News and Views

Dr. G. D. Hale Carpenter

THE vacancy in the Hope professorship of zoology at Oxford, caused by the resignation of Prof. E. B. Poulton, has been filled by the appointment of Dr. G. D. Hale Carpenter. Dr. Carpenter is widely known for his investigation of the bionomics of the tsetse fly, *Glossina palpalis*, a work undertaken by him between the years 1910 and 1914. During this time he resided first at Jinja on the north shore of Victoria Nyanza, and afterwards on various islands, especially those of the Sesse archipelago, lying in the north-west corner of the lake. While the primary object of his living in this region was the study of the tsetse fly as the carrier of sleeping sickness, Dr. Carpenter found occasion to make many important observations on the natural history of the islands, especially in regard to the remarkable phenomena of mimicry shown by the swallow-tail butterfly, *Papilio dardanus*, and the series of forms of the nymphaline *Pseudacraea eurytis* mimicking the acraeine genus *Planema*. At the outbreak of the War, he was called upon to act as medical officer to the forces operating on the southern frontier of Uganda, in German East Africa and Portuguese East Africa; and amidst the duties of active service he found opportunities for further fruitful observation, opportunities which were increased and turned to fresh account on his return to Uganda in 1918. His book "A Naturalist on Lake Victoria" was published in 1920. Dr. Carpenter's work has throughout been influenced and inspired by Prof. Poulton; and there is every reason for anticipating that the traditions of the Hope Department will be worthily carried on by the new professor.

Pierre André Latreille

PIERRE ANDRÉ LATREILLE, the brilliant French naturalist, who devoted himself to the study of entomology and made considerable additions to our knowledge of that branch of natural science, died in Paris a hundred years ago on February 6 at the age of seventy-one years. Latreille was born on November 29, 1762, at Brive-la-Gaillarde, in the department of Corrèze. At the age of sixteen years he entered the Collège Lemoine, Paris, where he studied for the church. After he had taken orders in 1786, he retired to Brive, where he devoted himself chiefly to the study of insects. He returned to Paris in 1788, and during the Revolution was imprisoned at Bordeaux; but was released on account of the interest shown in his entomological studies. His great work, "Précis des Caractères génériques des Insectes, Disposés dans un Ordre naturel"—an important step towards a truly natural system of entomology—was published in 1796, and led to his being appointed to arrange and take charge of the entomological collection at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (Jardin des Plantes) in Paris. He became professor of natural history at the Museum in 1830, and succeeded Lamarck as professor of zoology. Latreille wrote the entomological part of Cuvier's "Règne Animal". His other important works are "Salamandres", "Singes", "Crustacés et Insectes", "Reptiles", "Genera Crustaceorum et Insectorum", "Considerations générales sur l'Ordre naturel des Animaux", "Familles naturelles du Règne Animal", and "Cours d'Entomologie".

Geological Society Awards

THE Council of the Geological Society of London has made the following awards for this year: *Wollaston Medal*, to Prof. Marcellin Boule, professor of palæontology in the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, in recognition of the value of his researches concerning the mineral structure of the earth, and especially for his contributions to the geology and vertebrate palæontology of the Tertiary period; *Murchison Medal*, together with an award from the Murchison Geological Fund, to Dr. A. L. DuToit, consulting geologist, Johannesburg, in recognition of the value of his work, especially on the geology of South Africa; *Lyell Medal*, together with an award from the Lyell Geological Fund, to Mr. J. E. Richey, Geological Survey of Great Britain (Scottish Office), for his researches in the Tertiary volcanic geology of the British Isles; *Bigsby Medal*, to Mr. E. J. Wayland, director of the Geological Survey of Uganda, in recognition of the value of his geological researches, particularly in Uganda; *Wollaston Fund*, to Mr. A. Wrigley, for his work on the Tertiary Mollusca of the London district; *Murchison Fund*, to Mr. T. H. Whitehead, Geological Survey of Great Britain, in recognition of the value of his work on the Carboniferous and older rocks of the Midlands; a moiety of the *Lyell Fund* to Mr. A. Broughton Edge, in recognition of the value of his geophysical work in application to geological problems; a second moiety of the *Lyell Fund*, to Mr. W. N. Edwards, Natural History Museum, in recognition of the value of his researches on fossil plants.

