

It was, I think, a keen disappointment to him that the recommendations of the Plaice Committee of 1921 and of the Plaice Conference at Amsterdam in 1925 could not be put into operation. But he did not lose heart; he supported his staff in working out alternative methods of coping with the overfishing problem, which bore their first fruit in the Sea Fishing Industry Act of 1933.

In addition to his papers on the plaice, Borley published in 1923 an admirable study of the bottom-deposits in the North Sea, and was largely responsible for a special investigation of herring-trawling carried out just before the Great War, on which we reported jointly in 1922.

Borley was a colleague of mine for many years, and no man could wish for a better. He was always helpful, always put the work first and himself second. His great knowledge and experience was always freely at the service of his colleagues. He was a

lovable personality, and inspired both affection and respect in all those associated with him in the work of the Fisheries Department, of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, and of the Discovery Committee.

E. S. RUSSELL.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Prof. V. A. Karavajev of Kiev, an authority on the taxonomy and bionomics of ants, on January 7, aged seventy-five years.

Prof. J. P. McMurrich, emeritus professor of anatomy in the University of Toronto, on February 9, aged seventy-nine years.

Prof. N. V. Nassonov, formerly director of the Zoological Museum of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences, on February 10, aged eighty-five years.

News and Views

The Linnean Society and National Parks

As a result of the discussion on the objects of national parks held by the Linnean Society of London on December 8 (*NATURE*, 142, 1087; 1938) and subsequent debates, the Society has adopted the following resolution: "The Linnean Society of London accepts the definition employed in the African Fauna Convention as an ideal for the preservation of Nature; but it knows that the term 'National Park' has been given to areas which for various reasons are unsuitable for inclusion within the definition,—e.g. too limited or situated too near populated areas. For such it recommends the setting apart within each Park of special nature reserves under proper control; and it would like all authorities with power over Parks to seek advice from such bodies of naturalists as are competent to give it." The definition given by the African Fauna Convention (H.M. Stationery Office. Treaty Series, No. 27. London, 1933) is as follows: "The expression 'national park' shall denote an area (a) placed under public control, the boundaries of which shall not be altered or any portion be capable of alienation except by the competent legislative authority, (b) set aside for the propagation, protection and preservation of wild animal life and wild vegetation, and for the preservation of objects of æsthetic, geological, prehistoric, historical, archaeological, or other scientific interest for the benefit, advantage, and enjoyment of the general public, (c) in which the hunting, killing or capturing of fauna and the destruction or collection of flora is prohibited except by or under the direction or control of the park authorities. In accordance with the above provisions facilities shall, so far as possible, be given to the general public for observing the fauna and flora in national parks."

British Dyestuffs: Award of the Perkin Medal

THE Perkin Medal of the Society of Dyers and Colourists has been awarded to Mr. James Baddiley, of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., "in recognition of his national services for the renaissance of the British dyestuffs industry through many important investigations in the field of colour chemistry conducted or directed by him". In the thirty years since its inauguration, the Medal has only been awarded eleven times—four times to Englishmen, three times to Germans, three times to Frenchmen and once to an Alsatian. In an address delivered after the presentation, Mr. Baddiley said that great progress has been made in dyestuffs laboratory technique, such as the use of X-ray diffraction methods for determining molecular structure, optical diffraction in the visible and ultra-violet bands, and cathode-ray refraction. In the dyeing of cotton, substantial advances have been made, particularly with regard to light fastness. In the direct cotton colour field constant research had been given to straight-chain poly-azo dyes with 2-5-7 aminonaphthol-sulphonic acid and its derivatives as end-component, and this line of research had led to the production of the Durazols, which are representative of direct cotton colours of high fastness to light.

THE dyestuffs chemist, affirmed Mr. Baddiley, has shown his ability to meet the problems presented by new artificial fibres very promptly, by producing the Solacets, a series of truly water-soluble dyes, possessing high affinity and building-up properties and capable of being applied as though they were direct cotton dyes. In regard to pigments, Mr. Baddiley mentioned the invention of the phthalocyanines in I.C.I. laboratories; these, he said,

represent the last word in all-round fastness and in tinctorial properties. Turning to textile auxiliaries, he outlined the fundamental principles involved in the modern 'soapless' detergents, the success of which led to intensive research in long-chain chemistry and the production of many new interesting products of which the best known is Velan PF for producing water-repellent finishes resistant to laundering and dry cleaning. Among other advances associated with the dyestuffs industry, Mr. Baddiley referred to the colour film, the discovery of sulphanilamide, and the synthetic polymers.

