

(*Utilization*) 1, A (Govt. of India Press, New Delhi 1939), Mr. V. D. Limaye gives authentic information, on the possible uses and comparative strengths of thirty-six common Indian timbers and of six commonly imported timbers (three of which come from Burma) of different genera and species. This demonstrates the wealth of fine timbers there are in India. Yet three quarters of a century ago or less the bulk of the population in India, including the British, relied chiefly on three timbers only, according to situation—teak, sal (*Shorea*) and deodar.

Meteorology of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition

THE Australasian Antarctic Expedition of 1911–14 under the leadership of Sir Douglas Mawson seems an episode of the remote past, for so many better equipped expeditions have intervened. The latest of the scientific reports of this expedition is the fifth of the series and is in three parts (Australasian Antarctic Expedition, 1911–14. Scientific Reports, Series B, Vol. 5: Meteorology. Part 1: Records of the Queen Mary Land Station; Part 2: Meteorological Log of the S.Y. "Aurora"; Part 3: Sledge Journey Weather Records; Appendix, Macquarie Island Weather Notes for 1909–1910–1911. Pp. x+282+4 plates. Sydney: Government Printer, 1940. 40s.). It is concerned with meteorology. Part 1 of this volume deals with the records of the Queen Mary Land station—the 'Grottoes'—in latitude 66° S., longitude 95° E.; Part 2 covers the meteorological log of the S.Y. *Aurora*, and Part 3 the weather records of the sledge journeys; an appendix includes the daily weather records made at Macquarie Island by Otto Bauer's sealing party from August 1909 to July 25, 1910, and January 1 to December 12, 1911.

Although the report is largely statistical, there are some excellently reproduced photographs, at the end of the volume, of scenes of meteorological interest. Four of these show characteristic features of the edge of the Antarctic Continent that must, judging from the descriptions of others who have written about the same subject, be very typical. Thus, in Plate 4, Fig. 2, a canopy of strato-cumulus cloud is seen over Commonwealth Bay, with cloudless sky over the continent to the south. It is a scene of peace and beauty, the ripples in the sea showing that there was only a light westerly wind blowing. In Plate 3, Fig. 1, the sky is still partly cloud-free; but the clouds look like alto-cumulus and the horizon is a dark smudge indicating the approach of a blizzard. In Plate 4, Fig. 1, a sledging party on the plateau interior of Adelie Land appears to be preparing to weather a blizzard that is presaged by dense masses of cirrus cloud. The sequence is completed by Plate 2, Fig. 2, in which cumulo-nimbus clouds are breaking up just after a blizzard north of the Mertz Glacier Tongue. The bulk of the volume consists of undiscussed meteorological tables, but a footnote to p. 16 says that "Dr. E. Kidson has been engaged preparing two volumes analysing and discussing the Expedition's meteorological data. This will be published in due course".

Epidemiology in the Army

IN a recent article (*Ann. Int. Med.*, 13, 2229; 1940) Lieut.-Colonel J. S. Simmons, of the Medical Corps of the United States Army, divides the hazards of military life into three groups according as they arise in peace-time service, during mobilization or in actual warfare. In peace-time the soldier's life is as safe as, if not safer than, the civilian's, as he has been carefully selected, housed in modern barracks, fed on a balanced diet of wholesome food and forced to take adequate exercise. He is trained in physical hygiene, and his health is under medical supervision. During mobilization, though efforts are made to continue existing medical facilities, the rapid accumulation of susceptible recruits from all parts of the country frequently results in epidemics. In actual warfare, the soldier is not only faced with the risk of injury and death from battle, but is also exposed to infection. Between April 1917 and December 1919 when the United States Army was engaged in that War the casualties from all quarters were 50,000 deaths due to battle and 58,000 deaths caused by disease. The principal diseases to which the soldier is exposed during mobilization and war are wound infections, the morbidity and mortality of which have undergone a striking decrease since the introduction of antiseptic surgery, gastro-intestinal infections due to contaminated food and drink, including enteric fever, dysentery and cholera, venereal infections, the admission rate for which in the United States Army was 87 per 1,000, respiratory infections, including influenza, pneumonia, scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles, mumps and cerebrospinal fever, and insect-borne infections, such as malaria, yellow fever, typhus and plague.

History of Blood Transfusion

IN a recent thesis (*Thèse de Paris* 1940, No. 344) on this subject, Dr. Edmond Ecale states that the history of the transfusion of blood is intimately connected with the discovery of the circulation. Although even in the prehistoric period the idea of the operation had been conceived, it was in the country of Harvey that the first scientific attempts of transfusion were made, namely, by Christopher Wren in 1656 and Edmund King in 1667. Jean Denis was the first to carry out transfusion from an animal to man in 1667, and was followed a few months later by Richard Lower in England, Riva in Italy and Kaufmann in Germany. Transfusion of blood was prohibited by the Châtelet edict in 1668, and almost fell into oblivion for nearly a century and a half. The first successful transfusion of blood from man to man, which was carried out by the obstetrician James Blundell in 1825, marked an important progress in the history of the method, and was performed with a syringe containing defibrinated blood to prevent coagulation. The introduction, however, in 1879 of intravenous injection of normal saline which was a simpler and safer method interfered with the progress of transfusion of blood for some time. After the beginning of the twentieth century, transfusion of blood was again revived on the discovery of agglutinins,

iso-agglutinins, blood groups and blood incompatibilities, which enabled a correct choice to be made of donors and recipients, while the use of anti-coagulants, paraffined tubes and other refinements of technique led to the adoption of the perfected method employed at the present time.

