

News and Views.

THE voyage of the *R100* from Cardington to Montreal and back is a definite popular success. On the technical side, a large amount of invaluable information must have been obtained from both design and operational points of view. The efficacy of the mooring mast in particular is the satisfactory reward of original ideas well worked out. The previous failure of the tail fairing, the stripping of fabric, and the dislodgment of a fuel tank seem trivial in themselves; only those in possession of all the facts can judge whether they are minor mishaps with no serious implication or symptoms of a graver nature. The framework has resisted considerable buffeting, and here again, information should be yielded as to whether the structure has an effective margin of safety or has been stressed to an excessive degree. It is clear that the best meteorological service cannot enable an airship to avoid all stress of weather during the speediest passage across the Atlantic.

ON the more general question of a regular airship service, it can scarcely be held by the most optimistic that much has been added to the stock of knowledge by the recent voyage of *R100*. Referring to the analysis of Zeppelin figures given in *NATURE* of Oct. 11, 1924, p. 548, it is seen that their expectation of life falls far short of eighteen voyages in eighteen months. It is by no means clear that the great increase in size of *R100* and *R101*, and the further increase now proposed, will diminish these risks, and a cautious experimental programme seems a more reasonable policy than any hasty endeavour to make good the claims of the airship's partisans. The projected flight of the *R101* to India will bring further knowledge, and those who are most critical will join in congratulating the courageous exponents of airship construction on their great technical efforts to overcome the inherent defects of size and fragility.

THE Anglican bishops, recently assembled at Lambeth, have embodied the results of their deliberations in an Encyclical Letter, and in a number of Resolutions. These appear to be inspired predominantly by a rational and enlightened spirit, and students of science will read large portions of them with interest and sympathy. Very noteworthy are the sections which deal with the relations of Christian doctrine with modern scientific and philosophic theories, which are said to provide "a climate more favourable to faith in God than has existed for generations". "New interpretations of the cosmic process are before us which are congruous with Christian Theism. The great scientific movement of the nineteenth century had the appearance, at least, of hostility to religion. But now, from within that movement and under its impulse, views of the universal process are being formed which point to a spiritual interpretation. We are now able, by the help of the various departmental sciences, to trace in outline a continuous process of creative development in which at every stage we can find the Divine presence and power. Thus scientific thinking

and discovery seem to be giving us back the sense of reverence and awe before the sublimity of a Creator Who is, not only the cause and ground of the universe, but always and everywhere active within it." The Encyclical goes on to declare that "we must school ourselves to include in our habits of thought about the Creator God as much as we can of the beauty and order of the world, and of everything in life that evokes the awe, the loyalty, and the self-sacrifice of men and women at their best".

It is all to the good that the bishops should express themselves in this way, but, as everyone knows, it is the rank and file of the clergy whose conversion to a more modern outlook must be achieved if the ideals of the Encyclical are to be fulfilled. The ordinary Christian teacher, who expounds his message Sunday by Sunday from the pulpit, must be encouraged to think out his position afresh, and to impart to others the convictions to which his studies and reflections have led him. When we remember that the average age of the Anglican clergy has been authoritatively stated to be fifty-five years, we shall realise the difficulty of the situation. The hope would appear to lie with the younger clergy. "We especially desire to impress upon the younger clergy that the Church requires the service of men who will devote themselves to the study of theology in all its branches. The Church needs learning, as well as spiritual power and practical ability in its clergy." But it should be remembered that men will not think well unless they are allowed to think with freedom. Will the young theological student enjoy the same latitude as the young scientific student? Do the bishops really mean business? In view of the importance of giving an adequate education to candidates for ordination, it is encouraging to note that the bishops express a strong preference for university training as against that given in the seclusion of a seminary. "It is essential that Christian theology should be studied and taught in universities in contact with philosophy, science, and criticism." If the gap should widen between the Church and those standards of intellectual integrity recognised in universities, it would soon cease to play any effective part in English life.

