

the purpose of testing theory. He emphasizes the need for more co-ordinated and co-operative research enterprises such as the college entrance inquiry, undertaken by the Progressive Education Association, into college entrance problems, in which three hundred colleges and thirty schools are participating. Indications of specific problems needing investigation are given under twenty-five headings, corresponding with the several survey monographs already referred to; for example, individual differences, guidance, interpreting the secondary school to the public, and the library.

CO-OPERATIVE educational research on an unprecedented scale was undertaken in 1936-37 by sixty universities in the United States under what was known as the Project in Research in Universities of the Office of Education. An important feature of the project was the widespread and co-ordinated attack on each of forty selected problems by a number of universities at the same time. The results of the investigations have been reported in a series of bulletins issued by the Office of Education. An interesting example of these is Bulletin No. 17 on "Opportunities for the Preparation of Teachers of Exceptional Children" (Washington, D.C.: Superintendent of Documents. Pp. 58. Price 10 c.). This gives a conspectus of courses concerning the education of eight different groups of exceptional children: blind, deaf, crippled, delicate, speech-defectives, mentally retarded, mentally gifted, and socially or emotionally maladjusted. In recent years such courses have been characterized by an increasing breadth of the pre-requisites for qualifying as a teacher of any one of these groups, candidates being required to have a general knowledge of the teaching methods appropriate for use with normal children and of the needs and problems of exceptional groups other than that chosen for special study. Of the courses concerning the education of exceptionally gifted children, the report notes that "so little is known to-day as to how gifted children should be educated that it is not surprising to find so few teacher-education institutions presuming to tell their students in any intensive way how to do it".

#### Suggested New Peace Conference

THE petition for the holding of a New Peace Conference open to all nations and directed towards remedying the economic and political conditions likely to lead to war, and urging the Government to take, in consultation with the President of the United States of America, the necessary steps to secure the holding of such a Conference, which has been sponsored by the National Peace Council, has received an excellent response. Requests for more than 100,000 petition forms have been received from national organizations, most of which will go to local organizations. The National Peace Council has also issued an appeal for the sum of £2,000 to liquidate an accumulated deficit and provide the expansion of income required for its growing work in mobilizing public opinion in Great Britain in support of efforts to lay the foundations of a general and durable peace.

#### Activity of the Leonids

MOHD. A. R. KHAN, Begumpet, Deccan, observed the Leonid shower this year on November 14-17, and found that it was more active than it has been for several years. On the night of November 15, in spite of the fact that the radiant was close to the moon, between 21<sup>h</sup> 30<sup>m</sup> and 22<sup>h</sup> 30<sup>m</sup> U.T., out of 31 meteors observed 14 were Leonids. Several of them were bright, the magnitudes in some cases being 0 or even brighter, and most of them were followed by expanding streaks. During the next half hour the numbers fell off, only two out of eleven meteors observed being Leonids. On the following night, between 21<sup>h</sup> 5<sup>m</sup> and 22<sup>h</sup> 35<sup>m</sup> U.T., out of 48 meteors observed, 12 were Leonids, but on November 17, only two Leonids were observed out of a total of eight meteors between 23<sup>h</sup> 30<sup>m</sup> and 24<sup>h</sup> U.T. The Leonid shower has been rather feeble for some years, but this year it returned with surprising activity.

#### Another Large Sunspot

SUNSPOT frequency remains high, and large spots within the range of naked eye vision have averaged, so far this year, one new group in about every ten days. Very large spots, say of area greater than 1,000 millionths of the sun's hemisphere, have been well represented, no fewer than thirteen having been recorded during the eleven months of 1938. A group of spots, first seen near the sun's east limb on November 23 in solar latitude 14° north, grew rapidly in the next few days from 150 millionths to 1,950 millionths by November 27. The date of central meridian passage of this large group was November 28.8, and the west limb will be reached on December 5. On December 6, a region of the sun containing another large spot, which was developing during its approach to the west limb, will come into view again at the east limb.

#### Announcements

THE Buchan Prize for 1939 of the Royal Meteorological Society has been awarded to Dr. E. W. Hewson, for papers contributed to the *Quarterly Journal* of the Society during the years 1933-37 dealing with "The Application of Wet-Bulb Potential Temperature to Air Mass Analysis".

THE following officers for the session 1938-39 of the University of Durham Philosophical Society have recently been elected: *President*, Very Rev. C. A. Alington; *Hon. General Secretary*, Dr. W. A. Clark; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. J. W. Bullerwell; *Editor*, Prof. G. W. Todd.

AN exhibition of optical aids will be held in Barnsley Grammar School on December 10. During the afternoon, Mr. H. S. Magnay, director of education, Barnsley, will speak on "The Work of the British Film Institute". Further information can be obtained from the Exhibition Secretary at the Grammar School.

DR. EUGEN KORSCHULT, emeritus professor of zoology and comparative anatomy in the University of Marburg, has been awarded the Goethe medal for art and science.