

very trustworthy. The causes of the failure of the ignition system are almost always due to battery and wiring faults; they are very rarely due to the ignition apparatus itself. The contact breaker, coil and ignition switch are generally mounted at different points and thus their action is dependent on the soundness of the wiring between them. Loss of magnetism which used to cause trouble with magnetos is absent in coil systems. Ease in starting up an engine is a prominent feature in coil ignition; at whatever speed the engine is turning, a good spark is always obtained at the plug points. The contact breaker is usually the first component to be examined following an ignition failure, and hence its accessibility and ease of adjustment are of great importance. In this respect, coil ignition has nearly always the advantage. A clear view of magneto contact breakers can rarely be attained without the aid of a mirror. Coil ignition is also greatly superior to the magneto so far as the rapid replacement of faulty parts is concerned.

Scandinavian Museums

AN article by J. A. Sidney Stendall on museums in Scandinavia (*Museums J.*, 38, 397, Nov. 1938) should prove of value to museum curators in Great Britain. The author selects for special description details of exhibition technique. His diagrams of methods of showing specimens, of artificial lighting, and of construction of exhibition cases for straightforward display or for the building up of pictorial dioramas, show how carefully and successfully these aspects have been considered in the museums of Sweden. There are suggestions here the adoption of which would add interest to many museums in Great Britain.

Chromosoma

THE development of the chromosome theory of heredity during the last twenty years has led to the publication of some thousands of papers devoted to a study which is at once genetics and cytology. These papers have been published partly in the special genetical journals—*Genetics*, *Baur's Zeitschrift*, *Genetica*, *Hereditas* and the English and Japanese *Journals of Genetics*—and partly in the special cytological journals—*La Cellule*, *Cytologia* and Messrs. Springer's *Zeitschrift für Zellforschung und mikroskopische Anatomie*. Many also have been published by the older zoological, botanical and general scientific journals. Messrs. Springer have now divided their journal into two parts, which will appear separately this month, marking not inappropriately the centenary of the cell theory. Part A, *Allgemeine Zellforschung und mikroskopische Anatomie* will continue to deal with the physiological and histological side of cell-study with which the old journal was largely concerned. Part B, under the short title of *Chromosoma*, will be in effect a new journal. It will deal with the chromosomes in their twin aspects of cell mechanisms and organs of heredity. Dr. Hans Bauer, of the Kaiser Wilhelm-Institut für Biologie in Berlin-Dahlem, is the general editor. He has secured the collaboration of Dr. Lothar Geitler of Vienna,

Dr. T. Caspersson of Stockholm, Dr. A. Müntzing of Lund, Dr. W. v. Möllendorf and Dr. J. Seiler of Zurich, Dr. O. L. Mohr of Oslo, Dr. C. D. Darlington of London, Dr. F. Schrader of New York, and Dr. Th. Dobzhansky of Pasadena. The balance of zoology and botany, chemistry and genetics in this group should ensure a competent discrimination as well as a new point of view in furthering this youngest of the sciences.

Sixth Pacific Science Congress

THE sixth Pacific Science Congress will be held in Berkeley, Stanford and San Francisco, California, during July 24–August 12 under the auspices of the National Research Council of Canada, on the invitation of the U.S. National Research Council. The programme is so constituted as to emphasize the discussion of comprehensive scientific topics of general interest to the peoples living within the Pacific basin, and the theme of the Congress will therefore be “the present stage of knowledge of Pacific scientific problems and methods by which that knowledge may be most profitably enlarged”. For this reason, the programme is arranged as a series of symposia rather than a collection of independent papers. Forty-two countries have been invited to take part. Further information can be obtained from Dr. R. E. Clausen, Room 205, Hilgard Hall, University of California, Berkeley, California.

Study Meeting on Magnetism

A STUDY meeting on magnetism, to be held in Strasbourg during May 21–25, is being organized by the Institute of Intellectual Co-operation in collaboration with the Service Central de la recherche scientifique de France. The following subjects will be discussed: (1) paramagnetism, very low temperatures, relaxation and nuclear magnetism; (2) optics and paramagnetism, low temperatures and moderately low temperatures; (3) ordinary paramagnetism; (4) ferromagnetism, (a) atomic and molecular moments, (b) ferromagnetism and the crystalline network, (b') interaction and its relationship to thermodynamics, (c) Curie points, (d) gyro-magnetic phenomena. A number of papers have already been arranged, and it is expected that about thirty eminent authorities on the subject will attend the meeting. The papers and a report of the discussions will be published in the fifth volume of the “Scientific Collections” of the Institute. Further information can be obtained from the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation, 2 Rue de Montpensier, Paris, 1^{er}.

Physics in the Textile Industries

THE annual general meeting of the Manchester and District Branch of the Institute of Physics is to be held in the Physics Department of the University of Manchester at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, March 17. Immediately after the conclusion of the business of the meeting, Dr. F. C. Toy, chairman of the Branch, will speak on “The Physicist in the Textile Industries”, and will attempt to give some idea of the vast scope in textile research for the employment of theoretical