Commerce and the Universities

THE question of the suitability of existing arrangements in universities for the training of undergraduates for commercial careers was recently investigated by a sub-committee of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce. This body, having examined the subject in the light of information collected from university appointments bureaux, professional bodies, individual firms and various chambers of commerce, drew up a short "Report on the Commercial Employment of Students with Degrees in Commerce". The report estimates at less than a hundred the deliberate annual recruitment of young graduates into commerce for the purpose of ultimately using them for the higher executive posts. These recruits are taken mainly by large concerns engaged in either manufacturing or retailing: no evidence was forthcoming of any appreciable recruitment to wholesale houses or shipping concerns. It appears that the recruitment of graduates on the business side is sporadic and exceptional and the firms which employ them make no special arrangements, such as are common on the industrial side, for their special training in business methods. The sub-committee considers that it would be advantageous to British commerce if a larger proportion of graduates were recruited, but that this will not be possible unless steps are taken to incorporate practical office and commercial experience in the university courses.

THE Association's Executive Council adopted the report and decided to circulate it with a view to a conference with representatives of the universities for discussion of the subject and for the devising, if possible, of a scheme of training in the operation of which the chambers of commerce would collaborate. The kind of collaboration envisaged is indicated by mention in the report of a sandwich system of six months in business alternating with six months of full-time university work, or a preliminary spell of work in business before entering a university, in which studies would be organized in two parts separated by another spell of business employment. The report has been coupled, not, perhaps, very appropriately, with the Spens Report on Secondary Education in a motion agreed to in the House of Commons on February 15 in favour of the Board of Education consulting local education authorities and others as to how far the recommendations in the reports should be carried into effect. Presumably the recommendation of the Chambers of Commerce will

be taken up by the Universities Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals. In the discussion in Parliament, the Board's attitude towards commercial training in secondary schools was summed up. From eleven to sixteen years of age, geography and mathematics may well be taught so as to arouse an interest in the world of commerce, and there is a real place for commercial training on broad lines after the School Certificate; the prejudice against commerce as unworthy to rank with more academic careers should be eradicated.

An Anatomist Analyses

THE editor of the *Lancet* has begun the interesting experiment of throwing open his journal to selected medical men in various occupations, so that they may express unfettered thoughts upon any subject they choose, under the title "Grains and Scruples". The first series of contributions, five in number, appeared in the numbers of December 1938 "from an Anatomist". They discourse on the alleged gradual but definite degeneration of the medical student, who in former days is said to have been far older, more mature, and more responsible than his successor; upon the disappearance of the old-fashioned schoolboy bug-hunter, and other topics familiar to the teacher of long standing. But years have coloured the outlook, for there are still keen schoolboy naturalists, and while maturity and responsibility are difficult qualities to assess, the records show that the age of entry has been rising instead of falling. In the old days, students entered the universities at years of indiscretion undreamed of now, and the writer knew a surgeon-admiral who as a student, having passed all his medical examinations, put in a year on a whaler, until he should attain the legal age of qualification. That cannot happen often in these days.

BUT more profound puzzles confront the "Anatomist", and he poses the recurrent problem of the persistence in many groups of animals of primitive, generalized types. If changing environments demand the evolution of more complex animals to meet the new needs, how is it that there have survived through aeons of time, apparently completely meeting the requirements without significant structural change, basic forms upon which the higher developments of the group are founded? As examples of these 'immature' forms which have not developed their potentialities, he gives the shark, the giant salamander, the tuatara lizard, the ostrich, and following Bolk's thesis of infantilization he would regard man as the permanent baby amongst mammals, emphasizing that lack of structural specialization which is man's saving grace. Finally he makes a reasoned plea for linking man ancestrally with the pig. But here he controverts his own premises, for while rightly stressing the need for depending upon characters not liable to environmental adaptation, he selects as major resemblances, dentition and hair-covering, length of tail and colour, than which no mammalian characters are more liable to adaptive variation. He does not suggest