indicated the pressing need for adequate space, equipment and instructors, and led to a number of definite recommendations for the development of a co-ordinated programme for leisure time in C.C.C. camps.

The Radio and Culture

AT the recent annual meeting of the Institut de France, Dr. Georges Duhamel, the well-known writer and editor of the *Mercure de France*, deplored what he called the *constitutional defects* of the radio, which he declared has an unfavourable and even demoralizing effect on the intellectual habits of the middle classes. In the first place he asserted that the radio draws many persons away from reading by depriving them of part of their leisure and making them gradually lose the habit of active cerebral work. Some people, he continued, are misled by the radio into imagining that the mind can attend to two objects at the same time, which is a mistake. Far from contributing to true culture, the radio encourages a taste for superficial ideas which are easily acquired and soon lost. In answer to the objection that the radio adds to without supplanting the other modes of information and knowledge, Dr. Duhamel maintained that we cannot safely disregard or decry a system of culture which has been tested for centuries in favour of a new process of which the remote results are necessarily quite unknown. As regards the plea that the radio is a source of pleasure, Dr. Duhamel retorted that no pleasure can last several hours a day, and that for some people the radio ceases almost at once to be a pleasure and becomes a craving.

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

THE report for 1937–38 of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine by the dean, Prof. W. Jameson, recently issued, surveys the administrative changes and the teaching and research work of the School during the year. In the Departments of Bacteriology and Epidemiology studies have been in progress for eighteen months on the effect of diet on the fertility, survival and growth of mice, and their resistance to infection, which show that a diet containing a proportion of animal protein, compared with one containing vegetable protein only, renders individual mice more resistant to infection of *Bact. typhimurium*, and significantly reduces the mortality in herds in which the disease is spreading by natural contact. In the Department of Entomology much work has been done on the biology of mosquitoes, the bed bug, lice and other parasites, and an important investigation continued on the spread of mineral oils on water in relation to anti-malarial work by destruction of mosquito larvæ. In the Department of Bacteriology studies have been continued upon the isolation of the antigenic components from various bacteria, and their value as immunizing agents. The physiological problems of air raids precautions, in particular gas-proof clothing, helminthic parasites of domestic animals, and problems connected with the root eel-worm disease of potatoes, are a few of the other subjects that are under investigation. The Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene reports upon its anti-malarial work in various Colonies, Yugoslavia and South America.

Malaria in Albania

IN an inaugural thesis (*Thèse de Paris*, No. 548; 1938), F. L. Richards states that malaria is the most prevalent disease in Albania, especially in the low-lying regions. where it is closely associated with the presence of lakes, marshes and other places inundated by the mountain water courses. It is more or less endemic in villages near streams and their affluents. Most of the patients under treatment in the hospitals are suffering from this complaint, which in some parts of the country affects 50 per cent of the population. All clinical forms of the disease are found, malignant tertian being the commonest. In addition to its high incidence in the civilian population, malaria is the most frequent disease in the Albanian army. Its prevalence is highest in June, July, August and September, and sometimes there is a rapid rise in the number of cases in October; but August and September are the months in which the disease is most intense. The death-rate is higher in children than in adults. The spread of the disease is favoured by the unhygienic habits of the Albanian people and is therefore most pronounced among the poor. At the suggestion of the King of Albania, a five-year plan has recently been introduced for combating the disease.

Microscopy for the Chemist

A RECENT article by Prof. Alois Herzog (*Zeiss Nach.*, 2, Hefte 5 and 6, 1938) is based upon the value of the microscope to the chemist for qualitative analytical determinations with minimal amounts of material. A number of simple methods is described involving the use of sublimation, distillation, precipitation, drying, crystallization, spot reactions, and other procedures with or without the addition of specified reagents, whereby crystals and other deposits having characteristic microscopical appearances are obtained, which serve to identify various metals and metallic and other salts, etc. Screens (sieves), animal and vegetable fibres, and miscellaneous inorganic substances like asbestos, and the use of the polarizing microscope are also briefly described. The article is illustrated with 97 excellent photomicrographs of the appearances obtained in the reactions, and full details are given as to how the objects were photographed, namely the camera, objective and ocular used, the illumination and the time of exposure.

Physics in Crime Detection

THE Physics Forum of the November issue of the *Review of Scientific Instruments* is devoted to an account of the use made of physics in the detection of crime in the United States. It is written by J. Edgar Hoover, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice. Although the author refers to the use of radio in rapidly communicating information, the account is mainly con-