Stoke Park (R. G. Burden) Fund for Research in Mental Disorders

MRS. R. G. BURDEN, of Clevedon, Somerset, has offered a sum of £10,000 for research into mental problems and disorders, suggesting that Prof. R. J. A. Berry, Director of Medical Services, Stoke Park Colony, Stapleton, Bristol, shall have general control of the investigations. In view of the munificence of this donation and the importance to the nation of its objectives, it has been deemed advisable to form a strong and nationally representative committee of administration. This committee will be responsible for the general direction of the research, the appointment of the research staff, the determination of salaries, and the publication, from time to time, of such reports as it may think fit to issue. Arrangements have already been made for the representation on this committee of the Ministry of Health (Board of Control), the British Medical Association, the

Francis Galton Laboratory for National Eugenics at University College, London, the Royal Medico-Psychological Association, the Central Association for Mental Welfare, and for other representative individuals specially selected for their scientific or medical attainments. In accordance with the terms of the bequest, Prof. R. J. A. Berry will act as chairman of the committee, which will meet in London at the house of the British Medical Association, with Dr. G. C. Anderson as its honorary secretary. As the committee has not yet met, nothing has been determined as to the nature of the researches to be carried out, though doubtless one line of approach will be the hereditary transmission, or otherwise, of mental deficiency and other disorders. Applications will shortly be invited for a specially selected team of investigators, particulars of which will be made known later.

Preliminary Tests for Everest Flight

A WESTLAND *PV-3* type two-seater biplane, named the *Houston-Westland*, fitted with a Bristol Pegasus *S.*III engine, piloted by Mr. H. J. Penrose, test pilot at the Westland Aircraft Works, reached a height of 35,000 ft. at Yeovil on Wednesday, January 25. The total time in the air was about 1 hr. 40 min. This constitutes a world's record for a two-seater aircraft. This machine has been specially adapted to undertake a flight over Mount Everest in conjunction with an expedition led by Air-Commodore P. F. M. Fellowes, with Lord Clydesdale as pilot. Specially designed electrical heating apparatus includes not only heated clothing, but also warming devices for the cabin, the valves of the oxygen apparatus for breathing, many of the instruments and jackets for the cameras. The pilot's cockpit is a normal open one, but is fitted with a hooded windscreen as a protection against draughts. The observer's cockpit is roofed over and is provided with sliding windows in either side and the floor for photographic purposes. Williamson Eagle cameras and cinematograph apparatus are to be used. The machine weighs about 5,000 lb. fully loaded as for the Everest flight, and, as is usual with supercharged engines, carries a propeller that allows the full horse power to be developed only after passing 13,000 ft. height. Temperatures down to −40° C. were registered inside the observer's cabin at the extreme altitude reached. The elimination of vibration, to assist the photography, has been specially dealt with, and in this respect the flight was very successful. A second machine is being converted similarly to take part in the expedition.

Aircraft in Relation to Petroleum Technology

THIS subject has recently received a good deal of technical and non-technical publicity, both in Great Britain and abroad. Resulting from the extensive use of aeroplanes during the War for reconnaissance and survey purposes, aircraft operations afterwards gained a firm foothold in the technique of exploration, particularly in inaccessible territory. Developments were rapid and the applications to map-making were perfected and commercialised. The incidence of aircraft as an important factor in geological studies is of more recent date and primarily owes its recognition to the important work carried out in North and South America in connexion with exploration for petroleum, including the survey of pipe-line tracks. Both in the realm of petroleum technology and mining geology, aerial reconnaissance and photography have proved valuable as time- and money-saving factors. The literature on this aspect of the subject has grown extensively during the last few years, and probably one of the most complete accounts of the subject was given by Mr. Donald Gill before the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy recently, when he dealt with "Aerial Survey in Relation to Economic Geology". This paper contains a useful bibliography, which has been reproduced with additions by Mr. H. Hemming, who discussed the commercial aspects of the subject at a meeting of the Institution of Petroleum Technologists on January 10. Mr. Hemming showed clearly that the main value attached to the use of aircraft in exploratory work is for obtaining rapidly information of technical value, and for transporting personnel or material from one place to another. He gave a very succinct account, not only of what has already been accomplished in this direction, but also of the potentialities of further development of air survey.

Empire Broadcasting

SINCE the opening of the Empire Broadcasting Station at Daventry on December 19 (see NATURE, **131**, 16, Jan. 7, 1933) the British Broadcasting Corporation has received a large number of cablegrams reporting reception of the transmissions in all parts of the world. A very large number of letters has also been received from listeners, and extracts from some of these are published in recent issues of *World Radio*, which is now the official organ of Empire broadcasting. Good quality reception is reported from such places as Bagdad, the Federated Malay States, Zululand, Tanganyika, various parts of India, New Zealand, and North and South America. In some places, particularly South Africa, local atmospheric conditions have marred the reception to some extent, but on the whole it would appear from the first few weeks' tests that the inauguration of the new Empire broadcasting service has been a conspicuous success. The aerial arrays and the transmitters for the Empire Broadcasting Station at Daventry were designed, constructed and installed by Messrs. Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.

Anthropological Survey of Ireland

A FIVE-YEAR plan for an anthropological survey of Ireland has been formulated by anthropological members of Harvard University. It will cover the archæology, social anthropology and the physical characters of the Irish people. In a preliminary account and progress report of the survey (*Science*, vol. 76, No. 1978) its object is said to be "to produce some sort of scientific interpretation of the Irish