THE opportunity of the meeting at Cambridge of the fifth International Botanical Congress was utilised for the unveiling of a tablet to the Hookers in the church at Halesworth, Suffolk, on Sunday, Aug. 17, to which reference was made last week (p. 249). The inscription explains the circumstances it was desired to record; it is as follows: "This Tablet records the connection with Halesworth of the botanists, Sir William and Sir Joseph Hooker, father and son, who became in succession directors of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Sir William lived here 1809-1820, and here Sir Joseph was born 1817. Erected 1930." The tablet (of stone) is the work of the sculptor, Mr. A. H. Gerrard, of the Slade School, and is beautifully executed. The dedication service, arranged by the Bishop of St. Edmundsbury and

Ipswich, and by the Rev. H. C. Newbery, rector of Halesworth, was fully choral. The actual unveiling was performed by Sir David Prain, a successor to the Hookers at Kew, and the bishop delivered an address.

A LARGE party came over from Cambridge, and together with other botanists and naturalists from East Anglia, about a hundred visitors were entertained to tea after the ceremony at Halesworth Church. Two members of the Hooker family were present, Mr. Reginald Hooker and Mr. Richard Hooker; the old home of the Hookers (the Brewery House) was shown by the courtesy of Miss Parry, the present owner. The visitors, who came from many countries, were delighted with the charm of Halesworth and its welcome, and with the beauty and admirable rendering of a well-designed service. It was generally felt that the tribute paid to these former citizens of Halesworth, in which so many participated, was entirely fitting. The arrangements for the execution and erection of the tablet were made by a small committee under the chairmanship of Viscount Ullswater, whilst the funds required were contributed partly by individual botanists and others contemporary with Sir Joseph Hooker, and by representative institutions, including the Royal Society, the Linnean Society, the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, the Royal Horticultural Society, the Court of the University of Glasgow, the *Annals of Botany*, the staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and of the Department of Botany, British Museum, and the Ipswich Naturalists' Field Club.

AMERICA dallies with the thought of its own antiquity. While the Boston Society of Natural History has celebrated its centenary by the publication of impressive "Milestones", reviewed by Prof. Stanley Gardiner in our issue of Aug. 9, p. 195, the Philosophical Society of Washington commemorated more modestly its thousandth meeting on Jan. 18 last. The foundation of the Society was due in some measure to the Civil War, for it was the recurrence of normal times, after a disturbance which had disorganised the meetings of scientific men in the capital, that led to the setting up of a formal organisation at the regular meetings of which all the sciences, save those of speculative thought, might play a part. Previous to the foundation of the Philosophical Society on Mar. 13, 1871, the capital had been served from 1810 onwards by a series of agricultural, medical, and botanical societies, and finally by the National Institute, which was disbanded near the beginning of the Civil War. The Philosophical Society has seen many changes, from the time in 1874 when it was minuted that its members should appear in the records under no title other than plain "Mr.", and when formality of debate, associated with full evening dress, was the rule, but it has throughout been supported by a noble band of 'intellectual giants' and has made many contributions to the progress of science, reaching far beyond the confines of its meeting room. Since 1911 its *Bulletin* has ceased publication, and it has supported and published in the *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences*.

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IN the Italian National Park of Gran Paradiso the numbers of wild goats and of chamois have increased beyond reasonable limit, the former being reckoned to number 2800-2900, the latter 1600-1800. Accordingly the Royal Commission which controls the Park has decided that during the coming autumn permits will be granted to hunters, for a consideration, to shoot these animals. The licence is stated by the Italian sporting journal, *La Caccia e la Pesca* of June 15, to cost 10,000 lire for each goat the sportsman desires to shoot, and 600 lire for each chamois, and accredited hunters will be accompanied by a warden. In order to ensure the continuance of healthy stock upon the mountains, a breeding enclosure for goats is to be constructed in the Valsavaranche, whence young goats will be distributed, and Bardonecchia deer and mouflon from Sardinia are to be transported to suitable localities so that, so far as possible, the typical fauna of the Park may be restored.