The Long-term Prisoner

IN a paper read before the ninety-fifth meeting of the American Psychiatric Association (*Amer. J. Psychiat.*, 96, 1321; 1940) Dr. Marvin Sukov records his observations on thirty men completing life sentences in the Joliet-Stateville branch of the Illinois State Penitentiary. Their ages on admission ranged between 16 and 49, and their ages on examination were between 39 and 73. The study was conducted by means of a questionnaire in which each inmate was individually interviewed for a period averaging 1½ hours. Dr. Sukov's conclusions were as follows: (1) Imprisonment was accompanied by progressive social severance, shown by progressive diminution in visits and correspondence in every case. (2) The patients' basic interests with regard to religion, crime and intellectual sphere were little modified by years of imprisonment. None expressed a reduction in alertness except those advanced in age, who attributed it to that cause. (3) Twenty-five who admitted their guilt stated that they had deserved punishment but that their punishment was too severe. (4) While all had a desire for freedom, many had become resigned to life imprisonment and without help would probably be unable to make an extramural adjustment. (5) Nearly all after many years imprisonment showed no antagonism to society, but none could point to a single individual as a friend.

Cave Worship

IN an interesting article in the April issue of the *Hibbert Journal*, Dr. R. R. Marett remarks that in addition to its mystic and religious associations the cave played no small part in early medicine, and suggests that it was primarily as a hydropathic establishment that the cave found so much favour with the sick. In the cave of Aesculapius, mentioned by Pausanias, for example, the healing waters gushed out from a rock, and at Elis in the cave of the Anigris nymphs he states that a leper must sacrifice before bathing in the neighbouring river in order to leave his "shame" there. There were also caves mentioned by Pausanias of which the efficacy had possibly nothing to do with water, such as the cave of Aphrodite. Moreover, the famous Lemnian earth or terra sigillata which was supposed to provide an antidote to snake-poisoning was obtained from a cave.

The Government Museum, Madras

UNDER the superintendence of Dr. F. H. Gravely, an important extension to the Government Museum, Madras, has been completed and opened to the public, following the plans of the late R. Dann, consulting architect to that Government. The new building has provided accommodation for the staff of curators, the block which they formerly occupied

being now given up to the zoological collections. But its main function is to give suitable expression to the evolution of the decorative motives of the architecture of the magnificent temples of South India. For the Tamil country, these changes form an interesting and logical sequence. The temples of other parts of India differ from those of Tamil origin, and although the development of their architecture is not yet fully understood, attempts have been made in the new building to indicate the succession of changes. A short account of these arrangements, based upon Dr. Gravely's address at the opening ceremony, which was performed by His Excellency the Governor of Madras, Lord Erskine, appears in the July number of the *Museums Journal* (40, 109; 1940).

Nematode Parasites of Plants

A CATALOGUE of nematode parasites of plants, compiled by Dr. T. Goodey has been issued by the Imperial Bureau of Agricultural Parasitology, St. Albans, price 10s. The work consists of an alphabetical list of the scientific names of all plants which have been reported as hosts of nematodes, comprising more than 2,000 species and varieties of flowering plants, 78 ferns, 55 mosses, 5 liverworts and 3 seaweeds. In each case the appropriate parasite or parasites is stated, together with the name of the first recorder and the date of the record. For convenience, an alphabetical list of the popular plant names, with the scientific name appended, is also supplied, so that the reader can be sure of finding the information he requires by whichever plant name is the more familiar to him. The publication concludes with a list of references relevant to the records cited. Usually this is the earliest record obtainable, but in a few cases a more accessible reference has been deliberately selected.

Announcements

THE Home Secretary has announced in the House of Commons that he is willing to consider steps to enable alien men of science who are not released to carry on their scientific activities or studies in internment.

THE following appointments in the Colonial Service have recently been made: F. R. Bell, veterinary officer, Uganda; J. H. Hughes, assistant conservator of forests, British Guiana; R. M. Shackleton, geologist (temporary), Kenya.

A FURTHER step in the mobilization of the manpower of Great Britain is marked by the issue of the first industrial registration order made by the Minister of Labour. Registers have already been made of professional engineers, chemists and physicists and quantity surveyors. The new order requires the registration of skilled men more than twenty-one years old in certain specified occupations, mainly engineering, who are not employed on Government work. The five days of registration, to which also the test of full employment on Government work applies, are August 19-23.