske Vidensk. Selsk. math.-fys.
 N. Bohr and L. Rosenfeld, Kgl. Danske Vidensk. Selsk. math.-fys.
 Medd., 12, 8.
 N. Bohr, Phys. Rev., 48, 696 (1935).
 N. Bohr, Faraday Lecture, J. Chem. Soc., 349 (1932).

$[SO_3]_x$

Messes. Gerding, Nijveld and Muller1 infer from the Raman spectrum of sulphur trioxide that it is a mixture of polymorphs. It is interesting to have such information, but to chemists who have known the compound this has always been a necessary

I remember Frankland introducing me to sulphuric anhydride early in 1867, at the Royal Institution, where we were doing gas analysis with the Frankland and Ward apparatus. He distilled it out of Nordhausen acid, using a bulb blown on the spot from an odd bit of tube, heating the small still on a warm tile of a Hofmann combustion furnace. To-day I can see him doing this: it was the way he had of showing one how to use one's fingers. Somehow I fell in love with the silken beauty of the oxide. As a German student, it was my first research Schatz: I cultivated its more acquaintance by the kilo, to

the surprise of my fellow students and even of Kolbe.

I am carried back to 1868, when I tested its action on a large number of chlorides. Typical is the effect it has on carbon tetrachloride, forming carbonyl chloride and pyrosulphuryl chloride, $S_2O_5Cl_2$, it would seem directly, as SO_2Cl_2 and SO_3 do not combine. On the other hand, the anhydride combines readily with HCl and EtCl forming simple chloridescompounds which behave, however, as though they were the trioxide: they are not active apparently through their chlorine, as indeed is the case with acid chlorides generally. Pyrosulphonyl chloride is both a sulphonating and a chlorinating agent; sulphonyl chloride chlorinates.

The peculiarities of the 'trioxide' are not sufficiently recognized. It has high residual affinity. It is the perfect sulphonating agent, used alone but preferably diluted with sand. SO3HCl is a convenient form in which to administer it—not nearly so powerful; the anhydride may even be used in solution in SO₃HCl with effect. I always feel proud of having introduced this chloride into use; it has played a big part in the

manufacture of saccharin.

No text-book does justice to the protean character of the sulphuric acids: their properties have been Ostwaldized into oblivion. 1H2SO4 is not the equivalent of the acid: it is 90 per cent a monosulphonic acid—the lactic acid of the sulphur series—not dihydric sulphate. The well-defined stable acid of the series is anhydrosulphuric acid-oxodisulphonic acid. The first product of the interaction of vitrolic acid and, say, salt or sodium nitrate is not the acid sulphate of the text-books but H₃Na(SO₄)₂—a fact which makes the use of nitre in nitrations uneconomic. When chemists some day recover the full use of symbols and pay attention to facts, these and not a few other matters will receive the attention too long denied to them. Sulphonation is the most important of all the processes in the dyestuff industry -and we owe it to Faraday.

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¹ NATURE, 137, 1033 (June 20, 1936).

Kinetics of Gas Reactions: an Attempt to Connect Thermal Decomposition and Oxidation Processes

The thermal decomposition of formaldehyde¹ and of acetaldehyde² can be represented by x-t graphs which indicate a period of rapid decomposition, followed by one of slow decomposition. The experimental results of Spence³ for the rates of oxidation of formaldehyde appear to be represented by similar graphs, indicating a similarity in the processes. Seddon and I have pointed out that, in the case of acetaldehyde, the total rate of thermal decomposition appeared to be independent of all conditions except temperature and initial concentration, the nature of the final products, whether methane and carbon monoxide on one hand, or propylene, carbon dioxide and water on the other, being materially dependent on certain other conditions.

Now in the case of the oxidation of formaldehyde, it appears that the final stage in the process follows two alternative courses, which may be represented by,

$$(CH_2O_2)$$
 $CO_2 + H_2$ or $CO_2 + H_2O_2$.

Spence refers to the penultimate stage as involving the formation of "activated formic acid", but it is perhaps wise to avoid the nomenclature of organic chemistry, and speak of a "short-lived intermediate"

of composition (CH₂O₂).

One may imagine that the system passes through a series of states defined by symbols $X, X_1 \dots X_x$... $X_{(n-2)}, X_{(n-1)}, X_n$. To account for the similarity between oxidation and thermal decomposition processes, it seems to be necessary to assume that there is some change which is dominant and common to both, and I suggest that this is to be found in the transition represented by,

$$X_{(n-2)} \to X_{(n-1)}$$
.

This is the change involved in the formation of the short-lived intermediates. The probability of reversal of this process is, as Seddon and I suggest, small, and the energy drop considerable. The energy is utilized in a process represented by,

$$X \to X_1$$

that is, in increasing the probability of the formation

of new primary centres.

The suggestion is somewhat similar to one of those put forward by Semenoff. Qualitatively, it would involve the initial acceleration of the process, which would afterwards slow down. In a considerable number of processes, involving relatively small energy changes, which have been investigated in this laboratory by means of detailed analyses, the form of the x-t graphs is very similar, showing a very sudden transition from rapid to slow reaction generally at or before 50 per cent change. This seems to happen in the case of the oxidation of formaldehyde and in the thermal decomposition of acetaldehyde.

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Fletcher, Proc. Roy. Soc., A, 146, 357.
 Travers and others, Proc. Roy. Soc., A, 146, 250, and in the press.
 J. Chem. Soc., 649 (1936).
 NATURE, 137, 906 (1936).

Vitamin P: Flavonols as Vitamins

Various chemical and clinical observations have led to the assumption that ascorbic acid is accompanied in the cell by a substance of similar importance and related activity. In absence of both substances, the symptoms of lack of ascorbic acid (scurvy) prevail and conceal symptoms of the deficiency of the second substance. In the lack of suitable experimental animals or conditions, progress was dependent on spontaneous pathological conditions, caused or influenced by this second factor.

In collaboration with L. Armentano and A. Bensáth, we have found that in certain pathological conditions, characterised by an increased permeability or fragility of the capillary wall, ascorbic acid is ineffective, while the condition can readily be cured by the administration of extracts of Hungarian red pepper ('vitapric') or lemon juice. extracts were effective in cases of decreased resistance of the capillary wall toward whole blood (vascular type of hæmorrhagic purpura) as well as in cases in which the capillary wall showed an increased permeability towards plasma protein only (various septic conditions). The extracts were fractionated. The active substance was found in the end in a fraction

consisting of practically pure flavon or flavonol 40 mgm. of this fraction given daily glycoside. intravenously to man restored in a fortnight regularly the normal capillary resistance. Spontaneous bleeding ceased, the capillary walls lost their fragility towards pressure differences and no more plasma protein left the vascular system on increased venous pressure.

These results suggest that this great group of vegetable dyes, the flavons or flavonols, also play an important role in animal life, and that the dyes are of vitamin nature. The group is not to be confused with the yellow dye, discovered by one of us and termed 'flaves' (like cytoflave), which dye forms the prosthetic group of Warburg's yellow enzyme and has later been renamed by R. Kuhn 'flavins'. We propose to give the name 'vitamin P' to the substance responsible for the action on vascular permeability.

This research is sponsored by the Josiah Macy J1.

Foundation, New York.

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27

1. Medical Clinic and Biochemical Department, University, Szeged. May 27.

Role of Adenylic Acid in Vitamin B, Deficiency

The work of Peters1 and his collaborators has shown that abnormal amounts of lactic and pyruvic acid accumulate in the brain of the polyneuritic pigeon. Further evidence of the Oxford school has demonstrated that the brain tissue of such polyneuritic pigeons exhibits a lowered oxygen consumption in the presence of either pyruvic or lactic acid. The addition of vitamin B₁ in vitro to such tissue restores the oxygen uptake to a large extent. Other workers2 have also pointed out the presence of excessive amounts of lactic acid in the tissues of the vitamin B_1 deficient animal. This emphasis on the 'lactic acid' theory of the vitamin B_1 syndrome led Drury, Harris and Maudsley³ to suggest that the bradycardia found by them in vitamin B1 deficient rats was due to the excessive accumulation of lactic acid in the heart. No direct evidence was brought forward to support this theory, although the results of Birch and Harris⁴ showed that the severity of the bradycardia went parallel with the lactic acid level in the blood.

The attention which has been devoted to this theory has obscured the similarity between the effect of adenine nucleotides on the normal heart and the effect of vitamin B1 deficiency on this organ. In the rat, the bradycardia produced by certain adenine compounds apparently resembles in all respects that produced by avitaminosis B1. For example, with moderate avitaminosis or with small doses of adenylic acid, the heart exhibits a simple slowing. In severe avitaminosis when the heart rate is below 350 beats per minute the auricular wave disappears3. disappearance of the auricular wave also occurs when a large enough dose of adenylic acid is injected.

These facts have led us to study the action of adenine nucleotides on the heart of both the normal

and vitamin B1 deficient animal.

It was found possible to increase further the bradycardia already present, due to vitamin B, deficiency, by the injection of small amounts of adenosine, or either of the adenylic acids from muscle or yeast. Using normal animals, a much smaller effect was obtained with the same dosage of these substances. The results using muscle adenylic acid are shown in Fig. 1.

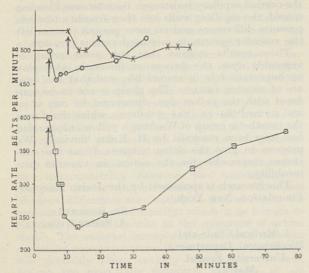


Fig. 1. Effect of muscle adenylic acid on heart rate. 3 mgm. of the acid were injected at points marked by the arrows. . , Vitamin B1 deficient animal; X, same animal 18 hours after administration of vitamin B1; O, animal on 'stock diet'.

These experiments demonstrate that the vitamin B, deficient animal is more sensitive to the action of these compounds. This increased sensitivity disappears completely 18 hours after the administration of vitamin B1, the heart rate having by this time returned to its normal value.

These results suggest that the B1 deficient animal is unable to render these compounds innocuous at the same rate as does the normal animal.

The two known mechanisms whereby the adenylic acids are converted into substances having little or no effect on cardiac muscle are (1) deamination to ammonia and inosinic acid; (2) phosphorylation to adenosine di- or tri-phosphate.

We have as yet studied only the first of these mechanisms, and have established the fact that the deaminase activity of vitamin B, deficient cardiac tissue is on the average more than 20 per cent lower than similar tissues from control animals on a full 'stock diet'. Moreover, tissue obtained from cured animals 18 hours after administration of the vitamin shows a deaminase activity equal to that of normal animals.

Ammonia Produced in 40 minutes per gram of

No.	Normal	B ₁	deficient	
	1,010 y 998 " 1,041 " 987 " 918 " 875 " 995 " 1,072 "	ne Are research abres e strongs abres e strongs abres entrepere au reli seussalt l	778	
verage	982 ,,	Average	783 ,,	

We have not yet succeeded in obtaining this restoration of deaminase activity by the direct addition of vitamin B₁ to deficient tissue *in vitro*. This fact, as well as the delayed recovery in the heart rate after administration of vitamin B, may indicate that in the rat the vitamin must first be

synthesised into another compound before its biological action is manifest.

It seems possible that this failure of the deaminase mechanism may result in an increased accumulation of adenylic acid in the tissue, which is the cause of the bradycardia. Likewise, many of the effects obtained with vitamin B, deficient tissues (for example, increased lactic acid and decreased oxygen consumption) may be due to the inhibition by adenylic acid of the oxidative mechanisms which are responsible for the removal of these metabolytes.

T. W. BIRCH. L. W. MAPSON.

Nutritional and Biochemical Laboratories, Cambridge. May 22.

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Equivalent Particle-Observers

MILNE¹ and Page² have attempted to build up relativistic theories without employing the concepts of rigid body or absolute clock. Now we can certainly abandon one of these concepts. The possibility of getting rid of the rigid body (assuming an absolute clock) was pointed out by me some time ago3, while (assuming rigid bodies) we can avoid the absolute undefined clock by employing a light ray oscillating between mirrors at the end of a rigid rod. But to proceed with neither concept, as Milne and Page appear to do, is not possible.

Basic in the theories of Milne and Page is the concept of equivalent particle-observers. A particleobserver is simply a particle equipped with a clock,

FIG. 1.

not an absolute clock, of course, but just any clock that assigns a monotonically increasing sequence of numbers to the events that occur at the particle. According to Milne (loc. cit., p. 30) two particle-observers are equivalent if their clocks can be so regulated that, on exchange of light signals between them, there exist certain relations between times of departure and reception of the signals. Page (loc. cit., p. 256) states that in similar circumstances the clocks are equivalent, "or

that the two particle-observers are equivalent". This idea of equivalence, at least so far as just two particle-observers are concerned, seems quite a hollow one, because (as will be shown below) any two particle-observers are equivalent. Further, the statement that two particles have a constant relative velocity is devoid of any absolute physical meaning in terms of the definitions employed (provided that we think only of two particles), because it is always possible by proper choice of 'equivalent' clocks to make this velocity zero.

Consider the world-lines of two particle-observers A, B (Fig. 1). Starting with any event E_{01} in the history of A, we may construct a 'ladder' by means of a light ray passing to and fro between A and B, the 'corners' of the ladder being the events . . . E_{-10} ,

 $E_{01},\ E_{12},\ E_{23},\ \dots$ as shown. Let us choose any positive number k and assign to the events of Abetween E_{01} and E_{23} a time parameter t, arbitrary except for the conditions that it shall increase monotonically from t=0 at E_{01} to t=2k at E_{23} . Let F_{01} be any event in the interval (E_{01}, E_{23}) and let its time be t. Let us construct the ladder having F_{01} for a corner and let us assign to the events at the corners of this ladder (both on A and on B) values of t such that

$$t(F_{n,n+1}) = t(F_{n-1,n}) + k$$
, $(n = \ldots -1, 0, 1, 2, \ldots)$

Letting F_{01} range over (E_{01}, E_{23}) , we assign by this process a value of t to every event in the histories of both particles, the assignment of t over (E_{01}, E_{23}) remaining arbitrary except for the terminal values (0, 2k).

The time-systems assigned as above satisfy the conditions of equivalence of Milne and Page. Thus any two particles are equivalent. Incidentally, on account of the arbitrary choice of t in (E_{01}, E_{23}) it is obvious that the following statement of Page is not true (loc. cit., p. 257): "The readings of the clocks of P and P' are fixed to within an arbitrary additive constant by the condition that they be equivalent." Furthermore, the 'distance' of Milne and Page between the two particles is constant for equivalent clocks defined as above. Their 'relative velocity' is zero.

It would seem that both Milne and Page have permitted their partially arbitrary clocks to assume an absolute significance.

It must be understood, however, that the above remarks apply only to a system of two particles. With more particles the question of equivalence may take on more physical reality. J. L. SYNGE.

Department of Applied Mathematics, University of Toronto. April 23.

 E. A. Milne, "Relativity, Gravitation (Oxford, 1935).
 L. Page, Phys. Rev., 49, 254-268 (1936).
 J. L. Synge, NATURE, 108, 275 (1921). Milne, "Relativity, Gravitation and World-Structure"

Time Effects in Supra-conductors

In continuation of previous investigations the magnetic hysteresis phenomena in supraconductors, we have recently reported on experiments concerning the time effect1. We observed that after a sudden change of one of the variables of state (magnetic induction or temperature), a final value of the induction in a long supra-conducting cylinder was only attained after a considerable time (up to 20 minutes). The effect was strongest in single crystals and very pure polycrystalline specimens.

As a possible explanation, we tentatively suggested that the redistribution of supraconductive and normal material was perhaps delayed by the slow dying-out of induced currents in the boundary surface between the two states. Such an explanation necessitates, of course, the existence of macroscopic supra-conductive and normal regions in the

specimen. It has been recently worked out by R. Peierls2 and F. London independently (we are much indebted to both authors for giving us an opportunity to acquaint ourselves with the theories before publication, and for the permission to quote their results), that the existence of such macroscopic regions is unlikely in a sphere,

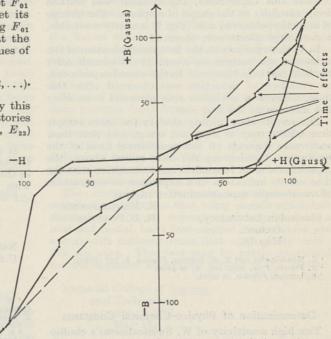


Fig. 1. B/H curve of short cylinder of polycrystalline tin, temperature constant, 2.842° K.

whereas the assumption of such a region seems to us necessary in a body of a more complicated form, for example, a short cylinder.