THAT considerable progress has been made at the Rubber Research Institute of Malaya is evident from the annual report for 1929, increased co-operation between the Institute and other cognate institutions in Malaya, Great Britain, and elsewhere being worthy of special mention. Advisory work on behalf of the estates continues to increase, and in consequence the research programmes have of necessity been curtailed. It is anticipated, however, that much valuable information will accrue from such work, much of which may be regarded as applied research. With regard to soil investigations, special attention is being paid to the development of more rapid methods of analysis, and the value of 'bundling' in the conservation of soil moisture is becoming more generally recognised. On the botanical side, numerous problems are arising as to the most economical method of tapping, the question of the optimum length of the rest period and the possibility of stimulating the yield over a short period, in connexion with old trees prior to their removal, being among the points upon which information is being collected. Increased yields have already been obtained by the practice of completing the tapping earlier in the day. In addition, fundamental research is in progress on the chemical and bacteriological aspects of latex and rubber. It has been shown that the presence of yellow pigment in latex does not affect the quality of sole crepe although owing to the demands of fashion it lowers the market value. Unfortunately, fractional coagulation, which adds considerably to the cost of preparation, is necessary for the production of the white form of crepe. The possibility of producing air-dried sheet as a substitute for smoked sheet and the questions of temperature and ventilation etc. of the drying sheds are also under investigation. Extensions in the field work have been made, and several lectures and conferences held with encouraging results.

THE second International Congress of Soil Science was held in Russia on July 20-31, the first week at Leningrad and the second at Moscow. The countries from which members came included Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain,

Holland, India, Japan, Malaya, Palestine, Rumania, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States. The Congress was entertained at receptions and banquets by the provincial administration in Leningrad and by the central government in Moscow, and the hospitality shown left no doubt as to the desire of the authorities to make the visit as pleasant as possible. Three concerts and a cinema performance were specially arranged for the delegates, and a day in each city was set aside for sight-seeing. At the opening meeting in Leningrad, it was announced that Prof. K. K. Gedroiz, president of the Congress, was prevented by ill-health from attending, and it fell to Dr. D. J. Hissink, of Groningen, to act as president throughout the meetings. Apart from a few addresses of a more general nature, the work of the Congress was done by the six commissions into which it is divided, for soil mechanics and physics, chemistry, biology and biochemistry, fertility, classification and mapping, and applications to cultivation. Abstracts of the papers were distributed at the beginning of the Congress, and the full text will be printed in the *Proceedings* of the Congress, which are to be published by the Russian organising committee.

A SPECIAL feature of the Congress was the number of joint meetings of commissions on such subjects as physical properties, reaction, organic matter, soil utilisation, and alkali. The international soil map of the world has made considerable progress since the Congress of 1927, and further steps were taken for the mapping of the Mediterranean region, Africa, and South America. Visits were paid to a number of institutions in or near Leningrad and Moscow, and the foreign delegates were impressed by the energy with which these are being developed and by the generous financial provision for their equipment and support. Of special interest was the Dokuchaev Institute for soil science, containing a collection of hundreds of monoliths representative of the soil types of European and Asiatic Russia. At the conclusion of the Congress on July 31, many of the delegates left for a three weeks' tour arranged to cover the most important soil zones of European Russia. It was decided to hold the next Congress in 1935 in England, and Sir John Russell was elected president. Amongst other new officers, Prof. Robinson, of Bangor, succeeds Prof. Novak, of Brün, as president of the commission for soil mechanics and physics, and Dr. Joseph, of the Imperial Bureau of Soil Science, succeeds Prof. Marbut, of Washington, as president of the commission for soil classification, mapping, and morphology.

THE British Non-Ferrous Metals Research Association has secured a leasehold factory property in London, where it is proposed to centralise its offices and provide accommodation for a laboratory and workshops for its research and technical development departments. A special appeal for increased annual support and contributions to a headquarters' fund has recently been launched. The Association, founded ten years ago, has made steady progress under the direction of Dr. R. S. Hutton, and now carries out work for all sections of the non-ferrous metals industry

on a scale of expenditure of £20,000-£25,000 per annum. It already has to its credit the discovery of new engineering materials and of methods of increasing efficiency of production, which should commend it to the metal and engineering trades. Dr. D. H. Ingall has just been appointed assistant-director and research manager of the Association, as from January next. Dr. Ingall is well known for his metallurgical research and administrative work, and as first principal of the Constantine Technical College, Middlesbrough, has been largely responsible for its equipment and organisation. Dr. O. F. Hudson will continue as senior metallurgist of the Association. Mr. G. L. Bailey, of the Metallurgy Section, Research Department, Woolwich, has been appointed, from Sept. 1, as development officer to fill the position recently vacated by Mr. S. J. Nightingale, who resigned to take up a post in industry.

