

'pondage' or moderate storage facilities can be economically developed to several times their continuous capacity in order to take the peak loads of fuel power systems. In Great Britain the Water Power Sources Committee reported in 1921 that there were 250,000 kilowatts of continuous power available. The modern view is that where small water-powers are used, they should be 'over-developed' by providing reservoirs so that they could take both the base loads and the peak loads. There are several electric-power schemes in America which take full advantage of the utility of the storage capacity of water-power in reservoirs when combined with steam stations.

### Science and Culture

THE August issue of *Science and Culture*, published in Calcutta under the auspices of the Indian Science News Association as "a monthly journal of natural and cultural sciences", includes several important contributions and is in every way a credit to all who are concerned with its production. In the leading article on social implications of science, support is given for the movement represented by the committee on science and its social relationships of the International Council of Scientific Unions and the new Division of the British Association, and it is suggested that the Indian Science Congress Association should discuss the subject in a plenary session at the forthcoming meeting at Lahore. Sir James Jeans's lecture on the origin of the planets, delivered during the visit of delegates of the British Association to India, is published in the issue; and among the subjects of other interesting articles are: electrical charge distribution in thunderclouds, chemical composition and nutritive value of bananas, and recent advances in the study of plant growth hormones. The speeches made by Sir John Simon and Sir William Bragg at the anniversary dinner of the Royal Society on November 30, 1937, are reprinted in full from the *Notes and Records* of the Society, the first issue of which appeared in April last, together with notes on the foundation and history of the Society from the same publication.

### The late Lord Rutherford

THE *Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, vol. 68, June 1938, contains an obituary notice and photograph of Lord Rutherford, signed "E. M.", doubtless the work of his old research student at Manchester, Dr. E. Marsden, who is now head of the N.Z. Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. There are about thirteen pages of biography written by one who well knew and admired Rutherford. Then follow nine pages of bibliography, listing about three hundred publications of books and papers by Lord Rutherford. This has been carefully compiled by Dr. C. M. Focken, Beverly-Mackenzie lecturer in physics at the University of Otago.

### Earthquakes in Italy and in New Zealand

THE Central Office of Meteorology and Geophysics at Rome has recently issued its catalogue of *macroismi*,

or sensible earthquakes, for the year 1935 (*Boll. Sismico, anno 1935*). The total number known is 134, or about one third of the average number (412) for the forty years 1891-1930. Their intensity, also, was much less than usual; more than half were so slight that they were not able to shake doors or windows, and only one, with its origin in Etna, approached destructive strength, several houses in Acireale being slightly injured. The seismological section of the Dominion Observatory at Wellington has issued a somewhat less detailed report on the New Zealand earthquakes of 1936 (*Bulletin* No. 125; 1937). From this, we learn that the number of sensible earthquakes was 125, less than half the average (264) for the preceding twelve years, but nearly the same as the average number (122) for the eight years excluding 1929-32, in which many after-shocks of the great earthquakes of 1929 and 1931 occurred. Five of the shocks were of intensity 6 (Rossi-Forel scale), that is, none could be ranked as a destructive earthquake. The epicentral regions (Buller River and Hawkes Bay) of the two earthquakes referred to seem to have resumed their normal activity.

### Renewed Seismic Activity in Greece

ATHENS has again been disturbed by strong earth tremors but no damage has been done in that city. The epicentre of the shock is reported to have been to the north-east of the city, and is probably the same as that of July 20 and also July 27. The most recent shock was registered on seismograms in London at about 3 a.m. on September 18, and does not appear to have been any more intense than that of July 20.

### Belgian Red Cross Exhibition

THE Belgian Red Cross is organizing a popular scientific exhibition to be held in the Egmont Palace, Brussels, on October 1-30. It will be entitled "L'Homme" and will comprise the following groups: (1) movement (bones, muscles, nerves); (2) blood vessels and circulation; (3) respiration and voice; (4) foods and digestive organs; (5) thought and sensation; (6) special senses; (7) the part played by glands; (8) transparent organs; (9) the man of glass; (10) individual and public health. Further information can be obtained from Croix Rouge de Belgique, 80 rue de Livourne, Brussels.

### A Catalogue of Rare Books

IN addition to works on English and European literature, the fine arts and a selection of important new books, a catalogue recently published by Bernard Quaritch, 11 Grafton Street, London, W.1, contains an annotated list of works on natural history including books from the library of Baron Bouck, early medicine and surgery from the library of Sion College, and the exact and applied sciences. Among the numerous works on natural history may be mentioned the German text of J. Hübner's "Collection of Exotic Butterflies" (1806-1841) described as "an extremely fine and complete copy of the greatest