

Dr. Laing's investigations also point to the significance of aeration conditions in the soil and manurial treatment in determining whether fungus and root system shall enter into the characteristic mycorrhizal relation. The conditions favouring mycorrhizal infection of the roots also favour vigorous growth of the young tree, so that it remains difficult to assess the significance of the fungus partner in the development of the tree.

A progress report upon investigations into the same problem was presented to Section K (Botany) of the British Association at the York meeting by a committee, of which Dr. M. C. Rayner acted as secretary and Mr. F. T. Brooks as chairman. The work initiated under this committee is now being continued with the aid of a grant from the Forestry Commission, and the results of this work will doubtless be published more fully by Dr. Rayner in due course.

In the report it is stated that soil inoculation experiments have now provided convincing evidence of a direct relation between mycorrhiza formation and satisfactory seedling growth in the case of three species of pines, Scots pine, Corsican pine and maritime pine. From the practical side, the work of the committee has been devoted largely to an examination of the effect of the addition of humus to the nursery beds of tree seedlings, with the view of improving root development and mycorrhizal infection.

University and Educational Intelligence

CAMBRIDGE.—The Sir William Dunn readership in biochemistry has become vacant by the resignation of Prof. J. B. S. Haldane. Candidates for the readership, the stipend of which is £600 a year, are requested to communicate with the Vice-Chancellor on or before February 18.

EDINBURGH.—The Cameron prize for advance in knowledge in practical therapeutics for 1933 has been awarded to Dr. George F. Dick and Dr. Gladys H. Dick, of the John M'Cormick Institute for Infectious Diseases, Chicago, jointly, in recognition of their work on the etiology and treatment of scarlatina.

LONDON.—Prof. L. N. G. Filon, Goldsmid professor of applied mathematics and mechanics in the University (University College), has been elected Vice-Chancellor for the remainder of the year 1932-33 in succession to the late Mr. J. L. S. Hatton.

The title of reader in experimental physiology in the University has been conferred on Mr. H. P. Gilding, in respect of the post held by him at University College.

Mr. Frank Arnold Greene has been appointed a fellow of King's College. Mr. Greene was a student in the faculty of engineering from 1891 until 1894; he is treasurer of the Institution of Chemical Engineers, and a member of the College Chemical Engineering Committee.

In the eighth annual report to the Court of Governors of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, W.C.1, various changes in the personnel of the Court and of the Board of Management are recorded. Sir Austen Chamberlain becomes chairman of the Court in succession to Sir Holburt Waring, who becomes honorary treasurer

to the Board of Management. The minimum annual expenditure to which the School is committed is £60,000, towards which there is a reasonably assured income of £50,000, leaving a deficit of £10,000 to be met by subscriptions and donations. A grant of 25,000 dollars for 1932 was received from the Rockefeller Trustees. In the report by the Dean, Prof. W. W. Jameson, on the year's work of the School, the teaching and research activities are surveyed, examination results are recorded, and a list of papers published by members of the staff is appended. It is announced that the Prudential Assurance Company has endowed for a term of seven years the chair of public health, which will henceforth be known as the "Prudential Chair of Public Health". A syllabus containing full particulars of the post-graduate instruction in preventive medicine given at the School is issued and may be obtained on application to the Dean.

Calendar of Nature Topics

The First 'Buchan Cold-Spell'

February 7-14.—In 1869 the late Dr. A. Buchan, from an analysis of observations of temperature in Scotland, concluded that "there are certain periods more or less well-defined, when the temperature, instead of rising, remains stationary or retrogrades; instead of falling, stops in its downward course, or even rises; and at other times falls or rises respectively for a few days at a more accelerated speed than usual". Buchan attributed these variations to the alternations of cold and warm air currents, but several other more or less fanciful explanations have been put forward by different authors, all of whom took the reality of the 'spells' for granted. A recent investigation has shown, however, that in London since 1870 there has been no definite tendency for temperature to be abnormally low on the dates of Buchan's cold spells, the period February 7-14, for example, having been warm as often as it was cold.

Fish Culture

"Feb. 9th, 1863.—Eggs of first lot of Rhine salmon hatched out in my bath." (Buckland, Diary.) The middle of last century saw a great revival in European countries of the ancient art of pisciculture. The work of Coste and the establishment by the French Government in 1848 of a hatchery at Huingue near the Rhine and Rhône Canal led to a widespread interest in salmon and trout rearing. In 1853, Dr. Garlick of Ohio first bred fish artificially in the United States, and in the same year the well-known Stormontfield establishment on the Tay came into being. In England, Buckland, later H.M. Inspector of Fisheries, took up the idea with great enthusiasm. During the past eighty years, fish culture has developed commercially on a very large scale especially in America.

Partridge Disease

The partridge season which has just closed will be memorable for the prevalence and the investigation of partridge disease. Beginning noticeably in the autumn of 1930 the disease spread widely and caused heavy mortality. Examples of its incidence in 1931 on various estates are—in Hampshire of a