SINCE Dr. John Hopkinson first suggested novel methods of charging for the electric light in his presidential address to the Junior Institution of Engineers in 1892, many such systems have been adopted in practice. In the journal for July issued by the A.E.G. Electric Co. of Victoria Street, London, a description is given of a 'two part tariff' prepayment meter which automatically records the consumer's payments and his consumption of electricity. This type of meter receives the two payments of the consumer, namely, his fixed monthly or quarterly payment and his payments for the energy taken. The latter charge is rated very low, so that once the fixed charge is paid the consumer finds that he can use his lighting or heating appliances most extravagantly at small cost. The objections urged against a one-part tariff is that the takings of the company in the summer time do not cover the running costs and that the consumers find that their winter bills are very high. From the supplier's point of view this system is very attractive, as he receives an appreciable revenue in the summer and the consumer finds that the winter bills are no longer too heavy. If the company ever desires to alter the price the meter can be easily adapted by simply changing the gear wheels. The only objection urged against this two-tariff method of charging is that it tends to make the consumer extravagant in his use of light.

THE chapter on the number of electrical accidents which have occurred during 1929, which is given in the chief inspector's report (Cmd. 3633, London: H.M. Stationery Office, 2s. 6d.), is instructive. Compared with the period 1910-14, there is no doubt that installations have been made very much safer and that devices that in certain circumstances can become dangerous are seldom used. We agree with Mr. Scott Ram, the senior electrical inspector of factories, that this is largely due to the making and enforcing of stringent regulations and also to the increased inspection by qualified officials. Although the use of electricity last year was four times as great as its average annual use during the period 1910-14, the number of accidents diminished. The maximum number of

recorded accidents during a year was 512 in 1913. Unfortunately, however, the number of fatal accidents from shock or burns with low voltages seems to be increasing. The number of accidents with pressures not greater than 250 volts last year happens to be the same with both direct and alternating current, but the latter are much more dangerous to life; whilst 21 of the a.c. accidents were fatal, none of the d.c. accidents were fatal. As the standard system of electric supply is now a.c., it will be seen how important it is that the regulations be enforced and the inspectorate strengthened. Several extraordinary accidents due to recklessness or absent-mindedness are given, but in several cases employees have taken totally unwarranted risks in order that the supply to a few consumers may not be cut off for a brief period. In some cases they may possibly have done this with the connivance of their superiors. It has to be remembered that dangerous shocks occur with low pressures when the body makes contact with conductors of opposite polarity or more often with a live conductor and a good earth such as a water or gas pipe, the water in a bath or a damp wall or floor.

THE Safety in Mines Research Board has just issued its eighth Annual Report, for the year 1929. Apart from the suggestion that this report should have been published at an earlier date, it may be looked upon as a satisfactory statement of a year's work. As usual, the bulk of the work is chemical and microscopic; there is no doubt that a thorough knowledge of the constitution of coal may lead to important results in the future, though its direct effect upon the prevention of accidents in mines may be but small. It is, however, highly satisfactory to see that the Board has at long last come to the conclusion that a number of the problems concerning safety in mines are not chemical but mechanical, and that it has accordingly appointed a highly qualified mining engineer to commence the investigation of such problems. The researches upon wire ropes that have been carried on under Prof. Dixon are another step in the right direction. The value of free international communication and collaboration in these matters is shown by the fact that the work at Sheffield, where they had the advantage of the presence for a considerable period of one of the workers of the United States Bureau of Mines, has resulted in a very satisfactory new apparatus, a modification of a well-known American apparatus, which is likely to prove very useful in rescue work. It is satisfactory to see that such international co-operation has been extended to France, and, although it does not appear in the present report, it is well known that similar arrangements are being concluded with Belgium. It need scarcely be said that most of the matters referred to in this report have been dealt with at length in the Safety in Mines Research Board Papers, issued during recent years.

