

phases found in this species, one skin being buff and the other grey. A similar dimorphism exists in the bay cat of Asia, and at one time the buff-coloured specimens were thought to represent a species distinct from the grey ones. The Department of Entomology has received during the past twelve months a further 7,773 insects collected and presented by Mr. Rowland Turner, from South Africa. Most of these are small and little-known wasps, and the proportion new to science is extremely high. The Department of Mineralogy has acquired by exchange fragments of a meteoric stone which fell on August 27, 1931, near Yukan in eastern Kiangsi, China. Although the fall of stones from the sky has been mentioned in Chinese literature since 1808 B.C., none appears to have been preserved with the exception of three stones that have been described scientifically since 1923.

Botanical Acquisitions at the Natural History Museum

HIS MAJESTY THE KING has placed on loan a further collection of Nepal plants presented to him by His Highness the Maharaja of Nepal. The collection contains 182 specimens and was made in central Nepal by Prof. K. N. Sharma. The plants are excellently preserved, and include a fine series of *Primula*, *Gentiana* and *Mecanopsis*. Seeds of most of the plants have been sent for growing in the Royal Parks and Gardens. The British herbarium of the late Mr. Percy Moring has been presented by his widow. Mr. Moring was resident for some time at Dover and the herbarium is rich in plants of the neighbourhood. It also contains the specimens collected round Hampstead during the Hampstead Regional Survey. Many specimens from the London suburbs are valuable records of habitats now lost through building. The Department has purchased Part I of a copy of an edition of Philip Miller's "Figures of Plants described in the Gardener's Dictionary", published in 1798. So far, nothing is known further about this edition. The thirty plates are printed in various colours and are also coloured; the dates have been erased from the blocks and the Linnean system of naming has been adopted.

A British Film Institute

THE joint committee of the Commission on Educational and Cultural Films and the bodies representing the film trade has now reached agreement on a scheme for the setting up of a British Film Institute. The general purpose of this Institute will be to encourage the use and development of the cinematograph as a means of entertainment and instruction. Among its specific objects will be to advise educational institutions and other organisations and persons as to sources and conditions of supply, types of films and apparatus; to promote and undertake research into the various uses of the film and of allied visual and auditory apparatus; and to maintain a national repository of films of permanent value. The Institute will have a membership based on subscription, and its government will be vested in a council representative in equal proportions of the film trade, educational interests and

the general public. The membership of the governing council has not yet been completed, but it includes Sir Charles Cleland, Mr. A. C. Cameron and Mr. R. S. Lambert as representing the Commission on Educational and Cultural Films and Mr. Thomas Ormiston, M.P., Mr. C. M. Woolf and Mr. S. Eckman, as representing the film trade

Underground Lighting in Mines

THE paper on "Underground Lighting in Mines" read to the South Wales Branch of the Association of Mining Engineers by R. H. Campin and published in the *Mining Electrical Engineer* for February is a helpful and useful paper. Special stress is laid on the importance of miners' hand lamps. Mr. Campin points out that most of the hand lamps now in use are virtually of the same type as those developed before 1915. There are approximately 750 thousand hand-lamps in use in Great Britain. About fifty per cent of them are flame safety lamps. The popularity of the flame type is probably due to the fact that it automatically indicates the presence of inflammable gas. Most of the electric lamps in use are of a somewhat antiquated type giving only one candle power and supplied by a two volt battery in a celluloid case. The number of lamps supplied by alkaline batteries is about four per cent. There is no doubt that in many cases improved lighting would considerably increase the output as well as diminish the total number of accidents per annum on which compensation has at present to be paid. The author mentions the case of a German mine where the effect of doubling the illumination was to increase the output per man-shift by about 30 per cent. Doubling the light increased the cost of the lighting from a half-penny to a penny per ton of coal raised. Medical investigations have shown that nystagmus is practically a light deficiency disease. The collieries have to spend £440,000 annually in compensation to sufferers from it. If lights of not less than four candle power were used, the number of cases would be greatly diminished. The author thinks that the illumination of many of our collieries could be tripled or even quadrupled without increasing operating charges. Flood-lighting at localised spots is recommended.

Prehistoric Society of East Anglia

THE contents of the recent issue of the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia* (vol. 7, pt. 1) are of exceptional interest. At the head is the presidential address in which Mr. J. Reid Moir surveys the evidence for the culture of Pliocene man which has been collected in the last twenty-five years. This is followed by a description by Mr. J. P. T. Burchell of hand-axes from the north of Ireland, upon which Mr. Reid Moir reports that a certain number are undoubtedly of high antiquity, ranging from eolithic to Clactonian I. Lieut. K. R. W. Todd enumerates stone age sites, mostly palaeolithic, from which he has obtained a considerable number of implements, in the neighbourhood of Bombay; and Prof. A. Barnes discusses the mode of prehension of some forms of upper palaeolithic implements. The important work