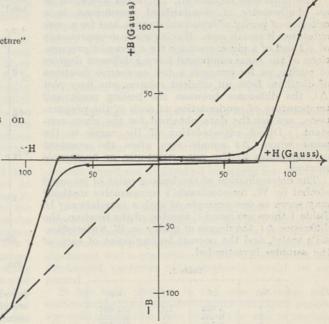


Fig. 2. B/H curve of sphere made from cylinder of Fig. 1, temperature constant, 2.85° K.

We have therefore determined the relation of the induction (B) to the external field (H) in a short cylinder of very pure polycrystalline tin. The result is given in Fig. 1, and it can be seen that when the external field is altered, it takes in many cases an appreciable time before a final value of the induction

After this experiment, the cylinder was worked down carefully to the shape of a sphere. The change of induction observed now (Fig. 2) is nearly reversible,

and no time effects were observed.

In both experiments, the first determination of the induction was carried out about 10-15 seconds after the field had been changed. In the second experiment, no variation of induction was observed after this time, whereas a variation was observed even after 3-4 minutes in the first case.

The results show clearly that in the same sample time effects may or may not occur, and that their occurrence depends on the geometrical form of the specimen. Considering the facts stated above, the experiments seem to confirm our assumption that the time effects indicate a slow expansion or contraction of macroscopic supra-conductive regions.

K. MENDELSSOHN. R. B. Pontius.

Clarendon Laboratory, Oxford. May 16.

K. Mendelssohn and R. B. Pontius, *Physica*, 3, 327 (1936).
 R. Peierls, *Proc. Roy. Soc.*, A, in print.
 F. London, *Physica*, in print.

Determination of Physico-Chemical Constants

THE high sensitivity of W. Swietosławski's ebulliometric test of the purity of liquid substances1 permits the correlation of data for any physico-chemical property with $\triangle t$, the difference between the boiling point and condensation temperature of the substance under investigation, in order to calculate the constants for the pure substance or azeotropic mixture.

The difference mentioned, Δt , when measured in an ebulliometer of standardised dimensions, is a criterion of purity of liquid substances, and for a pure substance it equals zero. Having made measurements of Δt and of a given constant for a series of preparations of the same compound having different degrees of purity, as for example a few successive fractions of distillate from an efficient column, one may plot $\triangle t$, the difference between the boiling point and temperature of condensation of each of the preparations, against the data obtained for the given con-Direct extrapolation of the curve to the point where Δt equals zero gives the constant corresponding to the pure substance or azeotropic mixture.

The determination of the boiling point of iso-amyl alcohol by W. Swietosławski's comparative method² may serve as one example of such a correlation. In Table 1 there are listed: number of the fraction, the difference Δt , the degree of purity on W. Swietostawski's scale2, and the normal boiling point of each of the samples investigated.

Table 1.

No.	$\triangle t$	d.p.	b.p.
1	0.032	III	131-067
2	0.019	IV	131.450
3	0.005	V	131.779

The boiling point of pure iso-amyl alcohol obtained by extrapolation of these data is 131.806° C.

The precise determination of density by means of the twin pycnometer method3 furnishes another example of measurements which may be correlated with Δt to obtain the densities of pure liquids. In Table 2 the densities of two fractions of n-propyl acetate are given, together with the corresponding values of $\triangle t$ and degree of purity. The density of pure n-propyl acetate obtained by extrapolation to $\Delta t = 0 \text{ is } 0.88299_3 \text{ gm./cm.}^3 \text{ at } 25^{\circ} \text{ C.}$

Table 2.

$\triangle t$	d.p.	d(gm./cm.3 at 25° C.)		
0.011	IV	0.882832		
0.004 V		0.882939		

It is worth noting that as the degree of purity of the substance investigated becomes higher, the change in the property measured becomes more nearly linear with $\triangle t$, thus permitting a reliable extrapolation to $\Delta t = 0$. Details will be published elsewhere.

M. Wojciechowski.

JULY 4, 1936

(Guest Worker, Polytechnic Institute, Warsaw.) EDGAR R. SMITH.

National Bureau of Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. April 30.

W. Swietosławski, J. Phys. Chem., 38, 1169 (1935); IX Con. Inter. Quimica, Madrid, 1934, 13; Roczniki Chem., 13, 176, 227 (1933);
 Z. phys. Chem., A, 160, 257 (1932).
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 E. R. Smith and M. Wojciechowski, Bull. intern. acad. Polonaise, 1098

A, 1936.

Metabolism of Cartilage

It has been found by means of Warburg's manometric method that the metabolism of cartilage is entirely anærobic; it splits glucose to form lactic acid at a rate of about 0.2 c.mm. carbon dioxide

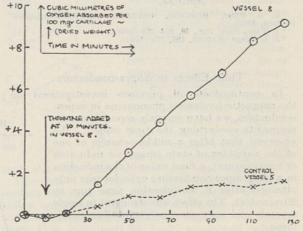


Fig. 1. Diagram showing oxygen uptake of cartilage with addition of dyestuff.

(produced from bicarbonate solution) per mgm. dry weight per hour, that is, about a tenth the rate of nearly related connective tissues forming the synovial villi, and a fiftieth the rate of the choroid plexus1. By means of cell counts and corrections for specific gravity and drying, it has been shown that this glycolysis is essentially of the same order per cell as in most other adult tissues. This glycolysis is the same whether measured under ærobic or anærobic conditions. Rabbit cartilage was kept for a fortnight under aseptic anærobic conditions in bicarbonate Ringer solution with glucose, and its glycolysis measured throughout. At the end of the experiment it had only fallen to 0.09 from an initial $Q_{\rm G}^{\rm Ns}$ (c.mm. carbon dioxide per mgm. dry weight per hour in nitrogen) of 0.34.

There is no oxygen uptake that can be measured certainly by this method; if it exists, the Q_{0*} (c.mm. oxygen consumed per mgm. dry weight per hour) must be at most 0.01, and probably below 0.005. With methylene blue, however, an immediate large increase in oxygen uptake occurs, paralleled only by the similar behaviour described by Harrop and Barron² of non-nucleated mammalian red corpuscles. The Q_{0*} rises from an average of -0.003 (nine experiments) before, to an average, using the same slices, after addition of dye, of -0.065—a twenty-fold increase.

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¹ Krebs, *Tab. Biol. Period.*, 3, 209 (1933). ² Harrop and Barron, *J. Exp. Med.*, 48, 207 (1928).

Oxide Layer on a Polished Copper Surface

The application of electron diffraction to the problem of the structure of polished metal surfaces has greatly extended the knowledge gained from microscopical methods. In general, in the course of polishing, the rings of the electron diffraction pattern become blurred until they run into two broad haloes. As these changes may be explained by assuming that the metal crystals become smaller and smaller as the polishing progresses, the abovementioned results are strongly in favour of Beilby's supposition that the topmost layer of highly polished metal is amorphous¹.

There is, however, considerable difficulty in accounting for the fact that the haloes have been found to be practically the same for all metals. They correspond to the spacings $2 \cdot 25$ A., and $1 \cdot 28$ A. \pm 5 per cent respectively. This apparent uniformity could scarcely be expected. If we assume the polish layer to be composed of very small crystals, the radius of the haloes should depend on the lattice constants, while if the layer be completely amorphous it would be the atomic volume which should govern

their size.

As the majority of the metals investigated are known to be easily oxidisable, it was decided to examine how far these difficulties might be due to the formation of an oxide film on the surface in the course of polishing. After having obtained results concordant with those of other authors for copper polished in the usual way with wet rouge, in air, I polished a specimen under the surface of benzene. This gave haloes of quite different size corresponding to spacings of 1.91 A. and 1.16 A. As polishing under pentane yielded the same result, it seemed likely that the pattern commonly attributed to polished copper is actually due to the oxide. To make sure, the specimen which had been polished under benzene was left in the air and the changes in the pattern were traced by taking pictures every few hours. It was possible to follow the gradual decay of the original haloes and gradual appearance of the pattern

corresponding to the spacings 2.24 A. and 1.28 A. The last pattern, which is the one obtained after polishing in air, is thus clearly due to an oxide.

Whereas in the pattern obtained in the absence of air the inner halo may be interpreted as the effect of degeneration of the (111) and (200) rings of copper, and the outer one of the (220), (311) and (222) rings, the haloes obtained in air occur exactly in places where one may expect maxima of intensity after blurring of the corresponding rings of cuprous oxide, the cube side of copper being 3.61 A. and of Cu₂O 4.25 A.

Many of the properties of a polished copper surface have recently been found to differ from those of a polycrystalline one¹. As usually no special precautions against oxidation are observed during polishing, an interesting question arises as to how far these differences are to be attributed to the change of the physical state of the surface, and how far to change of chemical composition.

The investigation is being extended to other metals, as it is known that many metals which have themselves different crystalline structures, such as iron and nickel, have face-centred cubic oxides with a cube-side differing from that of Cu₂O by only a few per cent. This fact may be partly responsible for the apparent uniformity of size of the haloes.

S. Dobinski.

Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, S.W.7. May 12.

For references see G. I. Finch and A. G. Quarrell, NATURE, 137, 516 (1936).

Electrolytes and a General Phenomenon in Tissue Cells

The starting point of the present experiments was the assumption that the practically undiffusible particles of protoplasm are charged by the per se diffusible electrolytes with the formation of a double layer, and are maintained thereby in a dispersed state. If this be the case, then there must exist a certain equilibrium between the electrolytes, which build up the double layer on the particles of the protoplasm, and the electrolytes in the surrounding medium.

It must also be considered that this might concern thermodynamically a Donnan equilibrium—since the latter exists independently of the way in which the diffusible ions are adsorbed on the non-diffusible particles. In this case, if the salt ion contents of the outside liquid are diminished to nearly zero, then all the salt ions, as is well known, travel to the outside liquid.

If the above reasoning is valid, then it must be expected that if one makes the medium outside the tissue cells nearly free from electrolytes, the salt ions will travel to the outside liquid. Consequently a discharge, and a coagulation of the non-diffusible and discharged particles of protoplasm, would be ex-

pected.

It has been possible in the case of tissue cells cultivated in liquid media to make the liquid outside the cells nearly free from electrolytes and to produce thereby a discharge (most active Brownian movement in the protoplasm as a sign of a minimum of viscosity; obviously advancing aggregation of the particles of the protoplasm). The following results have been obtained:

(2) In some of the cells which have become globular, there occurs a bursting of the cell, with extrusion of liquid contents containing particles in Brownian movement (analogous to hypotonic hæmolysis with extrusion of hæmoglobin). Sometimes the torn parts adhere together again after

diminution of the interior pressure.

(3) The presence of non-electrolytes in the medium (n/36-n/12 dextrose: n/5-n/1 urea) does nothinder the appearance of the phenomena described, but naturally reduces the activity of the Brownian movement in the cytoplasm.

The phenomena described are reversible. The reversal can be produced after several minutes by means of Ringer solution, n/10 sodium chloride, or n/10 sodium bromide. The cells regain their former shape extremely quickly, with immediate stoppage of the Brownian movement in the cytoplasm. The cells then show normal vital staining.

(5) The phenomena can only be produced with living and not with dead cells. Failure is a sure sign

of cell death.

The results of these experiments prove the justness of the above assumptions. Furthermore, they show that hypotonic hæmolysis is only a special case of a general phenomenon in tissue cells. They reveal, furthermore, a fundamental property of tissue cells in which the salt ions of the tissue liquid participate decisively in the maintenance of the particle charge of the protoplasm.

H. GROSSFELD.

Anatomical Institute, Turin.

A Syndrome produced by Diverse Nocuous Agents

EXPERIMENTS on rats show that if the organism is severely damaged by acute non-specific nocuous agents such as exposure to cold, surgical injury, production of spinal shock (transcision of the cord), excessive muscular exercise, or intoxications with sublethal doses of diverse drugs (adrenaline, atropine, morphine, formaldehyde, etc.), a typical syndrome appears, the symptoms of which are independent of the nature of the damaging agent or the pharmacological type of the drug employed, and represent rather a response to damage as such.

This syndrome develops in three stages: during the first stage, 6-48 hours after the initial injury, one observes rapid decrease in size of the thymus, spleen, lymph glands and liver; disappearance of fat tissue; cedema formation, especially in the thymus and loose retroperitoneal connective tissue; accumulation of pleural and peritoneal transudate; loss of muscular

tone; fall of body temperature; formation of acute erosions in the digestive tract, particularly in the stomach, small intestine and appendix; loss of cortical lipoids and chromaffin substance from the adrenals; and sometimes hyperæmia of the skin, exophthalmos, increased lachrymation and salivation. In particularly severe cases, focal necrosis of the liver and dense clouding of the crystalline lens are observed.

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In the second stage, beginning 48 hours after the injury, the adrenals are greatly enlarged but regain their lipoid granules, while the medullary chromaffin cells show vacuolization; the cedema begins to disappear; numerous basophiles appear in the pituitary; the thyroid shows a tendency towards hyperplasia (more marked in the guinea pig); general body growth ceases and the gonads become atrophic; in lactating animals, milk secretion stops. It would seem that the anterior pituitary ceases production of growth and gonadotropic hormones and prolactin in favour of increased elaboration of thyrotropic and adrenotropic principles, which may be regarded as more urgently needed in such emergencies.

If the treatment be continued with relatively small doses of the drug or relatively slight injuries, the animals will build up such resistance that in the later part of the second stage the appearance and function of their organs returns practically to normal; but with further continued treatment, after a period of one to three months (depending on the severity of the damaging agent), the animals lose their resistance and succumb with symptoms similar to those seen in the first stage, this phase of exhaustion being regarded as the third stage of the syndrome.

We consider the first stage to be the expression of a general alarm of the organism when suddenly confronted with a critical situation, and therefore term it the 'general alarm reaction'. Since the syndrome as a whole seems to represent a generalised effort of the organism to adapt itself to new conditions, it might be termed the 'general adaptation syndrome'. It might be compared to other general defence reactions such as inflammation or the formation of immune bodies. The symptoms of the alarm reaction are very similar to those of histamine toxicosis or of surgical or anaphylactic shock; it is therefore not unlikely that an essential part in the initiation of the syndrome is the liberation of large quantities of histamine or some similar substance, which may be released from the tissues either mechanically in surgical injury, or by other means in other cases. It seems to us that more or less pronounced forms of this three-stage reaction represent the usual response of the organism to stimuli such as temperature changes, drugs, muscular exercise, etc., to which habituation or inurement can occur.

HANS SELYE.

Department of Biochemistry, McGill University, Montreal, Canada. May 18.

Estimation of Fatty Acids in Organic Mixtures

For the determination of the volatile fatty acids in cheese, it is usual to subject the acidified cheese mush to a normal steam distillation at constant volume. In this laboratory, it is the custom to collect a volume of distillate equal to three times the volume of the liquid in the distillation flask, and to use this for further estimations of the individual acids.

The study of the rate of recovery of various volatile acids, added in known quantities to the cheese mush, led to doubt as to whether this method of distillation resulted in the complete extraction of the volatile acids (especially the higher members of the series) from the cheese. It appeared that the higher acids were to some extent held back by the constituents of the cheese, and did not therefore distil over at the rate suggested by Dyer's figures¹.

This view was strengthened by a series of experiments in which several acids were distilled from water, and a mixture of fresh, washed butter fat and water. It was evident that there was retention of some of these acids by the butter fat, very marked for lauric acid and high for caprylic, but decreasing through caproic to butyric and the lower members of the series, in which no retention was demonstrated.

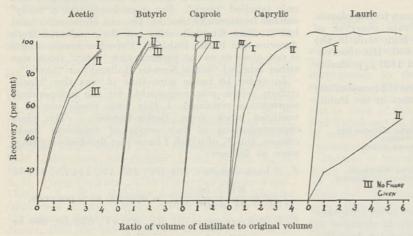


Fig. 1. Fatty acid recovery by steam distillation: I, acid distilled from distilled water; II, acid distilled from pure butter fat; III, distillation figure given by Dyer.