ACCORDING to a report in the *Daily Telegraph* of Aug. 12, Mr. Lansbury has announced the appointment of a Committee representing the Board of

Education and the Office of Works to consider the question of the establishment of an open-air folk museum in London. The sum of £50,000 is promised towards the cost of the scheme. The terms of the report, while making no definite statement, suggest that the land in Regent's Park now held by the Royal Botanic Society under a lease which terminates in April 1932, but then to be added to the Park and, as announced in the House of Commons, thrown open to the public, may be available for the purpose. This land was one of two alternatives suggested by the Royal Commission on our National Museums in its report. Its suitability in situation and character has been strongly urged by the Committee appointed by the Royal Anthropological Institute with the object of securing the establishment of such a museum for England. It would appear that the proposal to be considered is on the lines suggested in the article on this question which appeared in the issue of *NATURE* of Aug. 24, 1929, p. 289, and will follow the plan of the Continental folk museums in which exhibits are housed in peasants' dwellings typical of various periods re-erected in the museum grounds for that purpose.

IN Great Britain it is difficult and costly to obtain for use before such bodies as field clubs and schools good educational films of Nature subjects. In California the State considers it to be good propaganda for fish and game conservation to issue free of charge, to responsible organisations within its territory, films depicting the natural history of the State. The reels are 1000 feet long, and illustrate great variety of fish, bird, and mammal life in its natural haunts, as well as commercial fisheries, trout cultural operations, and other human aspects. Not only does the Division of Fish and Game lend the films, but it is prepared also to supply lectures describing the pictures, many of which are designed for school use. A list of these motion picture films appears in *California Fish and Game* for April, pp. 152-156. It is full of interesting items and makes us wish that for our own information we could have the privilege of seeing many of them. Would that we could imagine the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries or any other British Government Department developing educational activities on lines so interesting and effective.

THE Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has taken advantage of the recent meeting of the International Poultry Congress in London to recast the form of its agricultural publications. The majority of these will now appear as *Bulletins*, printed in good type and bound in attractive stiff paper covers with the titles overprinted in contrasting colours. Most of the volumes will be illustrated. We have received half a dozen of the *Bulletins*, which appropriately deal with various aspects of poultry-keeping, from general principles of poultry feeding to special instructions for the rearing of birds for the table or for egg production, and for the treatment of the most common diseases. In appearance and in the quantity and quality of their matter, these publications are a

vast improvement on the earlier pamphlets of the Ministry, and the prices, which vary from 6d. to 1s. 6d., are very moderate. Since it is impossible even for the interested person to keep in touch with all the *Bulletins* as they appear, we suggest that a useful addition would be a list of the titles of such as have been published, printed on one of the cover blanks.

WE have received from Mr. W. J. Lewis Abbott a friendly criticism of the paragraph in our issue of July 19 referring to Tertiary man in East Anglia. In pointing out the occurrence of a redundant 's' in 'lithoclasiology', he deplors our implied criticism of the term; but at the same time imputes to us a failure to appreciate the importance of the study which it designates that is far from the fact. He goes on to point out that all the examples of early man's handiwork to which he referred in his previous communication were his own discoveries. The flints found and accepted by Mr. H. B. Woodward at Thorpe, Norwich, were subsequent to Mr. Abbott's finds, as were Mr. Savin's discoveries in the Cromer Forest-Bed, begun, not renewed, in 1895, and it was Mr. Abbott's collection and not that of Mr. Savin that was exhibited at Burlington House. We regret that the facts were not clearly stated; but for this, we fear, Mr. Abbott's characteristically modest phrasing of his communication must be held responsible.

In the *Journal of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology* for July, Dr. A. Macrae discusses some of the problems involved in the selection of a career. He says that it is frequently assumed, if a child shows a definite vocational interest, he will necessarily have a real aptitude. Actually the facts are that while many people have been successful by following their inclinations, many others have failed. Practically every occupation makes many varying demands on the worker at it, and it is impossible for a child to feel drawn to some aspect of a particular kind of work which may, or may not, be the most important. To select, for example, the occupation of commercial traveller because one likes seeing new places is not of necessity to guarantee success, nor is a fondness for arguing a criterion of legal proficiency. In a study of a hundred boys leaving a secondary school, it was found that ten had no vocational inclination, forty-six seemed reasonably fitted for the work they had selected, and the others seemed definitely unfitted on the grounds of temperament, general intelligence, special mental capacities, health, and physique.

