

contributions from more than forty authors and a frontispiece portrait of Dr. Berliner. Prof. Einstein in a short note recounts how twenty years ago Dr. Berliner saw that a periodical was wanted in Germany which would give accurate information on all branches of science and thus enable research workers in special fields to form their own opinions of advances in other fields. That his periodical has succeeded so well in this object is due to the catholicity of his interests and to his insistence that his contributors should express themselves in concise and clear language which could be understood by non-specialists. His fights to secure well written articles led him to say that a scientific author should be "a cross between a mimosa and a porcupine".

#### Spread of Influenza

ACCORDING to Science Service, Washington, D.C., the influenza epidemic appeared to have reached its height in the United States at the end of December; for the week ended December 24, 123,138 cases were reported to the United States Public Health Service. In England and Wales a large increase in the number of deaths from influenza is shown in the Registrar-General's return for the week ended January 14, the figures being 1,041, compared with 681 the previous week. Greater London was the worst affected area, though considerable outbreaks are reported in many parts of the country.

#### Wensleydale Earthquake

FATHER J. P. ROWLAND, S.J., has given in the *Times* of January 21 his determination of the epicentre of the earthquake of January 14. The records at six observatories, from Stonyhurst (34 miles) to Oxford (187 miles), agree fairly well with a position half a mile to the north-east of Hawes Junction and a time at the origin of 8h. 30m. 20s., G.M.T. The shock was also observed at Felton in Northumberland, 70 miles from the above epicentre.

#### Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis

THE period of the highest incidence of cerebro-spinal fever in Great Britain is approaching and it is clearly desirable to secure accurate observation on the efficiency and potency of all the serums in use. Since the most valuable test of the efficiency and potency of serums is clinical and it rarely happens that any one hospital has sufficient cases for useful differential study, the Ministry of Health is now endeavouring by means of individual case inquiry to collect and examine all evidence on serum treatment and the co-operation of medical officers of health, hospital medical officers and medical practitioners is invited. Forms for the purpose can be obtained on application to the Senior Medical Officer, Med. I., Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W.1.

#### Guide to the British Pharmacopœia

THE British Drug Houses, Ltd., Graham Street, City Road, London, N.1, have issued a "B. D. H.

Guide to the B. P. 1932", which will be of use to all who are interested in drugs, chemicals, galenical preparations, and the standards of the new British Pharmacopœia. The volume contains xvi+122 pages, and, like the similar guide to the British Pharmacopœia of 1914 (of which a few copies are still available), is published at 2s. 6d. It is pointed out that the new "B. P." contains 128 articles and preparations which become official for the first time; while there are 357 deletions. Special attention is directed in the Guide to the former, and to innovations and alterations in general.

#### Announcements

MR. LL. B. ATKINSON, a past president of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, has been elected an honorary member of the Institution.

THE annual congress of the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies will be held at Norwich on June 7-10, under the presidency of Prof. E. J. Salisbury, Quain professor of botany at University College, London. Further particulars can be obtained from the secretary, Mr. Edward A. Martin, 14 High View Close, London, S.E.19.

THE following have been elected officers of the Royal Microscopical Society for the present session: *President*: Mr. Conrad Beck; *Hon. Treasurer*: Mr. C. F. Hill; *Hon. Secretaries*: Mr. J. E. Barnard and Prof. R. T. Hewlett; *New Members of Council*: Dr. E. Hindle, Dr. J. E. McCartney, Mr. E. K. Maxwell, Mr. J. Rheinberg, and Mr. E. A. Robins.

THE inquiry organised by the Inter-Parliamentary Union of Geneva and published in 1931 by P. S. King and Son, Ltd., at 16s., under the title "What Would be the Character of a New War?" has been re-issued by Victor Gollancz, Ltd., at 5s. net. The original publication was reviewed at length in *NATURE* of February 13, 1932 (p. 219).

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—A member of the scientific staff of the Radio Research Station, Slough—The Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, 16, Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1 (Jan. 30). Assistant civil engineers for the Civil Engineer-in-Chief's Department, Admiralty and H.M. Naval Establishments—The Civil Engineer-in-Chief, Admiralty, London, S.W.1 (Feb. 18). A male assistant superintendent of traffic in the London Telephone Service and a male assistant traffic superintendent in the provinces, General Post Office—The Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Burlington Gardens, London, W.1 (March 2). A technical assistant in the Directorate of Technical Development, Air Ministry—The Chief Superintendent, Royal Aircraft Establishment, South Farnborough, Hants. A research assistant in mycology in the Department of Agriculture, University of Cambridge—The Secretary, School of Agriculture, Cambridge.