It was found, however, that although the rate of distillation of the higher acids was retarded by the presence of butter fat, almost complete recovery could be effected if the steam distillations were continued for a sufficiently long period. For the acids up to and including caprylic, more than 90 per cent of the added acid could be recovered by collecting a distillate of three times the original volume. For lauric acid, on the other hand, only 50 per cent was recovered even after collecting six times the original volume (cf. Fig. 1).

If the rate of distillation of these acids from a cheese mush is comparable with that from a mixture of butter fat and water, then the practice of collecting a distillate of three times the original volume would allow an estimate of the distribution of volatile acids in cheese which would be sufficiently accurate for many purposes. It is suspected, however, that a still greater retention occurs in the cheese mush, and the influence of cheese fat (as distinct from butter fat) and the protein and salt mixtures of cheese is being examined in an effort to elucidate this question.

E. R. HISCOX. J. HARRISON.

National Institute for Research in Dairying, Shinfield, Nr. Reading, Berks. May 25.

¹ D. C. Dyer, J. Biol. Chem., 28, 445 (1916-17).

The Stock of Antarctic Blue Whales

DURING the current investigations into the conditions of Southern whaling, I have had occasion to consult the publications of the Norwegian Whaling Bureau, in which the catch statistics given in "International Whaling Statistics" have been amplified and to some extent analysed. From these data I have calculated the average length of female Blue whales taken from 1930 to 1935. The results are shown in the following table.

Season	No. of whales considered	Average length (ft.)
1930-31	4,532	82.36
1931-32	close season	Strated - John
1932-33	5,285	81.97
1933-34	6,487	81.85
1034-35	7.253	79.88

A slight annual decrease in length up to 1933-34 is followed by a sharp drop of nearly two feet in

1934–35. Blue females become sexually mature at about 78 ft., when they are approximately two years old. They arrive at maturity in the southern winter, and are found in the Antarctic the following summer with an average length of 80 ft. Pairing in July may result in pregnancy which lasts for ten months².

Blue females taken in 1934–35 were, therefore, on the average, killed at the outset of their reproductive career. The consequences of continued intensive killing need scarcely be emphasized.

Average lengths were shown in the Norwegian publications, but the data had been divided, and average lengths were given for immature and adult whales

separately. The constancy of the averages from season to season was invoked as evidence that undue depletion of the stock is not yet taking place, but since no account was taken of the rapidly mounting percentage of immature whales in the catch the results are liable to be misleading.

ALEC H. LAURIE.

"Discovery" Investigations, 52 Queen Anne's Chambers, London, S.W.1. June 3.

Hjort, Lie and Ruud, "Hvalrådets Skrifter", 3, 8, 9, 12.
 Mackintosh and Wheeler, "Discovery Reports", I, pp. 468-9 (1929).

The Manatee of St. Helena

IN NATURE of March 17, 1934, p. 417, Prof. T. Mortensen quotes Dampier's reasons for refusing to believe in the existence of the sea-cow in St. Helena. The bibliography on the subject appears to be far from complete; but fortunately records by two eyewitnesses are available.

Probably the best account of the St. Helena manatee will be found in Barnes's "Tour of St. Helena" (Richardson, London, 1817, pp. 116 and 117), where a detailed description of the animal is quoted from the manuscript of Lieut. Thomas Leech, "written many years ago". The Leechs were a well-known and highly respectable Island family, and Thomas

Leech, who affirmed that the sea-cow was really a sea lion, is mentioned in Brooke's "History of St. Helena" (1824 ed., p. 51), as one "who by his unwearied pursuits in historical research, and his surprisingly retentive memory had acquired a great degree of general information".

There is another very important reference in Dr. Walter Henry's "Events of a Military Life" (2nd ed., Pickering, London, 1843, vol. 2, pp. 66 and 67), which

is as follows:

"We had sea-cows at St. Helena, the Trichechus Dugong, but they were not common. When shooting near Buttermilk Point with another officer one calm evening, we stumbled on one lying on a low rock close to the water's edge, and a hideous ugly brute it was, shaped like a large calf, with bright green eyes as big as saucers. We only caught a glimpse of it for a few seconds, for as soon as it noticed us, it jumped into the sea, in the most awkward and sprawling manner."

Dr. Henry, whose book is well known to Napoleonic students, was an alert and accurate observer of current events, who later reached high rank in the Army Medical Service and died in 1860. His observations were made between 1817 and 1821; probably in 1819.

It may be a convenience to students if I recapitulate the references to be found to sea-cows in the Public Records of Jamestown:

1679, January 27. 1682, August 28. 1690, March 20. 1691, May 11 (a month before Dampier's visit). 1716, August 29.

First use of the name Manatee Bay. Several sea-cows caught. A very small sea-cow killed.

Sea-cow on shore to Windward. 400 lb. ambergris found in Manatee Bay. A sea-cow killed.

1739, September 11. A sea-cow k

Burnham's sea-cow of 1810 referred to by Lydekker and Mortensen, I am unable to trace as recorded in the Public Records; but the latter quotes Janisch's confirmation of it to be found in "Scraps from Records" (Government Printer, Jamestown, 1880, to accompany the St. Helena Almanack of that year).

G. C. KITCHING.

The Castle, St. Helena. April 18.

A Case of 50 per cent Crossing-over in the Male Drosophila

WITH the view of synthesising a double recessive black-vestigial stock of Drosophila melanogaster, Dr. G. Eloff¹ made a cross of black and vestigial, both of which are contained in the second chromosome. The F_2 generation, to his surprise, contained many b vg flies. To solve the question, the F_1 males were mated with double recessive females (b vg), when an independent segregation of black and vestigial was found. He applied the fact to the F_2 data to calculate the crossing-over value between b and vg in the female, and estimated it to be 17·8 per cent. The value is close to the standard value of 17·0 per cent (18·5 per cent, according to the recent census). For his 50 per cent crossing-over in the male, he writes: "Some other explanation (for example, of chromosomal mutation) must be offered":

In my opinion, Dr. Eloff used by mistake the other mutant, ebony for example, that appears in another chromosome. If so, the black body colour should be inherited independently with vestigial, and it would be quite the natural thing that there should

be a 50 per cent crossing-over in the male. According to my understanding, his F_2 data seem to be nothing but the result of an independent segregation, although deviation was considerable.

DAIGORO MORIWAKI.

JULY 4, 1936

Furitsu Koto-Gakko, Biological Institute, Meguro, Tokyo. March 6.

¹ G. Eloff, NATURE, 137, 151 (1936).

SINCE the appearance of my letter in NATURE of January 25, Prof. Tammes of Groningen has written to me as follows: "Gottschewski (of Berlin-Dahlem) is of opinion that the 'black' which you used was probably not the normal black but the so-called 'black Kreidel Holland' which is the same as sooty..."

The stock which I received from Groningen was only labelled 'black'. But it probably was a 'sooty' culture from stocks used by Dr. van Herwerden (and her student Kreidel), who got their cultures from America and Berlin-Dahlem. For some reason which is not clear to me at present, this 'sooty' stock was either labelled "black Kreidel Holland" or "black".

In order to make sure that it was the 'black' culture which was responsible for the independent segregation obtained, I this time made use of a vestigial stock from Berlin-Dahlem. The class representations of two series of repulsion back-crosses, the F_2 of which I have just finished counting, were as follows:

 F_1 & back-crosses: 204 BV, 235 bV, 194 Bv, 171 bv

$$\frac{BV + bv}{BV + bV + Bv + bv} = \text{approx. 46.6 per cent.}$$

 $F_1 \supseteq \text{back-crosses}$: 701 BV, 839 bV, 670 Bv, 698 bv

$$\frac{BV + bv}{BV + bV + Bv + bv} = \text{approx.} \ 48 \cdot 1 \text{ per cent.}$$

As the data refer to repulsion crosses only, the unequal representation of the classes may be explained by (1) difficult separation of bV and BV phenotypes in some experiments, with the result that BV phenotypes may be included in class bv; (2) poorer viability of classes homozygous for vestigial, namely, Bv and bv. Making allowance for these disturbing factors, it is quite possible that the correct percentage will be 50.

I am satisfied, therefore, that the stock I have used and which was labelled "black" may have been "sooty", so that the results must of necessity show independent segregation.

I regret the misleading results arrived at due to erroneous labelling of the stock, and I wish to thank Mr. Moriwaki for his comment.

G. ELOFF.

Department of Zoology,
University of the Witwatersrand,
Johannesburg.
April 22.

Suggested Cases for Suspension of Rules of Nomenclature

ATTENTION of the zoological profession is invited to the fact that request for the "Suspension of the Rules" has been made in the following cases, on the ground that "the strict application of the Règles will clearly result in greater confusion than uniformity".

According to procedure, one year's notice is hereby published "making it possible for zoologists, particularly specialists in the group in question, to present arguments for or against the suspension under consideration".

Note A.—Suspend rules. Note B.—Insert in Official List with the type as given in parentheses.

Coelenterata.—Monograptus Geinitz, 1852 (priodon); A, B. Retiolites Barrande, 1850 (geinitzianus); A, B. Graptolithus Linn., 1768, to be suppressed; A.

ECHINODERMATA.—Luidia Forbes, 1839 (fragilissima); A, B.

NEMATODA.—Anguina Scopoli, 1777 (Vibrio tritici), to be suppressed; A.

CRUSTACEA.—Squilla Fabricius, 1787 (mantis); A, B.

INSECTA.—The so-called "Erlangen List" of 1801 to be suppressed.

ORTHOPTERA.—Locusta Linn., 1758 (Gryllus Locusta migratorius Linn., 1758); Phaneroptera Serville, 1831 (Gryllus falcatus Poda, 1761); A. B.

HYMENOPTERA.—Cimbex Olivier, 1790 (Tenthredo lutea Linn., 1758); A, B. Crabro Fabricius, 1775 (Sphex cribraria Linn., 1767); A, B. Lasius Fabricius, 1805 (Formica nigra Linn., 1758); A, B. Anthophora Latreille, 1803 (Apis pilipes Fabr., 1775); A, B. Ichneumon Linn., 1758 (Ichneumon extensorius Linn., 1758); A, B. Pimpla Fabr., 1804 (Ichneumon instigator Fabr., 1793); A, B. Ephialtes Gravenhorst, 1829 (Ichneumon manifestator Linn., 1758); A, B. Bracon Fabr., 1805 (Bracon minutator Fabr., 1798); A, B. Pompilus Fabr., 1798 (Pompilus pulcher Fabr., 1798); A, B. Bethylus Latreille, 1802 (Omalus fuscicornis Jurine, 1807); A, B. Prosopis Jurine, 1807 (Sphex signator Panzer, [1798]); A, B. Ceraphron Jurine, 1807 (Ceraphron sulcatus Jurine, 1807); A, B. Torymus Dalman, 1820 (Ichneumon bedeguaris Linn., 1758); A.B. Proctotrupes Latreille, 1796 (Proctotrupes brevipennis Latreille, 1802); A. B. Sphex Linn., 1758 (Sphex flavipennis Fabr., 1793); A, B. Ammophila Kirby, 1798 (Sphex sabulosa Linn., 1758); A, B.

LEPIDOPTERA.—In interpreting the generic names assigned by Frever in his "Neuere Beiträge zur Schmetterlingskunde" to the species there described, each species is to be regarded as having been described by Freyer as belonging to the genus cited by him at the head of each description and not to the genus with which he actually associated the specific name. For example, Freyer described, under the genus Hipparchia Fabricius, a species to which he gave the specific name eriphyle, and which he proceeded to name Papilio eriphyle Freyer. Freyer is to be deemed to have described this species under the name Hipparchia eriphyle, and not under the name Papilio eriphyle. A.

Potamis Hübner, Rusticus Hübner, and Mancipium Hübner to be suppressed in favour of Morpho Fabr., Helicopis Fabr., and Pontia Fabr.; A.

LEPIDOPTERA (RHOPALOCERA).—Euploea Fabr., 1807 (Papilio corus Fabr., 1793); A, B. Satyrus Latreille, 1810 (Papilio actaea Esper, [1780]); A, B. Argynnis Fabr., 1807 (Papilio paphia Linn., 1758); A, B. Vanessa Fabr., 1807 (Papilio atalanta Linn., 1758); A, B. Euthalia Hübner, [1823] (Papilio lubentina Cramer, 1777); A, B. Nymphidium Fabr., 1807 (Papilio caricae Linn., 1758); A, B. Colias Fabr., 1807 (Papilio hyale Linn., 1758); A, B.

Species in parentheses are to be declared the types Lycaeides Hübner, [1823] (Papilio argyrognomon Bergstrasser, 1779); A. Agriades Hübner, [1823] (Papilio glandon Prunner, 1798); A. Polyommatus Latreille, 1804 (Papilio icarus Rottemburg, 1775); A. Euchloë Hübner, [1823] (Euchloë ausonia Hübner, var. erperi Kirby, 1871). Princeps Hübner, [1807] and Orpheides Hübner, [1823] (Papilio demodocus Esper, 1798). Carcharodus Hübner, [1823] and Spilothyrus Duponchel, 1835 (Papilio fritillarius Poda, 1761); A.

C. W. STILES, Acting Secretary, International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C. May 1.

Effect of Oxygen on the Auroral Afterglow

DURING the past year, I have been studying the effect of oxygen on the auroral afterglow in nitrogen. This afterglow is the one the spectrum of which corresponds to the nitrogen part of the auroral spectrum. Attention has been directed elsewhere to some of the more general results of these experiments, but in view of the recent communication by Vegard and Tønsberg² on the difference between the spectra of sunlit and ordinary auroras, one aspect of my experiments seems worth special mention here.

Oxygen is introduced into the tube until the bluegreen afterglow with continuous spectrum appears. As the tube is allowed to run, the oxygen slowly disappears and the spectrum of the afterglow undergoes some striking changes. The stage of the afterglow which follows the initial blue-green continuous stage is one in which the glow consists of a bluegreen background that fills the entire bulb, possesses a banded spectrum and lasts about ten seconds. Superposed on this blue-green glow is an orange-red flash of shorter duration and greater intensity than the background glow. This flash is confined to the centre of the bulb, and its spectrum consists of firstpositive bands of N2 and some relatively weak firstnegative bands.

Visual examination as well as photographic reproduction of the spectrum shows that the effect of the oxygen is to enhance the first-positive bands relative to the first-negative group. This phenomenon agrees very well with the results of Vegard and Tønsberg on sunlit auroras. The blue-green continuous glow is generally regarded as resulting from the reaction between ozone and nitric oxide. There is therefore probably some ozone present in the orange-red flash stage that follows when the oxygen concentration is slightly reduced.

It is of interest to note that the green auroral line is weaker in this stage of the glow than one would expect, and this also is in agreement with Vegard and Tønsberg's results. It is believed that further study of this orange-red flash will reveal detailed agreement between the laboratory phenomenon here described and the sunlit auroras.

JOSEPH KAPLAN.

University of California at Los Angeles. May 21.

Kaplan, Trans. Amer. Geophys. Union, April, 1936.
 Vegard and Tønsberg, NATURE, 137, 778 (1936).

Ground State Vibrational Frequencies

A STUDY of the ground state vibrational frequencies of diatomic molecules in relation to the Periodic Table has shown that the arithmetic mean ω_m of the vibrational frequencies of the two elementary molecules A_2 and B_2 which belong to the same Periodic Group is approximately equal to the frequency of the compound molecule AB. All the relevant data are collected in the accompanying table.

Group 1	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7
Mol, ω ω _n	Mol. ω ω _m	Mol. ω ω _m	Mol. ω ωm
$\begin{array}{c cccc} Li_{1} & 352 \\ Na_{2} & 159 \\ K_{2} & 93 \\ Rb_{2} & 58 \\ Cs_{2} & 41 \\ LiK & (207) & 223 \\ LiRb & (185) & 205 \\ LiCs & (170) & 196 \\ NaK & 123 & 126 \\ NaRb^{1} & 107 & 109 \\ NaCs & 96 & 96 \end{array}$	N ₂ 2360 P ₂ 778 As ₂ 432 Sb ₂ 268 Bi ₂ 173 PN ² 1337 1569 AsN ² 1063 1396 BiSb ⁴ 220 221	O ₂ 1568 S ₂ 727 Se ₂ 388 SO 1124 1148 SeO ⁵ (910) 978	Cl ₂ 565 Br ₂ 324 I ₃ 214 ICl 385 889 IBr 267 269 BrCl (440) 445

Bracketed values are uncertain.

In Group 5 the BiSb molecule conforms to this rule, whereas the PN and AsN molecules do not. The ω value of the former molecule definitely refers to the ground state, as it is derived from absorption measurements, but there is no such certainty in the case of the latter molecules as their ω values are derived from emission spectra. It is suggested, therefore, that these discrepancies are due to the fact that the w values presented here for PN and AsN do not refer to their ground states but to excited states. If this is so, it is probable that the actual ground state frequencies will be of the order of 1570 cm.-1

and 1400 cm.⁻¹ respectively.

This subject will be discussed in greater detail in

a future publication.

H. G. HOWELL.

Physics Department, Armstrong College, Newcastle-on-Tyne. May 16.

- Kusch, Phys. Rev., 49, 218 (1936).
 Curry, L. Herzberg and G. Herzberg, Z. Phys., 86, 348 (1933).
 Spinks, Z. Phys., 88, 511 (1934).
 Nakamura and Shidei, Jap. J. Phys., 10, 11 (1935).
 Asundi, Jan-Khan and Samuel, Nature, 136, 642 (1935).
 Remaining data have been obtained from Jevon's "Report on Band Spectra" (Physical Society, 1932).

A Second Sheath near the Cathode of an Arc Discharge

In the course of some investigations on arc discharges with oxide-coated cathodes in rare gases, a new dark sheath with a sharp boundary was seen between the well-known Langmuir double spacecharge sheath on the cathode and the light of the are plasma. Fig. 1 shows diagrammatically (a) the cylindrical (indirectly heated) barium-strontium oxide coated cathode (viewed end-on), with (b) the well-known absolutely dark space-charge sheath, a few tenths of a millimetre in width and concentric with it, and (c) the almost dark sheath a few millimetres wide, followed by (d) the light of the plasma.

The thickness of this new sheath (c) varies approximately inversely with the square root of the current density and only slightly with the gas pressure. At low current density, for example, 0.1 amp. per cm.2, the sheath becomes very indistinct. This dark sheath is only visible in a definite pressure range:

	helium	between	3	and	0.7	mm.	rather indistinct
"	neon + (0·1-1 per cent argon)		0.6		0.2		sharp
		33	0.2	"	0.02	"	citato
22	argon	22		22		33	**
22	krypton	"	0.14	33	0.01	23	***
**	xenon	***	0.08	**	0.008	**	**
	mercury vanour		0.03	(80°	(!) and	1 0.0	07 /40° C) sharp

In pure neon the sheath was barely visible. argon, krypton and xenon the colour changes at the lower pressure limit mentioned above and at lower pressures a sheath is observed, which is brighter than the arc plasma, with almost the same dimensions as the dark sheath. At still lower pressures it disappears. In hydrogen, at 0.5 mm., a bright sheath is observed round the cathode with about the same thickness as in the case of the noble gases. Below 0.1 mm. we can see in hydrogen concentric with the dark space-charge sheath a bright and an almost dark sheath followed by the light of the discharge plasma (very distinct at 0.005 mm).

These last phenomena were also observed in argon (though very indistinct) at such a low pressure that the bright sheath had disappeared.

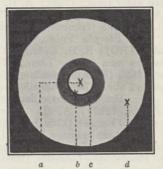


Fig. 1. Diagram of glow from an oxide-coated cathode, in argon at 0.05 mm. pressure, current 2.0 amp., diameter of cathode 4 mm., emitting surface 2.9 sq. cm.

A more extensive report will be published in the Dutch journal Physica.

N. WARMOLTZ.

Natuurkundig Laboratorium der N. V. Philips' Gloeilampenfabrieken, Eindhoven, Holland. May 18.

Parallel-Plane Diode Magnetron

In the discussion on a paper by W. E. Benham on "Electronic Theory and the Magnetron Oscillator", it is remarked that although oscillations should be expected from plane diodes with magnetic field2, no experimental evidence had been brought forward to support this.

We have constructed a plane diode of the Müller³ type consisting of a plane indirectly heated oxidecoated cathode, 17 mm. in diameter, and an anode the two plane plates of which were approximately 15 mm. in diameter, situated on either side and at 1 mm. distance from the cathode. The anode plates provide the capacitance of the oscillating circuit. and the conductor joining these two plates (assumed

for calculation in this case to be a ring of 21 mm. in diameter), provides the inductance. The anode current is fed to this ring at a voltage node. The

arrangement can be seen from Fig. 1.

It was hoped with this valve to obtain diode oscillations³ of the order of 30 cm. without a magnetic field, but having failed to detect any, owing perhaps to the lack of exact symmetry in the apparatus, a magnetic field was applied parallel to the electrodes. Weak oscillations could be detected with a Lecher wire system coupled capacitatively to the valve, together with rectifier and sensitive galvanometer.

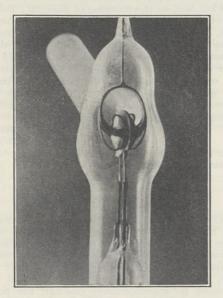


Fig. 1. Parallel-plane diode magnetron.

Until a further valve is built, little more can be said than:

(1) the oscillations occur where the magnetic field starts to cause a reduction in the anode current,

(2) the oscillation intensity falls off as the direction of the magnetic field is altered from that parallel to the electrodes, to that perpendicular to the plane of the electrodes.

(3) the wave-length of the oscillations is of the order of that determined by the oscillating circuit (the anode plates plus connecting wire).

D. M. Tombs.

Institut für Schwingungsforschung, Franklinstrasse 1, Berlin, N.W. 87. May 12.

W. E. Benham, Proc. Phys. Soc., 47, pt. 1, No. 258 (Jan. 1935).
 J. Müller, Z. Hochfreq. und Elektroak., 46, Heft 5 (Nov. 1935).
 J. Müller, Z. Hochfreq. und Elektroak., 43, Heft 5 (June 1934).

Collisional Friction Frequency in the Ionosphere at Allahabad

APPLETON¹ has shown that for the ordinary ray the integrated absorption coefficient k for absorption in the deviating region (that is, in the region where μ approaches zero) may be calculated from the following formula:

$$-2\int_{u=1}^{\mu=0} \frac{k \, dh}{k \, dh} = \ln \rho_0 = -\frac{v}{2c} \left(P_0' - P_0 \right), \quad . \quad . \quad (1)$$

where ν , the collisional friction frequency per electron per second, is assumed to be constant throughout the deviating region; ρ_0 is the reflection coefficient for the ordinary ray; P'_0 is the group path; and P_0 is the optical path of the wave.

Late in the night after the magneto-ionic splitting has taken place and the ordinary ray has undergone much group retardation, we are justified in assuming

that

$$\triangle \ (\ln \, \rho_0) = - \frac{\nu}{2c} \, \triangle \ (P_0')$$
 . . (2)

Thus if we plot $\ln \rho_0$ against the equivalent height $P_0'/2$, we should expect a straight line, the slope of which will give us the value of ν . The observations made in this laboratory during last winter show the validity of formula (2) and give an average value of ν of $1\cdot 2\times 10^4$ per electron per second.

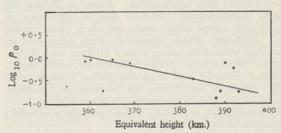


Fig. 1. F-layer reflections, March 1, 1936, time 0319-0402 I.S.T.

In Fig. 1, $\log_{10} \rho_0$ has been plotted against the equivalent height for reflections from the F-layer. ν comes out to be $1\cdot 2\times 10^4$ per electron per second.

The value of ν has also been determined by similar methods in England by Eckersley ² and Farmer and Ratcliffe³. Eckersley has found $\nu = 3 \cdot 6 \times 10^3$ in the daytime for the F-region, while Farmer and Ratcliffe's night-time value of ν for the F-region is $2 \cdot 1 \times 10^3$ and the daytime value is $1 \cdot 2 \times 10^3$ per electron per second. Thus we see that the value found by us differs considerably from that found by workers in England. At present it is not possible to account for this difference, unless more data extending over a large period are available.

Further observations are being made and details

will be published elsewhere.

G. R. TOSHNIWAL. B. D. PANT. R. R. BAJPAI.

Physical Laboratory, University, Allahabad, May 7.

Appleton, Nature, 122, 879 (1928); 135, 618 (1935).
 Eckersley, Nature, 135, 435 (1935).
 Farmer and Ratcliffe, Proc. Roy. Soc., A, 151, 370 (1935).

Sensitivity of Photographic Plates in the Region λλ 2500-2100 A.

It is well known that the sensitivity of an ordinary photographic emulsion begins to fall rapidly just below λ 2500 A., and is very low at λ 2100 A. This fall is due to the absorption of short-wave radiation by the gelatin of the emulsion. It is commonly stated that higher sensitivity in this region may be obtained by greatly reducing the gelatin content of the emulsion, as in the Schumann plate, or by bathing an ordinary plate in a fluorescent substance which can

convert the short waves into radiation able to

penetrate the gelatin.

Having had occasion recently to photograph spectra of low intensity in this region, we were surprised to find that better results could be obtained with ordinary plates than with plates recommended as having much higher ultra-violet sensitivity. We have therefore carried out some experiments with the view of clearing up this apparently anomalous behaviour.

The procedure was as follows. A heavy-current discharge tube, through which passed a slow stream of air, provided a steady source of the γ-bands of nitric oxide. These bands are characterised by strong, well-defined heads, with long branches slowly degraded in the direction of shorter wave-lengths. The range of intensity thus available makes this band system very suitable for comparison of plate characteristics in the ultra-violet. Using a Hilger E2 quartz spectrograph, identical sets of exposures in logarithmic steps were made on each plate under test. Ordinary plates (Imperial) were compared in this way with Schumann plates (Hilger and Agfa), special ultra-violet plates (Eastman and Agfa), Q-plates (Ilford), and Imperial plates treated with such common sensitisers as anthracene, sodium salicylate, vaseline and various mineral oils.

In most cases, especially when the source is weak,

the spectroscopist wishes

(a) to obtain a measurable record of the spectrum

with the least possible exposure, and

(b) to reproduce, as a range of perceptible density differences, the intensity differences present in the actual spectrum.

Our results show that

(a') every plate tested, except the Ilford Q2 plate, gives less blackening for short exposures than does an ordinary plate. That is to say, an ordinary plate fulfils condition (a) better than the 'sensitised' plates, with this one exception.

(b') the 'sensitised' plates are capable of showing more intensity contrast than ordinary plates, because they have a greater saturation density. This increased density, however, is obtained only by prolonging exposure beyond that which is needed to

reach saturation with ordinary plates.

If, therefore, it is desired merely to detect a weak spectrum in this region, it is undesirable to use 'sensitised' plates. If, on the other hand, the source of radiation is intense, or short exposure time is not aimed at, these plates will give greater contrast and higher saturation density than ordinary ones.

It is perhaps also worth noting that considerable over-exposure in this region does not produce on an ordinary plate densities comparable with those attainable in the nearer ultra-violet or visible region. Apart altogether from considerations of fogging, excessive exposure is detrimental in that it smooths out what little intensity contrast is present in a correctly exposed plate. This is shown by the fact that, on an over-exposed plate, even such a spectrum as that of NO appears almost continuous.

A full account of the experiments will be published

shortly.

A. HUNTER. R. W. B. PEARSE.

Royal College of Science, South Kensington, London, S.W.7. June 3.

Nova Lacertæ, 1936

SLIT spectra of the nova have been obtained at this Observatory on every night, with one exception, since the discovery was announced on June 19.

The most prominent feature in the spectra is the broad emission bands of the Balmer series of hydrogen, $H\alpha$ being particularly bright. The width of the $H\beta$ and $H\gamma$ emissions on the evening of June 22 was about 50 angstroms. These emissions are flanked on the side of shorter wave-length by rather weak absorption lines. The more displaced component of the two $H\gamma$ absorptions indicated a velocity of about -1100 km./sec. on the morning of June 20; this rose to about -1900 km./sec. by the evening of June 22.

Fe II, Ti II, Mg II, and Ca II are also represented by broad weak emission bands and displaced absorption lines. These absorption lines are weak and hazy, but the sharp interstellar H and K lines are strongly shown on a plate taken on the evening of June 22.

The general appearance of the spectrum is in sharp contrast with that of Nova Herculis, 1934, at a corresponding stage of development.

T. W. WORMELL. J. C. Dobbie.

Solar Physics Observatory, Cambridge. June 26.

The Background of the Galaxies

In Nature of May 30, M. Leontovski¹ shows that "To a most sensitive eye, the background of the galaxies would appear as a dark red." Since the irresolvable background consists of nebulæ receding with nearly the speed of light, the age of these nebulæ, as observed, reckoned in our own timescale, must be approximately one half the present age of our own surroundings; that is, if t is the conventional value of the age of the universe, $\frac{1}{2}t$ is the age of the observed background². Combining these results, we see that the background realizes the poet's dream of

"A rose-red city, half as old as time."3

E. A. MILNE.

19 Northmoor Road, Oxford.

NATURE, 137, 904 (1936).
 Mon. Not. Roy. Ast. Soc., 93, 674 (1935); "Relativity, Gravitation and World-Structure" (1935), p. 108 (diagram).
 J. W. Burgon, "Petra", Newdigate Prize Poem, 1845.

Glycosides of Madder

The glycoside obtained from various species of *Galium* and *Rubia* already described in NATURE¹ has now been found to be a primveroside of purpurin carboxylic acid.

The sugar of ruberythric acid, the glycoside of alizarin, which has been known for many years, has been isolated in the pure crystalline condition from the products of enzymic hydrolysis and identified as primverose. A primveroside of rubiadin has also been obtained from the roots of *Galium Verum*.

The three glycosides are rapidly hydrolysed by enzymes present in members of the Primulaceæ. They would appear to be the first examples known of primverosides occurring in the Rubiaceæ.

R. HILL. D. RICHTER.

Biochemical Laboratory, Cambridge. June 2. ¹ NATURE, **134**, 628 (1934).

¹ For example, Hopfield and Appleyard, J. Opt. Soc. America, 22, 488 (1932). Weichmann, Z. wiss. Phot., 34, 140 (1935).

Points from Foregoing Letters

New experiments to find whether there is a correlation between the scattering of gamma radiation and electron recoil are described by Dr. J. C. Jacobsen. In agreement with Bothe and Maier-Leibnitz, and unlike Shankland, the author finds a number of coincidences which is well beyond the experimental error. Commenting on these results, Prof. N. Bohr considers that the grounds for serious doubts concerning the validity of conservation of energy and momentum in atomic phenomena are largely removed. The root of the still unsolved difficulties of quantum electrodynamics may be looked for, he states, in the atomistic nature of electricity, which is as foreign to the classical physical theories as the quantum of action itself.

With reference to the complex molecular nature of solid sulphur trioxide, Prof. H. E. Armstrong directs attention to its value as a sulphonating agent, and recalls incidents in connexion with its early preparation by Frankland.

To account for the similarity in the graphs representing the rate of thermal decomposition and the rate of oxidation of formaldehyde and of acetaldehyde, Prof. M. W. Travers suggests that short-lived intermediates are formed in both cases.

A new vitamin, 'P', which cures pathological permeability of the walls of capillaries to plasma protein, is reported by St. Rusznyák and Prof. A. Szent-Györgyi. The new vitamin, closely allied to vitamin C, is found in Hungarian red pepper and lemon juice, and is apparently flavon or flavonol glycoside, one of the vegetable dyes.

Adenylic acid and adenosine (obtained from muscle or yeast) are found by Dr. T. W. Birch and Dr. L. W. Mapson to accentuate considerably the slowing down of the heart-beat (bradycardia) produced in rats by deficiency of vitamin B_1 . The authors find, further, that vitamin B_1 helps in the elimination of adenylic acid and suggest that, when the vitamin is absent, there is an accumulation of adenylic acid and that it and similar decomposition products of nuclein are the cause of the bradycardia, not lactic acid, as sometimes stated.

The concept of a pair of equivalent particle-observers, as employed by Milne and Page, is criticised by Prof. J. L. Synge, who deduces that any two particle-observers are equivalent, and their relative velocity is zero for suitably chosen equivalent clocks.

The variations of the magnetic induction with the field applied are found by K. Mendelssohn and R. B. Pontius to follow a smooth and nearly reversible curve in the case of a sphere of tin at very low temperature (in the supra-conducting state), while in a cylindrical specimen, the graph shows step-wise changes, with considerable hysteresis. This behaviour agrees with the assumption that the time effects observed indicate a slow expansion or contraction of macroscopic supra-conducting regions.

Examples showing how the exact value of physical constants (such as density and boiling point) of pure liquids can be estimated with a high degree of accuracy from the change in boiling point of the liquids as they become purer on distillation are given by Dr. M. Wojciechowski and Dr. E. R. Smith.

A greatly increased consumption of oxygen by cartilage tissue, upon addition of methylene blue, is reported by E. G. L. Bywaters. Under ordinary conditions, cartilage splits glucose into lactic acid without the use of oxygen.

Dr. S. Dobinski finds that the haloes obtained by diffraction of electrons on a copper surface polished in air are due to cuprous oxide. Polishing in absence of air gives rise to different haloes of such size as might be expected from degeneration of the usual copper pattern.

On placing living tissue cells in pure water or in a medium free from salts, Prof. H. Grossfeld finds that the cells take a globular shape, and that a vivid Brownian movement and increase in the number of granules takes place. The author ascribes these reversible changes to the loss of diffusible electrolytes, which produces a slow coagulation of the cytoplasm.

A group of symptoms observed when rats have suffered severe injuries from various agents (cold, surgical injuries, poisoning), which seems independent of the nature of the damaging agent, is described by Prof. H. Selye, who describes it as a "general adaptation syndrome". This syndrome, which develops in several stages, includes decrease in the size of thymus, spleen, lymph glands and liver, disappearance of fat tissue, formation of acute erosions in the digestive tract, increase in adrenals, etc.

Prof. J. Kaplan finds that when oxygen is introduced into the auroral afterglow in nitrogen, the spectrum of the resulting afterglow resembles very closely the spectrum of sunlit auroras as reported by Vegard and Tønsberg. He believes that the effect is brought about by ozone as postulated by Vegard and Tønsberg.

Evidence is submitted by Dr. Howell that the ground state vibrational frequency of a molecule AB is very nearly equal to the mean of the frequencies of the elementary molecules A_2 and B_2 , where A and B belong to the same group of the Periodic Table.

A new 'dark sheath', with a sharp boundary, near the cathode of an arc discharge between the Langmuir double space-charge sheath on the cathode and the light of the 'arc plasma', is described by N. Warmoltz.

According to theoretical considerations put forward by J. Müller, electromagnetic oscillations are to be expected from a parallel-plane diode magnetron, when the magnetic field is arranged parallel to the plane of the electrodes. D. M. Tombs observes oscillations of the order of 30 cm. confirming this.

A. Hunter and Dr. R. W. B. Pearse find that in the region $\lambda\lambda$ 2500–2100 A., certain specially sensitised ultra-violet plates are actually less sensitive than ordinary plates when exposures are short or the radiation is weak. 'Sensitisation' in general increases contrast and maximum attainable density, but decreases threshold speed.

Spectra of the new star reported in last week's NATURE are briefly described by Drs. T. W. Wormell and J. C. Dobbie. The hydrogen absorptions indicate velocities which have risen from 1100 to 1900 km./sec. in two and a half days. Certain enhanced metallic lines are also present, in displaced positions, and the sharp lines of interstellar calcium are a prominent feature.

Research Items

Fertility and Contraception in the United States

DATA relating to the reproduction histories of 30,949 women (white and negro) overtly fertile in 1931 and 1932, and residing in or near twenty-six large cities in fifteen States east of the Mississippi and north of the southernmost tier of States, have been collected and are in course of analysis by Prof. Raymond Pearl. An important factor in any discussion of this material is the extent and effectiveness of contraception. It can alter completely the expression of variation in natural innate fertility. An attempt to evaluate the influence of this factor (Science, 83, May 22, 1936) shows that among the white population under investigation, 54 per cent have not practised contraception and among the negroes 83 per cent. Contrasting the two classes of contraceptors and non-contraceptors in white and negro respectively, it appears that in white andnegro non-contraceptors, the pregnancy rates are identical; but among contraceptors, in the whites contraception is effective in reducing pregnancy 25-50 per cent in the various age classes, while among negroes it is without significant statistical effect in lowering the pregnancy rates below those of comparable classes of non-contraceptors. This confirms the experience of clinics that negroes do not practise contraception effectively, even after instruction. Clearly if no other variables were involved, this would result in a change in the relative proportions of the two elements in the population, which would be apparent in a very short time. There is, however, a much higher rate of production wastage (abortions, miscarriages and still-births), largely owing to the prevalence of venereal disease, among the negroes. This acts as one of several compensating factors in the birth-rate.

Antiscorbutic Activity of a Derivative of Gluconic Acid

It is now known that a number of compounds chemically related to l-ascorbic acid or vitamin C can exert some degree of antiscorbutic activity. An addition to the list is announced in a letter addressed to the Editor by Prof. B. A. Lawrow, Prof. W. M. Rodionow, E. M. Bomdas and N. S. Jarussowa, of the Vitamin Department of the Institute of Nutrition, Moscow. They have found that the methyl ester of 2-ketogluconic acid exerts antiscorbutic activity in guinea-pigs in doses of 100 mgm, or more: 50 mgm. had a curative action in about half of a group of animals suffering from scurvy, but 25 mgm. had very little effect. This ester is an intermediate product in the synthesis of d-arabo-ascorbic acid, which has about one-twentieth of the antiscorbutic potency of vitamin C itself (see S. S. Zilva, Biochem. J., 29, 1612; 1935). It thus appears that the ester of ketogluconic acid has about 1 per cent of the activity of l-ascorbic acid or vitamin C. The chemical difference between the two ascorbic acids lies in the position of a hydroxyl group in the chain. The Russian authors do not discount the possibility that the gluconic ester is converted first into d-araboascorbic acid in the animal body and that the antiscorbutic activity is due to this compound: they also state they they are extending their investigation to include an examination of the action of the ester of ketogulonic acid, which occupies a corresponding position in the synthesis of l-ascorbic acid. The question whether antiscorbutic activity depends upon the presence of a cyclic structure in the molecule or can also be exerted by open-chain compounds must await further investigation, but may be difficult to decide if the conditions of conversion in vitro can be duplicated in the body.

Sex Change in a Fish

The actual change of sex that takes place in a teleostean fish, Sparus longispinis, is the subject of a memoir by Kinoshita (J. Sci. Hiroshima Univ., Ser. B, Div. 1, 4; 1936). In early life the gonad consists of a thread-like testis. Shortly after, oocytes make their appearance in tissue alongside the testis which now contains ripe spermatozoa. More of them make their appearance until a hermaphrodite condition is realized, but only functional sperms are produced. The final stage is brought about by the degeneration of the gonad of one sex, either male or female, thus leaving the old fish of the other sex. It is only when this stage is reached that functional ova are produced.

Fungi and Graft Unions

THE partnership between stock and scion of a grafted plant is usually well adjusted. There is, however, undoubted evidence that fruit-tree stocks can influence the type of scion growth, and the scion can, under different conditions, control growth of the whole tree. Mr. T. E. T. Bond has investigated the possibility that such relations would have an effect upon the relative susceptibility of herbaceous stocks and scions to attack by disease-producing fungi (Ann. App. Biol., 23, No. 1, 11–29, February 1936). Various graft combinations of potato, tomato, woody nightshade, deadly nightshade, thorn-apple, Physalis sp. and henbane were prepared, and were inoculated on one side of the union with either of the fungi Phytophthora infestans or Cladosporium fulvum. The resulting attacks by these fungi were the same as upon ungrafted material, thus showing no influence of the other participant in the graft union, either in preventing, or helping, fungal attack in the herbaceous plants used for the experi-

A Disease of the Japanese Laurel

The common variegated Japanese laurel, Aucuba japonica, is but rarely the host of any fungus or bacterial parasite. Dr. G. Trapp has, however, isolated an organism, Pseudomonas aucubicola, a new species, which is very closely concerned in a 'die-back' disease of this popular shrub ("A Bacillus isolated from Diseased Plants of Aucuba japonica (Thunb.)", Phytopath., 26, No. 3, 257–265, March 1936). Though the organism was consistently isolated from stem, leaf and root lesions of infected plants, very intensive attempts to re-inoculate healthy plants failed to reproduce the malady. It is considered that P. aucubicola is not a primary parasite, but can avail

itself of a slightly diseased condition induced by some other cause. Morphological, cultural and physiological characters of the organism are set forth at length in the paper.

Atmospheric Vorticity

The Journal of the Faculty of Science, Imperial University of Tokyo, Section 1, vol. 3, part 2, August 1935, contains a number of meteorological papers dealing with atmospheric vorticity. The first, by K. Nakata, with an introduction by Prof. S. Fujiwhara, is a study of the vertical component of vorticity. A number of synoptic weather charts are shown on which are drawn lines of isovorticity together with ordinary isobars for sea-level, for the neighbourhood of Japan for certain dates in the winters of 1922 and 1923. These show that the areas of positive (cyclonic) and negative (anticyclonic) vorticity generally nearly coincide with the cyclonic and anticyclonic areas, but that the two pairs of systems often differ in detail; that the different systems travel together; but that the distribution of vorticity is irregular in the regions lying between an anticyclone and a cyclone. The centres of maximum and minimum vorticity, in spite of the irregularities just mentioned, appeared to coincide very nearly with the main centres of low and high pressure. Later papers in the series by other Japanese writers extend the relationship to features other than the distribution of atmospheric pressure, including cloud and rainfall, and deal with the case of the typhoon. Very little is said of the difficulties that must have arisen from lack of sufficient observational material, and in the application of the classical hydro-dynamical equations to a complex and highly compressible fluid like the atmosphere; it is difficult to assess the importance for meteorology of the very laborious and difficult computations involved in this attack upon a subject which is undoubtedly of the greatest importance for progress in meteorology.

Electrical Contacts

ALL engineers who are familiar with the working of spark coils and the phenomena which take place where the brushes press on the commutator of a dynamo realize the importance of the study of electrical arcs and discharges, but it is only recently that their effects on the resistances of the materials in contact have been considered. In World Power of May, G. Windred has given a useful review of recent literature on the subject. The value of the contact resistance between two metals depends largely upon the conditions at the interface between them, but it is also largely affected by the formation of oxides on the faces. It is known that copper oxides produce a marked increase on the contact resistance. For a given current this increases the heating and the cumulative rate of deposit of the oxide. At a certain critical temperature, there is a sudden fall in the contact resistance, and this is of importance in the design of heavy-current contact breakers. The main factors which influence the life of electrical contacts are their hardness and their resistance to the effects of arcing. The relays used in modern telephone practice must operate faultlessly over long periods of time and with the minimum of inspection; their effective life depending on the duty cycle which they perform and the amount of attention which they receive. The disadvantages of using copper and brass are their low melting points and their susceptibility

to corrosion. This led in the early days to the use of precious metals for electrical contacts. Papers by Carter and Kingsbury published in America (Bell Journal Reprints, April 1928) contain practically all our knowledge of this important subject. Kingsbury deals with the important subject of contact erosion and gives experimental data obtained from eight different contact metals showing their losses in weight, volume and atomic proportions relative to platinum.

Organic Derivatives of Silicon

In the Bakerian Lecture to the Royal Society delivered on June 25, Prof. F. S. Kipping reviewed the work of the past thirty-five years at University College, Nottingham, on organic derivatives of With the object of determining whether silicon could give rise, like carbon, to dissymmetric molecules, a number of derivatives belonging to the two types SiR₁R₂R₃R₄ and (R₁R₂R₃Si)₂O and each containing at least one aromatic nucleus, were prepared. These optically inactive compounds were converted to sulphonic acids, and resolutions with active bases were attempted. In each case only one active base gave the desired result. A remarkable feature was that in many cases the d- and l-acids, when combined separately with another active base, gave salts which were indistinguishable in all physical properties, including specific rotation. In the course of other investigations, it was found possible to direct attention to the great differences in behaviour between similarly constituted compounds of carbon and silicon. Thus the chlorides SiR₃Cl are easily hydrolysed by cold water to silicols SiR₃OH, which pass readily into oxides SiR₃.O.SiR₃. In no case has the formation of a simple silicone, R₂Si:O, been observed, and indeed it seems probable that the group >Si:O does not exist, nor is there any evidence of the formation of an ethylenic bond between carbon and silicon or between two silicon atoms. The diols SiR₂(OH)₂ and triols SiR(OH)₃ give rise to complex mixtures by progressive condensations, the study of which throws light on the structure of mineral silicates. Acids of the type R.SiO.OH are probably not formed. The general conclusion is that corresponding carbon and silicon compounds show very little similarity in behaviour, only a few types of carbon compounds being represented by analogous derivatives of silicon.

Monogenic Functions

A function of a complex variable is called monogenic at a point if at that point it possesses a unique finite derivative. It is well known that such a function satisfies the differential equations of Cauchy-Riemann; but the converse is not true. The problem of determining conditions that are sufficient for monogeneity and yet are free from unnecessary restrictions has not yet been completely solved, but an account of recent progress is given by Prof. D. Menchoff of Moscow ("Les conditions de monogénéité"; Actualités scientifiques et industrielles 329. Paris: Hermann et Cie., 1936). It is surprising to find that the demonstrations seem necessarily to involve complicated ideas of the modern theory of functions, even when the properties dealt with are apparently independent of these ideas. Perhaps some mathematician will take up the challenge, and supply the simpler proofs which, one is tempted to say, must exist.

The Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore

IN 1926 the Government of India appointed a committee with Sir William Pope as chairman to report upon the Indian Institute of Science, and one of its recommendations was that the activities of the Institute should be subject to review by a committee every five years. Early this year, Sir James Irvine was appointed chairman of the statutory quinquennial committee, and the issue of the report of this committee is awaited with interest. It is untimely, therefore, that the March issue of our Calcutta contemporary, Science and Culture, should publish a severely critical article on the present administration of the Institute. Anyone cognisant of the large volume of original work which has issued from the Institute since its foundation cannot doubt that it has more than justified the hopes of its munificent founder, the late Mr. J. N. Tata. The two main heads of the recent criticisms would appear to be (a) that the work of the Institute is too academic and (b) that, since the students are drawn very largely from South India, it is no longer an all-India research institute.

Whilst it may be true that much of the work carried out in the laboratories of the Institute is concerned mainly with problems of purely scientific interest, it is difficult to see how this could be otherwise. The research work in the Institute is done by young students who go there for a training in the methods of research. If they are not to be discouraged in their early years, it is essential that they should be assigned problems likely to yield results within a reasonable time. Furthermore, we very

much doubt if it is possible to undertake ad hoc research on industrial problems. The industrial research institutions in Great Britain work in close contact with established industries, and they study fundamental problems related to these. It is very rare indeed that a new industry results directly from an isolated piece of research. We are of opinion that the Indian Institute of Science can best assist industrial development by working in collaboration with industry, as do the universities in Great Britain with Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.

The contributions of the Institute to industrial development have not been negligible; we need only instance the valuable researches made in collaboration with the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun on the causation of sandal wood disease, the investigations on wireless transmission in the tropics, and the work leading to the establishment of the sandalwood oil and white lead industries.

All industrial advancement is dependent upon pure scientific research, and it is a matter for congratulation that Sir C. V. Raman, the present director, has already built up a school of research in physics and that he was able to attract as a visitor to Bangalore so eminent a theoretical physicist as Dr. Max Born. Whilst the rapid development of research in Indian universities, not foreseen by its founders, has doubtless made necessary a new orientation of the activities of the Institute, we cannot doubt that it will continue to play a great part in the scientific advancement of India.

Progress in Atomic Physics

CONFERENCE AT COPENHAGEN

PROF. NIELS BOHR held a conference on atomic physics on June 17-20 in the Institute for Theoretical Physics at Copenhagen. About eighty physicists attended the discussions, including many from foreign countries.

The outstanding communication to the conference was a paper by W. Heisenberg on the quantum-mechanical theory of cosmic ray showers. Up to the present, no explanation of the fact that particles of very high energy can produce simultaneously, or in a single process, a large number of secondary particles, has been given in terms of the quantum theory of electrodynamics. Such showers of secondary particles have been observed by Hoffmann, Blackett and other experimenters.

According to quantum electrodynamics, the effective cross-sections for the simultaneous formation of n pairs of electrons lead to an extremely small probability for the occurrence of large showers. This calculation was made on the assumption that only the ordinary known electrical forces are of importance in the interaction between charged particles.

The phenomenon of β -disintegration has, however, suggested the idea, as in Fermi's theory, that there exist interaction forces of a new type between electrons and heavy elementary particles such as protons and neutrons. In this new type of interaction, a fourth elementary particle, the neutrino, probably takes part, as has been suggested by Pauli. Without the neutrino, it is impossible to preserve the law of the conservation of energy in the description of β -disintegration. It follows from the existence of these new interaction forces that an electron and neutrino can be created in an atomic nucleus, the electron being emitted as a β -ray, as Fermi pointed out.

Heisenberg has given a general proof that all interaction forces of the type that produce β -disintegration lead to the production of multiple processes and particles, when initiated by particles of high energy. The process may be of the following sort. A high-speed proton strikes a nucleus and produces in the field of the nucleus a great number of β -rays in one elementary action. Heisenberg suggests that the mechanism of the cosmic ray showers is of this type.

He has succeeded in calculating the minimum energy needed by the incident particle to produce this effect, and finds that the order of magnitude is in quite good agreement with the experimental observations of cosmic ray energies.

It is hoped that this new conception of the interaction between elementary particles will suggest methods of solving the difficulties in the theory of quantum electrodynamics, which arise from the incomplete knowledge of the physical laws governing

the behaviour of particles of high energy.

V. Weisskopf discussed the Dirac theory of positrons, and showed that its formulation can be simplified, and some of its paradoxes removed. P. Jordan discussed the theoretical possibility of conceiving a light quantum as a pair of neutrinos. M. Born gave an account of his theory of quantum electrodynamics. Kalckar and Bohr gave a detailed mathematical account of their theory of nuclear disintegration. O. R. Frisch and G. Placzek gave an account of the structures of energy levels in heavy nuclei, and the possibility of investigating it by means of the absorption of slow neutrons. Rosenfeld and Bohr discussed the problem of the measurement of charges, and the importance of field and charge fluctuations for the definition of theoretical concepts.

The course of the discussions was, as always, directed by the masterly fundamental criticisms of Bohr. On these occasions, when so many able theorists are gathered together, it is clear that Bohr's physical insight is the power which contributes most to the advance of theoretical atomic physics, and creates the conditions which fertilize the mathematical

abilities of theoretical workers elsewhere.

The most interesting and important paper on experimental physics was, perhaps, Jacobsen's account of his repetition of the Shankland experiment (see p. 24 of this issue). Shankland failed to observe coincidences between recoil electrons and scattered quanta when observing with counters at the angles expected according to the Compton theory of the photon scattering process. He used γ-rays from radium, which cover a large range of frequencies. Jacobsen, and Bothe and Maier-Leibnitz have now repeated

the experiment with the almost non-chromatic γ -rays from thorium C'. They have taken great care in defining the angles used, and have found the expected number of coincidences. These results are confirmed by some less well-defined experiments by Fermi's collaborators. Thus the suggested failure of the conservation of energy in the Compton effect, so eagerly seized upon by Dirac, in order to get rid of some of the difficulties found in the formulation of a satisfactory relativistic quantum dynamics, is not confirmed. Bohr, Pauli, Heisenberg and other theoretical workers expressed satisfaction at this result, and hoped that further discoveries would mitigate the difficulties on which Dirac comments (see p. 24).

Heitler reported that Anderson has withdrawn his claim that the energy lost by fast electrons in the cosmic rays is much less than expected on

general theoretical grounds.

Miss Meitner gave an account of some work on the radioactive effects produced in uranium by the action of slow neutrons. She showed that it is very probable that elements of atomic number 93 and 94 are both formed in the process. Dr. M. L. Oliphant described some recent work carried out in Cambridge, while Goldhaber showed that the mean free path in paraffin of the neutrons produced by the photo-electric disintegration of deuterium does not have the value predicted by the accepted theoretical picture of the interactions between neutrons and protons.

Uhlenbeck described how the modification of the Fermi theory of β-decay, proposed by Uhlenbeck and Konopinski, is in good accord with experiments on the energy distribution of β-particles from both electron and positron emitters of low atomic number. Richardson gave similar evidence in the case of

β-emitters of high atomic number.

The general impression left by the conference was that progress in experimental research on the atomic nucleus is very rapid, but that the advance in the theoretical description of the new results is much slower. This is due largely to inadequate theories of the interaction forces between particles of high energy separated by small distances, which are of fundamental importance in the region of the nucleus.

Recent Advances in Wool Research

SEVERAL papers read at the Annual Conference of the Textile Institute held in London on June 3-5 dealt with wool and its characteristics.

Dr. A. B. Wildman, biologist of the Wool Industries Research Association, discussed estimations in the fleece of important wool characteristics, such as fineness variability, length, fleece density and kemp proportion. Emphasis was laid on the necessity for devising speedy and accurate methods of fleece analysis, in order that the relative merits of fleeces from breeders' flocks and from experimental sheep could be accurately measured. A historical résumé of earlier work was given, indicating that conflicting results were often due to lack of representative sampling methods. The author gave an account of his methods, which are subject to statistical control, in commencing analyses of thoroughly sampled fleeces. These investigations are intended to show the kind of variations occurring in fleeces of different types of sheep, and represent an essential prerequisite in the evolution of suitable methods for quality determination.

The quality of a fleece may be modified by exposure to light, air and water. This is attributed by Dr. J. B. Speakman, of the University of Leeds, in a paper on "The Reactivity of the Sulphur Linkage in Animal Fibres", to the oxidation of intact disulphide bonds or their hydrolysis products. More regulated changes of this nature occur in the milling, carrotting, crabbing and blowing processes. Dr. Speakman produced evidence to show that the cystine disulphide cross-linkage is more susceptible to hydrolysis in the stretched than it is in the unstretched fibre. He also showed that the contractile power of treated stretched fibres is dependent on the extent of the hydrolysis of the cystine disulphide cross-linkages, which vary with the pH value of the solution in which the fibre is treated.

Raw wool may contain fifty per cent of its weight of grease, suint, dirt and vegetable matter. Its cleaning is, therefore, an intricate process, and was the subject of two papers from the Wool Industries Research Association. Some of the fundamental principles of washing raw wool with solutions of soap and soda were dealt with by Dr. H. Phillips, who showed that the pH values of the detergent solutions used influence their wetting and emulsifying powers, and the stability of the emulsions which they form. Variations in the relative proportions of the different impurities in raw wool, caused by variations in the health of the sheep and the climatic conditions, have to be met by alterations in the washing process, which can only be foreseen when the process is under scientific control. Inherent weaknesses in the process

are the effect of the alkali used on the wool and the incomplete removal of vegetable matter.

Dr. S. Townend described the frosted wool process, recently developed in the United States, by which it is claimed that large quantities of vegetable matter and grease can be removed from raw wool without subjecting it to alkaline solutions. The wool is cooled to -40° F., and the frozen grease and vegetable matter are broken up and removed by mechanical treatment. The process removes more vegetable matter than the normal washing process, but the finer qualities of wool still require carbonising after treatment. The grease content of the wool cleaned by this process is also relatively high, and for certain purposes the wool has to be washed with soap and soda.

Chemical Engineering Congress of the World Power Conference

R.H. THE DUKE OF KENT, in opening on Monday, June 22, the First International Chemical Engineering Congress at the Central Hall, Westminster, and welcoming delegates and members from thirty-seven countries, said: "Proud as each country is of the achievements of her great scientists and inventors, their work once done becomes international and contributes to the well-being and happiness of every race". The Right Hon. Viscount Leverhulme, in his presidential address which followed, dealt with the subject of chemical engineering and stated that the conception of holding an international congress of this kind was due to the late Sir Frederic Nathan, and that the development of that ideal into the present meeting was brought about by the World Power Conference.

About 120 papers from fifteen different countries were presented for discussion, whilst the membership numbered 850, comprising about 350 representatives from thirty-six overseas countries.

Two technical sessions were held before lunch and two in the afternoon on Tuesday, June 23, and Friday, June 26, but as visits to colleges, research institutions and works in and around London had been arranged for Wednesday afternoon and Thursday afternoon, the technical sessions on these days were limited to the forenoon.

Since chemical plant may have to resist corrosive conditions and may have to withstand high temperatures and/or high pressures, both the material of which it is constructed and the method of fabrication are important factors to the chemical engineer. It was therefore not surprising that the papers and discussions at the first two sessions on Tuesday morning were devoted to materials of construction. At the first of these, eight papers were presented dealing with ferrous metals and their alloys designed to resist heat, rust and acid corrosion, the forging of autoclaves and vessels for withstanding liquids at high temperatures and pressures. Nor was cast iron omitted, for included in this section were papers showing the result of recent research work on this material and its application in chemical industry, as well as others on the prevention of corrosion in underground pipe lines made of ferrous metals. The following session covered a much wider field since it contained papers on refractory materials, stoneware, plastics, rubber and such lesser known fibres as jute, coir, and sisal, as well as non-ferrous metals and their alloys, and their application in the construction of chemical plant.

Separation in the chemical industry is such a wide subject that at the third session, after lunch, the papers ranged from the theory of coal-washing through the recovery of benzol and the removal of carbon monoxide from town's gas to the production and treatment of road tars and to problems connected with the distillation of absolute alcohol, fractionation of heavy oils, modern cracking processes and graphical calculations relating to plate columns. Included in this section were other papers on filtration, recent developments in evaporation, crystallization, solvent extraction and drying.

The fourth session, which followed immediately, contained several papers relating to some interesting aspects of size reduction, among which was one describing a plant wherein low-grade fuel such as lignite can be pulverized and fired into the furnace of a boiler in one process, the boiler operating at a very high efficiency.

Another group of papers in this session considered electro-metallurgical and electro-chemical industries, as well as the electrolytic treatment of water for the prevention of corrosion and boiler scale and methods of removing small quantities of iron from soluble aluminium salts, the pasteurization of liquids, anodic oxidation of aluminium and are welding of low carbon steels.

At the first session on Wednesday morning, the subject under discussion was destructive distillation, in which in addition to a paper on the underground gassification of coal, there was a number of papers on the problems connected with the manufacture of water gas and town's gas from lignite and similar fuels, as well as several papers on the various aspects of the development which has taken place in the gas industry in various parts of the world.

With the rapid growth of large industrial units, the disposal of waste material, whether solid, liquid or gaseous, has become a pertinent and pressing problem to the chemical engineer. It formed the subject of several papers at the next session. Coupled with this series were other papers which showed the recent developments which have taken place in the preparation and treatment of lubricating oils.

Within comparatively recent times, considerable attention has been directed towards the use of high pressures in the synthesis of organic compounds, the hydrogenation of tar and tar distillates and gaseous liquid phase reactions. The first session on Thursday morning was devoted to this subject. Included with this group of papers was one on the use of high vacua.

Few chemical engineers escape the problem of considering the transmission of heat to or the removal of heat from the product at one or more stages in the course of its manufacture. The importance of this subject therefore demanded the attention of the members during the second session on Thursday morning, when papers dealing with the evaporation of solutions liable to be affected by high temperatures, and the use of waste heat for low-temperature evaporation as well as methods by which waste heat may be recovered from intermittent sources, were under discussion.

The attendance and discussion which followed the report upon the papers on Friday morning dealing with the training of a chemical engineer indicated how this subject has been claiming the attention of both industrialists and teachers in America, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Japan and the U.S.S.R.

In the session which followed were papers from Germany, Great Britain and the United States of America on administration, safety and welfare, and the statistical duties which fall to the lot of the chemical engineer in industry. These papers show how the countries concerned are taking precautionary measures to reduce accidents and occupational risks attendant upon chemical industry, and the factors

which influence the choice of site for a works and the cost of the product.

Trend of development was the title allotted to the first session on Friday afternoon, at which papers were presented on a variety of subjects in which amongst others are those relating to water treatment and softening, fumigation, developments in the sulphuric acid industry and the production of concentrated fertilizers from poor phosphates. Although the papers in this group deal with many subjects, their importance to the technical worker cannot be denied, since they consider problems arising in many industries.

The organization of research stations both of a public and private character and the part which fundamental research must play in industrial organizations were the subjects of some of the papers presented at the last session, which also included other papers on rapid methods of determining the standard of the product, the standardization of chemical apparatus and its future development, as well as a number of other aspects of interest to the chemical engineer.

Sir Harold Hartley, chairman of the International Executive Council of the World Power Conference, presided on Saturday morning at the closing meeting of the Congress, at which various reports were presented. Thanks were also tendered by numerous speakers to the various committees and officers, and a striking tribute not only to the success but also to the utility of the Congress was given when it was announced that an invitation had been received from the German National Committee to hold a second International Congress on Chemical Engineering in Berlin in 1940.

Oceanic Macroplankton of the Dana Expeditions*

DR. P. JESPERSEN has compared the amount of macroplankton in the various waters investigated by the Carlsberg Foundation's Oceanographical Expedition round the world in 1928–30. Volume determinations were made of 2231 pelagic hauls, distributed in eight regions—North Atlantic and Caribbean Sea, Pacific and Tasmanian Sea, Indo-Malayan region, waters west of Sumatra, Indian Ocean, South Atlantic, Straits of Gibraltar and adjacent waters, and the Mediterranean.

The paper deals solely with the purely quantitative side of the macroplankton as a whole, the only exception being a determination of the fish and fish fry of the different water layers in the regions of the Pacific: otherwise only occasional notice is taken of what organisms may be dominant—so far as volume is concerned—in the composition of the plankton. It is usually the salps which are thus noted, sometimes siphonophores, Sagitta, euphausiids and decapods.

A comparison of the microplankton on the two sides of the Panama Isthmus shows a very great difference. Thus in the upper water layers (50–100 metres wire) the quantity is greater in the Caribbean

Sea, but in all deeper hauls the volumes are very much greater in the Gulf of Panama. It is shown that in layers corresponding to hauls with 300-600 metres wire the amount of macroplankton in the Gulf of Panama is about twice the amount in the Caribbean Sea, and in depths corresponding to hauls with 1,000-3,000 metres wire the quantities of plankton are six to eight times larger in the Gulf of Panama than in the Caribbean Sea. The remarkably rich plankton fauna in the deeper waters of the Gulf of Panama is of peculiar interest, as nowhere else in the areas of the Pacific, Indian Ocean or the South Atlantic investigated is anything like such large quantities met with. It is only in the North Atlantic at about 30° N. that corresponding quantities of plankton are found in the deeper layers.

It is characteristic of the plankton fauna of the Gulf of Panama that it is considerably richer in the deeper than in the surface layers, a condition quite unique, since at all other places in the regions investigated the quantities of plankton are greatest in the upper layers. It may be said that, on the whole, the quantity of macroplankton in the deeper layers (hauls with at least 1,000 metres wire) is comparatively small and fairly uniform in most of the tropical and temperate oceanic regions. The one exception is the Gulf of Panama, where we find a remarkably large quantity of plankton in the deeper layers.

^{*}The Carlsberg Foundation's Oceanographical Expedition round the World, 1928-30, and previous Dana-Expeditions. Dana-Report No. 7: Quantitative Investigations on the Distribution of Macroplankton in different Oceanic Regions. By P. Jespersen. Pp. 44. (Copenhagen C. A. Reitzel's Forlag; London: Oxford University Press, 1935. 78.

Educational Topics and Events

BIRMINGHAM.—The degree of D.Sc. has been awarded to the following: C. T. Barber, for published papers dealing mainly with the geology of certain districts of Burma, with particular reference to natural gas and oil resources; Mabel E. Tomlinson, for papers in the Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society on river terraces of the lower valley of the Warwickshire Avon, and on the superficial deposits of the country north of Stratford-on-Avon, and a paper on the drifts of the Stour-Evenlode watershed (Proc. Birmingham Nat. His. and Phil. Soc.); G. D. Elsdon, for published work on edible oils and fats, analysis of drugs and chemicals, and numerous papers on chemical investigations in subjects relating to public health.

CAMBRIDGE.—G. C. Evans, of St. John's College, has been appointed to the Frank Smart University studentship in botany, and Dr. L. E. R. Picken of Trinity College to the Balfour studentship.

A grant of £25 has been made from the Balfour Fund to J. D. Robertson, of St. John's College, for research on the calcareous skeletons formed by marine animals.

GLASGOW.—The Bellahouston Bequest Fund Trustees have made a grant of £5,000 towards the cost of erection of the new chemistry buildings.

Prof. Gilbert Cook, professor of mechanical engineering, King's College, University of London, has been appointed regius professor of civil engineering and mechanics in succession to the late Prof. J. D. Cormack.

Prof. J. Shaw Dunn, St. Mungo-Notman professor of pathology in the University, has been elected professor of pathology in succession to Sir Robert Muir, who has retired.

Dr. H. B. Cott has been appointed lecturer in

zoology.

The Gibson Lecture for 1936-37, on the history of mathematics, will be delivered by Dr. John Dougall at the Royal Technical College, Glasgow.

LEEDS.—Dr. Archibald Durward has been elected to the chair of anatomy in the University in succession to Prof. J. Kay Jamieson, who has resigned. Dr. Durward has been a member of the anatomical staff of University College, London, since 1931; he was educated in New Zealand, and held appointments for six years in the Anatomy Department of

the University of Otago.

Mr. Frank Parkinson, of Messrs. Crompton Parkinson, Ltd., Manufacturing Electrical Engineers, has placed a fund of £50,000 in the hands of the Council on loan, free of interest, which is to become the absolute property of the University after seven years. The gift is to be used as a Scholarship Endowment Fund, to be applied to the foundation of research fellowships or scholarships for graduates and scholarships or grants for undergraduates. Pending receipt of interest from the fund, Mr. Parkinson has offered a sum up to £1,500 to be granted in scholarships during the first year.

LIVERPOOL.—The following appointments have recently been made: Dr. A. G. Walker, lecturer in the Department of Pure Mathematics, in succession

to Dr. Haslam-Jones, who has been elected a fellow of Queen's College, Oxford; Dr. H. R. Hulme, lecturer in the Department of Applied Mathematics, in succession to Dr. G. C. McVittie, who has been elected to a readership at King's College, London; Dr. C. J. Williams, Leverhulme Foundation lecturer in the Department of Physics, in succession to Dr. Norman Feather, who has been elected to a fellowship at Trinity College, Cambridge.

LONDON.—The title of reader in neurological anatomy in the University has been conferred on Miss U. L. Fielding in respect of the post held by her at University College.

The degree of D.Sc. in botany has been conferred on Mr. D. G. Catcheside, a recognised teacher at

King's College.

University postgraduate travelling studentships of the value of £275 for one year have been awarded to Dr. C. J. B. Clews (Queen Mary College), and K. Stewart (Imperial College—Royal College of Science). Dr. Clews proposes to do further research in X-rays under the direction of Prof. K. M. G. Siegbahn at the University of Uppsala, and Mr. Stewart intends to study the chemical reactions in the electric discharge under the supervision of Prof. P. Harteck at Hamburg. University postgraduate studentships of the value of £150 for one year have been awarded to W. A. Cowdrey (University College); A. J. P. Crick (King's College); J. A. Downes (Imperial College-Royal College of Science); J. Gold (University College); A. M. Houghton (King's College); Margaret M. Jamison (Bedford College); L. J. Jolley (University College); J. Lawton (University College); and the studentship awarded to Joel Hirschfield in 1935 has been renewed for a second year.

OXFORD.—At Encænia on June 24, the honorary degree of D.Sc. was conferred on Prof. E. D. Adrian, Foulerton research professor of the Royal Society.

Sir George Macdonald has been elected an honorary fellow of Balliol College.

W. E. Grimshaw, Corpus Christi College, has been granted the degree of D.Sc. for his work on plasticoviscous deformation and on combustion problems.

Dr. W. Stephenson, of the Psychology Department, University College, London, has been appointed assistant director of the newly-founded Institute of Experimental Psychology (see p. 14 of this issue).

St. Andrews.—On June 26, the honorary degree of LL.D. was conferred on the following, among others: Prof. E. Waymouth Reid, emeritus professor of physiology, University College, Dundee; Prof. J. E. Littlewood, Rouse Ball professor of mathematics in the University of Cambridge; Mr. David Anderson, consulting engineer, London.

The degree of D.Sc. has been conferred upon H. Greene, for a thesis entitled "Investigations on the Soil of the Eastern Gezira, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan", and on G. J. Robertson for his investigations on

Walden inversions in the sugar group.

THE fifth Congress of the Universities of the British Empire will be held in Cambridge on July 13-17, under the presidency of the Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Universities Bureau of the British Empire, 88a Gower Street, London, W.C.1.

Science News a Century Ago

Patent Laws of the United States

THE act of Congress establishing the United States Patent Office under a commissioner was passed on July 4, 1836, and from that time American patents have been numbered serially. The issue of patents was provided for in the first article of the Constitution, where Congress was given power "To promote the progress of science and useful arts by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive rights to their respective writings and discoveries", and the first act of Congress specifying how patents were to be issued was passed on April 10, 1790. The act of July 4, 1836, was the outcome of a Select Committee of Congress appointed "to take into consideration the State and Condition of the Patent Office and the laws relating to the issuing of Patents for New and Useful Inventions and Discoveries". In the report of this Committee, it was stated that the average number of patents issued annually from 1790 until 1800 was but 26; from 1800 until 1810 the average was 71; from 1810 until 1820 it was 200 and for the ten years previous to 1836 it had been 535. The whole number of patents issued under the laws of the United States up to March 31, 1836, was 9,731. This was more than double the number which had been issued in France or England during the same period.

The Entomological Society

AT a meeting of the Entomological Society held on July 4, 1836, the Rev. F. W. Hope, president, being in the chair, Count Gotthelf Fischer de Waldheim, of Moscow, was elected an ordinary foreign member of the Society. The secretary made some observations upon an extensive series of specimens, represented by anglers as their artificial flies, collected by Mr. Ronalds for his work entitled "The Fly-fisher's Entomology". The president also made some observations upon the system adopted in North America whereby two crops of silk are produced in a season, as described by Mr. Kenrick in his work lately published upon that subject in the United States. (Atheneum.)

The Rev. Frederick William Hope (1797–1862) who was elected president of the Entomological Society in 1835 and 1846 was a graduate of Christ Church, Oxford. He presented his collection of insects and prints to the University and was the founder of the professorship of zoology.

Lyell and Mantell

WRITING on July 6, 1836, from Kinnordy, Kirriemuir, N.B., to Mantell at Brighton, Lyell said: "Here I am rusticating in a very beautiful country, not too hot, but with weather much like a fine English spring. I am now and then devoting some stray hours to my 'Elements', like Buckland's 'Bridgewater' long promised—but not yet reviewed, thank heavens. I have received a very pleasant letter from Alexander Burnes, who has returned to Cutch and re-examined the delta of the Indus. He reports that the submerged tract which sank in 1819 is in statu quo. He has sent me off some Cutch secondary fossils, ammonites, belemnites, etc. His letter came in nine weeks per steamer from Cutch! A letter from Dr. Silliman informs me that my 'Principles' are being printed in Philadelphia, and nearly ready. John Murray was in hopes he had reduced the price so as to prevent this happening."

Darwin at St. Helena

SAILING from Mauritius on May 9, 1836, H.M.S. Beagle called at the Cape of Good Hope and on July 8 arrived at St. Helena. "The next day," Darwin wrote in his Journal, "I obtained lodgings within a stone's throw of Napoleon's tomb: it was a capital central situation, whence I could make excursions in every direction. During the four days I stayed here, I wandered over the island from morning to night, and examined its geological history. My lodgings were situated at a height of about 2000 feet.... Near the coast the rough lava is bare; in the central and higher parts, feldspathic rocks by their decomposition have produced a clayey soil which, where not covered by vegetation, is stained in broad bands of many bright colours. . . Beneath the upper and central green circle, the wild valleys are desolate and untenanted. Here, to the geologist, there are scenes of high interest, showing successive changes and complicated disturbances. According to my views, St. Helena has existed as an island from a very remote epoch; some obscure proofs, however, of the elevation of the land are still extant. I believe that the central and highest peaks form part of the rim of a great crater, the southern half of which has been entirely removed by the waves of the sea: there is, moreover, an external wall of black basaltic rocks, like the coast mountains of Mauritius, which are older than the central volcanic streams."

Trans-Atlantic Steam Navigation

In July 1836 the books of subscription were opened of the British and American Steam Navigation Company, the first of the pioneer companies to construct a steam vessel for regular work on the North Atlantic. The company had been formed through the exertions of the American lawyer and business man Junius Smith (1780-1853). In 1832-33 he had crossed from England to the United States and back again by sailing packets. His outward journey had taken 54 days, his return journey 32 days, and it was these passages which led to his determination to promote steam navigation across the Atlantic. At first he met with no encouragement, but finally with the aid of Macgregor Laird (1808-61), the African explorer, he was able to float a company. When sufficient money was forthcoming, a contract for the British Queen was made with Messrs. Curling and Young, of Limehouse, and Smith wrote to his New York correspondents: "I have the pleasure to inform you that the Directors of the 'British and American Steam Navigation Company' have contracted for the building of the largest and intended to be the most splendid steamship ever built expressly for the New York and London trade. She will measure one thousand seven hundred tons, two hundred feet keel, forty feet beam, three decks and everything in proportion. She will carry two engines of two hundred and twenty-five horse-power each, seventy-six inch cylinder, and nine feet stroke. The expense of this steam frigate is estimated at £60,000."

The British Queen was the first steam vessel constructed expressly for the Atlantic trade; but she did not make her first passage until July 1839, by which time the Sirius, Great Western, Royal William and Liverpool had all made passages to the United States and back.

Societies and Academies

Edinburgh

Royal Society, June 1.

E. M. Anderson: The dynamics of the formation of cone-sheets, ring-dykes, and caldron-subsidences. Cone-sheet and ring-dyke systems are best known in Scotland and Northern Ireland, but are not confined to these districts. Cone-sheet formation may be explained by an excess of pressure, and ring-dyke formation by a defect of pressure, in an underlying magma basin, with a more or less dome-shaped roof. Solutions of the equations of equilibrium corresponding to certain shapes of basin have been found by

J. B. Simpson: Fossil pollen in Scottish Tertiary coals. Lignites of early Tertiary age from Ardnamurchan and Mull, treated with Schulze's solution and alkali, yield a residue rich in well-preserved pollen. By this means, twenty genera of plants have been identified so far, including several not previously recorded as Scottish fossils. Of the gymnosperms Cedrus pollen is most abundant; Abies also has been Dicotyledons include Alnus, Engelhardtia, Magnolia, Planera, five of the Asiatic genera of the Hamamelidaceæ and the Madagascan genus Dicoryphe. The present-day eastern Asiatic flora shows marked affinities with this ancient Scottish flora. (See also Nature, Feb. 22, p. 321.)

H. P. Donald: On the suppression of Tangled in Drosophila pseudo-obscura. An additive interaction of genes causing gaps in the venation with one causing extra tangled venation has shown that the phenotypic manifestation of a gene is no indication of its capacity to suppress the effects of another, and that genes with a recessive manifestation may have a dominant suppressing action which is not localized to the regions where the gene itself has

visible effects.

H. W. Turnbull: The revised prepared system of the quadratic complex. This deals with one aspect of the invariant theory of quadratic forms in six variables by supplementing a previous communica-

tion in 1928 to the Society.

W. Ledermann: On singular pencils of Zehfuss, compound and Schläflian matrices. The paper is concerned with obtaining the canonical form of pencils of matrices related to two given matrices. The types considered are the compound, power and product transformations. Quite recently Roth, Aitken and Littlewood have dealt with the nonsingular cases of these. The present paper completes the work of these authors by enumerating and solving all the outstanding singular cases.

Paris

Academy of Sciences, May 25 (C.R., 202, 1725-1824).

DIMITRI RIABOUCHINSKY: Comparative research on the aerodynamics of small and of large velocities.

JACQUES DE LAPPARENT: The formula and structural scheme of attapulgite.

Daniel Dugué: Certain modes of convergence of laws of estimation.

SERGE FINIKOFF: Some conjugated networks. CONSTANTIN DRAMBA: The singularities of the

restricted problem of three bodies.

EUGÈNE LEIMANIS: The solutions of a differential system in the neighbourhood of a singular multiplicity. A. D. MICHAL and E. W. PAXSON: The differential

in linear abstract spaces with a topology.

FLORIN VASILESCO: The generalized problem of Dirichlet and its relations with balayage.

RAYMOND VALTAT: A calculating machine based on the use of binary numeration.

MAURICE D'OCAGNE: Remarks on the preceding note of Raymond Valtat.

PAULINO CASTELLS VIDAL: A machine for resolving systems of linear equations.

JOSEPH CHALOM: Reaction pumps.

A. Toussaint and S. Pivko: Guided plane stream. The influence on the aerodynamical char-

acteristics of supporting wings.

Louis Breguet: The possibilities of speed and radius of action of gyroplanes. From a theoretical study it is concluded, that in addition to the advantages of vertical take-off and alighting, gyroplanes (helicopters) should, other conditions being equal, have a higher velocity and greater radius of action than ordinary aeroplanes.

MAX SERRUYS: The influence of turbulence on the polytropic coefficient of expansion in petrol

motors.

STÉPHAN SERGHIESCO: The formula of Fresnel in a corpuscular theory of light.

GEORGES DURAND: The application of the massluminosity relation to the visual double stars.

PIERRE VERNOTTE: The theoretical dimensions of the cellular vortices of Bénard.

ROGER JULIA and JEAN FALLOU: The extension of the properties of the quadripole to the most general balanced polyphase systems.

ANDRÉ MICHEL: The conditions of demagnetiza-

tion of rhombohedral ferric oxide.

ROGER SERVANT: Measurements of double refraction in the extreme ultra-violet. The measurements of P. Sève were given to 2400 A.; the author extends these to about 1860 A. and intends to extend the work in the Schumann region up to the extreme limit of transparency of the crystalline specimens.

LÉANDRE CAPATOS and NICOLAS PERAKIS: The magnetic study of the mixed crystals of divalent copper and silver. Measurements made with the complex compounds of pyridine with persulphate of copper and of silver, and of mixed crystals of the type $(Ag_xCu_y.4Py)S_2O_8$, where x and y vary from 0 to 1.

GEORGES AHIER: Christiansen filters. These light filters consist of a cell containing powdered glass rendered transparent by immersion in a liquid of the same refractive index. For the liquid, solutions of bromomercurate or iodomercurate of potassium and barium fulfil the required conditions better than the

organic liquids usually employed.

VICTOR LOMBARD, CHARLES EICHNER and MAXIME Albert: The permeability of palladium to hydrogen. Loss of the diffusing power of pure palladium under the action of temperature. Regeneration of the poisoned palladium. A sheet of pure palladium, after exposure to a temperature of 500° C. or higher, suffers a marked diminution in its permeability to hydrogen. Oxidation in a current of air at 500° C. with subsequent reduction in hydrogen below 140° C. restores the permeability almost to the original figure.

MLLE. O. HUN: The determination of the total hydration of the ions of potassium iodide, by the

cryoscopic method.

AUGUSTIN BOUTARIC and MLLE. PAULETTE BERTHIER: The mechanism of the ascent of hydrosols and of coloured solution through porous bodies.

MLLE. LUCIENNE CHAUMETON: The silver salts of amidosulphonic acid.

OSIAS BINDER and PIERRE SPACU: The action of malonic acid on cobaltidichloro-trans-diethylene-diamine chloride.

André Boullé: Calcium metaphosphates and pyrophosphates.

Paul Lacombe and Georges Chaudron: The mechanism of the decomposition of aluminium-magnesium solid solutions.

Henri Fournier: The application of the methods of micro-chemical analysis to the study of the corrosion of light aluminium alloys. Two alloys were studied, duralumin and an aluminium alloy with 8 per cent magnesium. The amounts of aluminium determined were of the order of micrograms.

ROGER PAJEAU: The action of bromine in excess on some benzene derivatives in the presence of beryllium bromide.

Louis Dangeard: Study of the oolitic limestones by staining and decalcification. Staining followed by slow decalcification brings out details of certain micro-organisms concerned in the precipitation of calcium carbonate and in the evolution of a large number of ooliths.

Théodore Monod: New data on the structure of the western Sahara.

MARCEL GAUTIER: The stratigraphy of the region of Nemours (Algeria).

Armand Renier: The structural plan of the subsoil of Belgium, chiefly from mining operations.

EMILE BELOT: Geophysical and mineralogical consequences of the hypothesis that the earth has had a vortex tube for origin.

HUBERT GARRIGUE: New results on the light of the night sky.

HENRI MARCELET: The presence of hydrocarbons in the product removed by deodorization in the refining of arachis oil.

Paul Riou, Gérard Delorme and Hormisdas: The distribution of manganese and iron in the pines of Quebec.

ETIENNE FEX and MAURICE LANSADE: The pathogenic action of a form of Fusarium oxysporum isolated from the potato.

Domingo M. Gomez: The decrease of arterial pressure as a function of time. Its determination in man by a piezoelectric method.

LÉOPOLD NÈGRE, ALBERT BERTHELOT and JEAN BRETEY: The action of ethyl stearate on the evolution of experimental tuberculosis of the guinea pig. In guinea pigs submitted to the action of ethyl stearate, the lesions appear later than in untreated animals.

PIERRE DRACH: The water absorbed in the process of exuviation; fundamental data for the physiological study of moulting. Definitions and quantitative determinations.

MME. VÉRA DANTCHAKOFF: Some factors determining secondary sexual characters.

MLLE. N. CHOUCROUN: Superficial electrification, a specific character of bacteria.

Vienna

Academy of Sciences, April 23.

Gunther Lock and Günther Nottes: Derivatives of 3,5-dimethoxybenzaldehyde (5). The Cannizzaro reaction. In the chlorination, bromination and nitration of 3,5-dimethoxybenzaldehyde, only the hydrogen atom next to the aldehyde group undergoes substitution.

OTTO DISCHENDORFER and AUGUST VERDINO: Condensation of benzoin and thymol (2). Determination of the constitution of the nitration products of 4-methyl-7-isopropyl-2,3-diphenylcumarone.

Max Pestemer and Friedrich Manchen: Ultraviolet absorption of some aromatic hydrocarbons (4). Constitution of hexahydropyrene.

OTTO REDLICH and WALTER STRICKS: Raman spectra of o-dideuteriobenzene and N-deuteriopyrrole.

ANTON KAILAN and SIEGFRIED ROSENBLATT: Velocity of esterification of alcohols in formic and acetic acid, and of formic acid in tertiary butyl alcohol.

L. Zechmeister and L. v. Cholnoky: Thirty years of colour science.

R. JAGITSCH and A. MASCHIN: Reactions in the solid state (2). A study of the formation of copper ferrite by the Hahn emanation method.

LUDWIG ECKHART: The line of striction of a

hyperbolic ruled surface.

Hugo Bondy and Viktor Vanicek: Relative abundance of potassium and lithium isotopes and the emission of alkali ions from glass melts. The abundance ratios of potassium and lithium isotopes from different glass melts were found to be ³⁹K/⁴¹K = 14·1 and ⁷Li/⁶Li = 12. If a glass melt contains several alkali metals, the emission at low temperatures is due almost entirely to the element with the lowest ionization potential, and the surface of the melt undergoes impoverishment of the elements of higher ionization potential.

ERWIN FISCHER COLBRIE: Nuclear disintegration by a radium B+C source (2). Nitrogen. Protons liberated by radium C' α -particles from nitrogen are found, by absorption measurements, to form two groups of different energy.

ADRIAN SCHUSTER: Tenebrionid (Col.) finds of Prof. Franz Werner and Dr. Otto Wettstein in the Greek Ægean Isles and in the Italian Dodecanese in 1934 and 1935.

E. Steinach, H. Kun and O. Peczenik: Recent researches on the action of sex hormones. (1) Castrated male rats do not show hyperæmia of the brain on injection with androsterone unless this contains estrogenic substances. (2) The minimum dose of free male hormone required by castrated rats before copulation with a female occurs is reduced to nearly a third by the injection of female hormone. (3) The male organism is capable of converting excess male hormone into a substance with estrogenic properties.

Karl Karas: Kinematics of an expanding sheet.

April 30.

F. E. Suess: Interpretation of the occurrence of pumice stone at Köfels in Ötztale. It is suggested that this occurrence and the peculiarities of the surrounding terrain are best explained as the result of the impact of a large meteorite.

FRITZ LIEBEN and BELLA BAUMINGER: The behaviour of sugars and formic acid in the presence

of oxidizing bacteria.

RICHARD SCHUMANN: The moon, sun, and variations of latitude (1).

Forthcoming Events

Friday, July 10

Association of Applied Biologists.—Summer Meeting to be held at the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens, Wisley, Sussex.

Saturday, July 11

British Mycological Society, at 11.45.—Annual Phytopathological Meeting to be held at the University 11.45.—Annual of Bristol Research Station, Long Ashton, near Bristol.

USEUMS ASSOCIATION, July 6-10.
Annual Conference to be held at Leeds. MUSEUMS Forty-seventh

July 7, at 10 a.m.—Sir Eric Maclagan: Presidential Address.

SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, July 6-10. Fifty-fifth Annual Meeting to be held at Liverpool.

July 7, at 10.45.—W. A. S. Calder: "The Chemist as World Citizen" (Presidential Address).

July 8, at 11.30.—Sir Robert Mond: "Works as I have seen them grow" (Messel Lecture).

Dechema (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Chemisches Apparatewesen), July 9-10. To be held in Munich.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASTRON-OMICAL UNION, July 10-17. To be held in Paris.

Official Publications Received

Great Britain and Ireland

Report of the Astronomer Royal to the Board of Visitors of the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, read at the Annual Visitation of the Royal Observatory, 1936 June 6. Pp. 28. (London: Royal Observa-

Joint Board of Research for Mental Disease : City and University

Joint Board of Research for Mental Disease: City and University of Birmingham. Annual Report, 1935–36. Pp. 14. (Birmingham: The University.)
Technical Publications of the International Tin Research and Development Council. Series A, No. 40: The Detection and Colorimetric Determination of Tin by means of Substituted 1: 2-Dimercaptobenzenes; A Specific Reagent for Tin. By Dr. R. E. D. Clark. Pp. 6. Free. Series A, No. 41: The Preparation of Substituted Benzene-odithiols for use as Specific Reagents for Tin. By Dr. R. E. D. Clark. Pp. 7. F Council.) Free. (London: International Tin Research and Development

Council.)
The Lister Institute for Preventive Medicine. Report of the Governing Body, 1936. Pp. 28. (London: Lister Institute.) [116]
Experimental and Research Station, Nursery and Market Garden Industries' Development Society, Ltd. Twenty-first Annual Report, 1935. Pp. 96. (Cheshunt: Nursery and Market Garden Industries' Development Society, Ltd.) [116]
Imperial Bureau of Plant Genetics (for Crops other than Herbage), Plant Breeding Abstracts. Supplement 2: Summary of Reports received from Stations in the British Empire, 1932–35. Pp. 63. (Cambridge: School of Agriculture.) 5s. [126]

received from Stations in the British Empire, 1932–35. Pp. 63. (Cambridge: School of Agriculture.) 5s. [126]
Air Ministry: Aeronautical Research Committee: Reports and Memoranda. No. 1669 (Strut. 235): Behaviour in Bending of Thin-Walled Tubes and Channels. By D. Williams. Pp. 13+5 plates. 1e, net. No. 1670 (Strut. 256): Successive Approximation Method of Solving Continuous Beam Problem. By D. Williams. Pp. 21+6 plates. 1s, 3d. net. No. 1672 (Strut. 241): Loads and Bending Moments in Members of a Plane Braced Frame with Rigid Joints. By J. Morris. Pp. 42+4 plates. 2s. net. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) [126]
British Science Guild. The Annual Report of the Council of Management, 1935–1936. Pp. 23. (London: British Science Guild.) [156]

London Shellac Research Bureau. Technical Paper No. 7: Fundamental Physical Properties of Lac. Part 3: Electrical Properties. By Dr. L. C. Verman. Pp. 21. Technical Paper No. 8: Darkening of Lac Solutions and the Effect of Oxalic Acid Thereon. By Dr. Lal C. Verman and Dr. R. Bhattacharya. Pp. 22. (London: London Shellac Papearski Purpan.)

Verman and Dr. R. Bhattacharya. Pp. 22. (London: London Shellac Research Bureau.)

City of Leeds Public Libraries: Commercial and Technical Library Bulletin. Engineering Series No. 1: Mechanics and Materials. Pp. 6. Engineering Series No. 2: Mechanical Engineering. Pp. 6. Engineering Series No. 3: Workshop Practice. Pp. 6. Engineering Series No. 3: Workshop Practice. Pp. 6. Engineering Series No. 4: Civil Engineering. Pp. 6. Engineering Series No. 6: Metallurgy and Metal Working. Pp. 6. Engineering Series No. 6: Metallurgy and Metal Working. Pp. 6. Engineering Series No. 7: Electrical Engineering, Part 1. Pp. 6. Engineering Series No. 8: Electrical Engineering, Part 2. Pp. 4. (Leeds: Public Libraries.)

[176] Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Report of Test by the Director of Fuel Research on a Report of the Coal Research Syndicate, Ltd., at Mansfield Colliery, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire—Test carried out 28th September to 4th October 1935. Pp. iv+28. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 9d. net. [186]

Other Countries

Union of South Africa. Report of the South African Museum for the Year ended 31st December 1935. Pp. 18. (Pretoria: Government Printer.) [26]

Printer.) [26]
Indian Forest Records, New Series. Vol. 2, No. 1: A Glossary of Technical Terms for use in Indian Forestry. Pp. iv+45. (Delhi: Manager of Publications.) 5 annas; 6d. [26]
A Shellae Patent Index. By Dr. R. W. Aldis. Pp. vi+115. (Namkum: Indian Lac Research Institute.) 2.8 rupees. [26]
Report of the Aeronautical Research Institute, Tôkyô Imperial University. No. 138: Properties of Aluminium Sheet. By Sadao Horiguchi. Pp. 191-238. (Tôkyô: Kôgyô Tosho Kabushiki Kaisha.) 55 sen. [26]

Department of Public Instruction: Technical Education Branch: New South Wales. Technological Museum: Curator's Annual Report for Year ended 31st December 1935. Pp. 8. (Sydney: Government

Publikationer fra det Danske Meteorologiske Institut. Aarbøger. Isforholdene i de Arktiske Have (The State of the Ice in the Arctic Seas) 1935. Prepared by I. C. Mangor. Pp. 18+5 plates. (København:

Seas) 1935. Prepared by I. C. Mangor. Pp. 18+5 plates. (København: G. E. C. Gad.)

[26] Publications of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Victoria, B.C. Vol. 5, No. 4: The Motions of the O and B Type Stars and the Scale of the Galaxy. By J. S. Plaskett and J. A. Pearce. Pp. 241–328+2 plates. 60 cents. Vol. 6, No. 13: The Spectroscopic Orbit of Boss 3102. By W. E. Harper. Pp. 261–264. Vol. 6, No. 14: Periods and Light Curves of the Variable Stars in the Globular Cluster Messier 2. By Helen B. Sawyer. Pp. 265–284+1 plate. Vol. 6, No. 15: The Spectroscopic Orbit of Boss 4745. By R. M. Petrie. Pp. 285–289. 25 cents. (Ottawa: King's Printer.)

[26] Obras completas y Correspondencia científica de Florentino Ameghino. Vol. 20: Correspondencia científica. Edición Oficial ordenada por el Gobierno de la Provincia de Buenos Aires. Dirigida por Alfredo J. Torcelli. Pp. 621. (La Plata.)

[46] Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Canberra. Official Year Book of the Commonwealth of Australia. No. 28, 1935. Prepared by E. T. McPhee. Pp. xxxi+971. (Canberra: Government Printer.) 58.

by E. T. McPhee. Pp. xxxi+971. (Canberra: Government Frinter.)

58. [46]

University of Illinois: Engineering Experiment Station. Bulletin 281: An Investigation of the Durability of Molding Sands. By Prof. Carl H. Casberg and Carl E. Schubert. Pp. 52. 60 cents. Bulletin No. 282: The Cause and Prevention of Steam Turbine Blade Deposits. By Prof. Frederick G. Straub. Pp. 50. 55 cents. (Urbana, Ill.: University-of Illinois.)

Studies in Comparative Seismology: East African Plateaus and Rift Valleys. By Bailey Willis. (Publication No. 470.) Pp. x+358+73 plates. (Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Institution of Washington.) [56]

Scientific Reports of the Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research, Pusa (including the Reports of the Imperial Dairy Expert, Physiological Chemist and Sugarcane Expert), 1933-34. Pp. v+213. (Delhi: Manager of Publications.) 4.8 rupees; 78. 64.

Bulletin of the Department of Zoology, Panjab University. Vol. 1: Fauna of Lahore. 4: Spiders of Lahore. By Sukh Dyal. Pp. i+119-252+plates 11-17. (Lahore: Panjab University.) 4.8 rupees.

[86 1935,

Royal Observatory, Hong Kong. Meteorological Results, 1935.
Prepared under the direction of C. W. Jeffries. Pp. iv+144+15.
(Hong Kong: Government Printer.) 3 dollars.
[106] Fiskeridirektoratets Skrifter: Serie Havundersøkelser. Hummer og Hummerkultur. Av Alf Dannevig. Pp. 60. (Bergen: A.S John Griegs Boktrykkeri.)

[106] Report of the Aeronautical Research Institute. Taken Institute.

Griegs Boktrykkeri.)

Report of the Aeronautical Research Institute, Tôkyô Imperial University, No. 139: Experimentelle Untersuchungen über Licht-Schleier. Von Yenziro Awadi, Tuyosi Ogisaka, Siniti Kawasime. Pp. 241–300. (Tôkyô: Kôgyô Tosho Kabushiki Kaisha.) 60 sen. 126

The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Miscellaneous Bulletin No. 6: Bee-keeping. By C. C. Ghosh. Third revised edition. Pp. vi+91+8 plates. (Delhi: Manager of Publications.) 1.14 rupees; 3s. 3d.

Index to the Records of the Coalesical Security (156).

Index to the Records of the Geological Survey of India, Vols. 1-65 (1868–1932). By T. H. D. LaTouche. Pp. ix+718. (Calcutta: Geological Survey of India.) 6.12 rupees; 11s. [156]

Catalogues

British Chemical Plant Exhibition, 22-27 June 1936, at Central Hall, Westminster, London, S.W.1: Catalogue of Exhibits. Pp. 102. (London: British Chemical Plant Manufacturers' Association.)
A Catalogue of Books: Americana, Botany, Bibliography, Classica and Classical Archaeology and Early Continental Presses, also some Illuminated and other Manuscripts, including the Celebrated 15th Century MS. of three Morality Plays, known as The Macro Plays, and a Selection of Important New Books. (No. 520.) Pp. 132. (London: Bernard Quaritch, Ltd.)
Laboratory Animals for Experimental, Diagnostic and Clinical Research. Pp. 16. (New York: Breeding and Laboratory Institute.) Nouvelles acquisitions: alchimic, astrologie, astronomic, botanique, chiromancie, hiéroglyphes, mathématique, médecine, minéralogie, occultisme, physique. (Bulletin No. 2.) Pp. 12. (Paris: Émile Offenbacher.)
Apparatus for Stereoscopic Tele-Radiography and Screen Examina-

Offenbacher.)
Apparatus for Stereoscopic Tele-Radiography and Screen Examination. Pp. 8. (London: Newton and Wright, Ltd.)
Rare Books, Autograph Letters, Illuminated Manuscripts, etc. (Catalogue No. 600.) Pp. 74-7 plates. Selected List of Publishers' Remainders, being New Books offered at Greatly Reduced Prices, (Catalogue No. 601.) Pp. 26. (London: Francis Edwards, Ltd.)
A Catalogue of Books and Periodicals on all Classes of Zoology; including a Selection of Books from the Important Entomological Library of the late Robert Adkin. (No. 521.) Pp. 88. (London: Bernard Quaritch, Ltd.)
Lessing Contact Rings. Pp. 8. (London: The Hydronyl Syndicate, Ltd.)