THE one hundred and eleventh annual meeting of the Swiss Society of Natural Sciences will be held at St. Gallen on Sept. 11-14, under the presidency of Dr. H. Rehsteiner. The work of the meeting will be distributed over sixteen sections covering pure and applied science and medicine. The general programme includes addresses by Prof. Emil Abderhalden, of Halle a. S., on the significance and mechanism of ferments in Nature, Prof. P. Niggli, of Zurich, on ten years' work of a mineralogical and petrographic institute, Prof. R. Chodat, of Geneva, on the symbiosis of lichens and the problem of specificity,

and Prof. C. Wegelin, of Berne, on endemic cretinism. Correspondence respecting the meeting should be addressed "Jahresvorstand der Schweizerischen Naturforschenden Gesellschaft in St. Gallen, Postfach St. Fiden No. 17".

THE centenary of the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway will be celebrated at Liverpool during the week Sept. 13-20. The celebrations have been arranged on a scale appropriate to the occasion by a committee under the joint presidency of the Lord Mayors of Liverpool and Manchester and Sir Josiah Stamp, the chairman of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway. Included in the programme is a great pageant of transport referred to as "probably the most ambitious pageant ever attempted in Great Britain". Some 3500 performers will take part in the pageant, the aim of which is to illustrate the progress of transport from the earliest times. A train of 1830 will convey visitors around a circular track specially laid down, and there will be an exhibition of models and historical material in St. George's Hall. The Libraries and Museum Committee of Liverpool has also arranged lectures for both adults and children. Mr. C. J. Allen will lecture on a century of railway travel; Mr. Dendy Marshall on the Rainhill locomotive trials of 1829, while Engr.-Capt. E. C. Smith will lecture on two hundred years of steam power on land and sea.

THE eighteenth annual meeting of the Indian Science Congress will be held in Nagpur on Jan. 2-8, 1931. His Excellency Sir Montagu Sherard Dawes Butler, Governor of the Central Provinces, has consented to be patron of the meeting, and Lieut.-Col. R. B. Seymour Sewell, director of the Zoological Survey of India, will be president. Copies of papers to be offered to the Congress must reach the president of the section concerned not later than Oct. 15 next. The sectional presidents are as follows: Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya, vice-chairman, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, Simla (Agriculture); Dr. C. W. B. Normand, Director-General of Observatories, Poona (Mathematics and Physics); Prof. K. G. Naik, professor of chemistry, Baroda College, Baroda (Chemistry); Principal B. L. Bhatia, Government Intermediate College, Hoshiarpur, Punjab (Zoology); Prof. T. Ekambaram, professor of botany, Teachers' Training College, Saidapet, Madras (Botany); Dr. G. de P. Cotter, superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, Indian Museum, Calcutta (Geology); Rai Upendra Nath Brahmachari Bahadur, 82/3, Cornwallis Street, Calcutta (Medical and Veterinary Research); Mr. K. P. Chattopadhyay, Education Officer, Calcutta Corporation, Calcutta (Anthropology); Prof. G. C. Chatterji, professor of psychology, Government College, Lahore (Psychology). The General Secretaries of the Congress are Prof. S. P. Agharkar, 35, Ballygunge Circular Road, Calcutta, and Dr. H. B. Dunningcliff, Government College, Lahore. The Local Secretaries are Principal M. Owen, Victoria College of Science, Nagpur, and Rao Saheb S.N. Godbole, Victoria College of Science, Nagpur.

THE eighth International Congress of the History of Medicine will be held in Rome on Sept. 22-27, with His Excellency Benito Mussolini as president of honour, Prof. Pietro Caparoni as president, and Profs. Bilancioni and Castiglioni as vice-presidents. The principal subjects for discussion will be (1) How Europe protected herself against leprosy in the Middle Ages, introduced by Prof. Jeanselme of Paris; (2) the medical and scientific relations between Italy and other European countries during the scientific renaissance in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, introduced by Prof. Karl Sudhoff of Leipzig and Prof. Arturo Castiglioni of Padua; (3) the necessity of making the study of the history of medicine a compulsory subject in all universities, introduced by Prof. Ladislaw Szumoski of Cracow. Numerous papers on miscellaneous subjects are also included in the programme, such as the problem of medical historiography, by Prof. Siegerist; van Helmont, by Prof. Ostachowski; Girolamo Cardano and Leonardo da Vinci, by Prof. Bilancioni; plastic surgery in Italy and Europe at the time of the Renaissance, by Dr. G. Sansevero-Roselli; and the influence of folk-lore on medicine, by Dr. Dan Mackenzie. The subscriptions, which should be sent to the treasurer, Prof. Vincenzo Rocchi, Corso Vittorio Emanuele 173, Rome, are 100 lire for members of the International Society of the History of Medicine and members of the Italian Society of the History of Medical and Natural Sciences, 150 lire for all other members of the Congress, and 50 lire for members of the families of those taking part in the Congress and medical students.

THE sixth annual Norman Lockyer lecture of the British Science Guild will be given by Sir William Pope on Thursday, Nov. 13, at 4.30 P.M., in the Goldsmiths' Hall London (by permission of the Goldsmiths' Company). The president of the British Science Guild, the Rt. Hon. Sir Samuel Hoare, Bart., will take the chair at the lecture, the title of which will be announced later. The second annual Alexander Pedler lecture will be given by Lt.-Col. Sir David Prain on Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 5.30 P.M. "Science Discipline" is the general subject of this lecture, which will be given in Liverpool under the joint auspices of the University of Liverpool and the British Science Guild.

It is announced that two of the sectional presidents, Lord Eustace Percy and Prof. T. E. Gregor, who were to have presided over the sections of Education and Economics respectively at the Bristol meeting of the British Association next month, are unavoidably detained by business abroad. Their presidential addresses will be read in their absence.

WE have received the annual report of the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine, Institute of Hygiene, and the Carmichael Hospital for Tropical Diseases, 1929. The Director, Lieut.-Col. H. W. Acton, details the teaching and research work of the School and reviews recent advances in tropical medicine. This review, together with the reports of the work of the various departments, constitutes a valuable survey of the progress of tropical medicine. The attend

ances at the Calcutta Pasteur Institute for anti-rabic treatment numbered 10,219 for the year, a record, probably, for any Pasteur Institute in the world.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—An assistant at the Road Experimental Station of the Ministry of Transport, Roads Department, at Harmondsworth, near Colnbrook, Middlesex—The Establishment Officer, Ministry of Transport, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1 (Aug. 25). A full-time assistant lecturer in chemistry at the School of Mines, Treforest—The Director of Education, Glamorgan County Hall, Cardiff (Aug. 26). Entomological and mycological posts in the Cambridge University School of Agriculture, in connexion with a survey and other investigations on sugar beet pathology—The Secretary, Appointment Committee, School of Agriculture, Cambridge (Aug. 30). A biochemist in the Pathological Department of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—The House Governor and Secretary, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Aug. 30). Assistant lecturers in agriculture under the Education Committee of the Cornwall County Council—The Secretary for Education, County Hall, Truro (Sept. 5). A junior scientific officer in an Admiralty Establishment at Portsmouth—The Secretary of the Admiralty (C.E. Branch), Whitehall, S.W.1 (Sept. 6). An assistant lecturer and demonstrator in botany at the West of Scotland Agricultural College—The Secretary, West of Scotland Agricultural College, 6 Blythswood Square, Glasgow (Sept. 8). Nautical surveyors under the Board of Trade—The Senior Staff Officer, Establishment Department (Mercantile Marine Branch), Board of Trade, Great George Street, S.W.1 (Sept. 12). An advisory entomologist at the South Eastern Agricultural College—The Secretary, South Eastern Agricultural College, Wye, Kent (Sept. 13). A registrar of the University of Birmingham—The Secretary, The University, Birmingham (Sept. 15). A head of the gas engineering and supply department of the Westminster Technical Institute—The Education Officer (T.1), County Hall, S.E.1 (Sept. 30). Test assistants at the Royal Aircraft Establishment for, respectively, calculation and experimental work in connexion with aero-engine investigations, work in connexion with the technical development of aeronautical instruments and small precision apparatus, and work in connexion with strength tests and experimental work on aircraft structures and materials—The Chief Superintendent, Royal Aircraft Establishment, South Farnborough, Hants. A full-time teacher of woodwork and pattern-making at the Smethwick Junior Technical School—The Director of Education, 215 High Street, Smethwick. A whole-time radiologist at the General Hospital, Wellington, New Zealand—"Radiologist, Wellington", c/o The High Commissioner for New Zealand, 415 Strand, W.C.2. A senior clinical assistant and clinical tutor and a non-resident clinical assistant in the department of ophthalmology of the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh—The Superintendent, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh.