

### Public Health in Venezuela

THE outstanding developments in Venezuelan public health since the establishment of the autonomous Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare in February 1936 include the building up of a well-trained full-time staff, a tuberculosis control division with child and adult dispensaries in the capital and seventeen other cities, a school hygiene X-ray division, a national institute of puericulture, a malaria control division, a yellow fever preventive service, division of sanitary engineering and ankylostomiasis, and cancer and leprosy institutes. Among the more recent developments have been the creation of a Social Service Division in 1938, the opening of its school in 1940 and the increase in the number of beds in hospitals.

### Institute of Fuel

MR. W. M. SELVEY has been elected president of the Institute of Fuel in succession to Sir John Greenly, as from October next. Mr. Selvey has been very closely identified for many years with the development of fuel economy in all forms, but more particularly in connexion with the electric power stations in Great Britain and abroad.

The Melchett Medal for 1941 has been awarded to Dr. Clarence A. Seyler, of Swansea, as some recognition of his work on coal and its constitution.

Sir David Milne-Watson, Bart., has been nominated president of the Fuel Luncheon Club for the coming session in succession to Lieut.-Colonel W. A. Bristow, who has occupied the chair for the past two years.

### College of the Pharmaceutical Society

IT is good news that although the College of the Pharmaceutical Society has obtained temporary accommodation in Cardiff and the Departments of Nutrition and Pharmacology have been housed at the National Institute for Research in Dairying, Reading, research work is still going on. This is evidenced by the annual report for 1940 of the research departments of the College of the Pharmaceutical Society (pp. 30, Heffer and Sons). Items of interest are: the influence of cooking on the vitamin content of foods; the components of acriflavine; the structure of  $\gamma$ -sugars; the quantitative determination of cinnamon and cassia and methods of assay of prolactin, heparin and suprarenal cortical hormone.

### The Marine Biological Laboratory, Plymouth

WE learn from the Secretary of the Marine Biological Association that the Plymouth Laboratory, which a few months ago sustained heavy damage through enemy action (NATURE, 147, 411; 1941), has now been restored to working order. Extensive emergency repairs have been carried out, accommodation for research workers is once more available and there are limited opportunities for work at sea in the Association's motor boat. It has, however, been necessary to transfer the greater part of the library to other quarters, and only the recent volumes of current periodicals can now be consulted.

### Comet van Gent (1941d)

A CABLEGRAM has been transmitted from Dr. W. H. van den Bos, Union Observatory, South Africa, announcing the discovery of a comet by Dr. H. van Gent, Bosscha Observatory, Lembang, on May 27.96965 U.T. At the time of discovery its position was, R.A. 18h. 01<sup>m</sup>. 9<sup>s</sup>, Dec., -40° 07', and its daily motion was 5m. 15s. west, 41' north. It was diffuse, with central condensation or nucleus, and the tail was less than 1° in length. The magnitude was 11. An orbit has been computed by Dr. F. J. Bobone, the elements of which, and also an ephemeris, are given below.

<i>T</i>	1941	September 3-362 U.T.
$\omega$	84° 13'	} 1941.0
$\Omega$	256 42	
<i>i</i>	95 10	
<i>q</i>	0.8925	

Ephemeris computed by Mr. L. E. Cunningham.

1941 U.T.	<i>a</i>	$\delta$	<i>g</i>		Mag.
Aug. 2.0	13h 09 <sup>m</sup> . 7 <sup>s</sup>	+31' 20"	1.10	1.06	8.2
Sept. 3.0	12 24	41	1.4	0.9	7.5
Oct. 5.0	11 26	46	1.3	1.1	8.5
Nov. 6.0	9 25	50	0.9	1.4	9.5
Dec. 8.0	5 08	33	0.8	1.8	11.0
.. 24.0	4 06	19	1.1	2.0	12.5

The magnitudes have been computed from the sixth-power law.

Prof. Strömngren suggests that Comet Bernasconi-Zagar, discovered at Bologna on June 17, is probably Comet van Gent.

### Announcements

THE Annual Congress of the Royal Sanitary Association of Scotland will be held in Glasgow on September 16-17.

A PAN-AMERICAN League against Cancer has been founded in New York under the presidency of Prof. Angelo H. Roffo, director of the Institute for Experimental Medicine at Buenos Aires.

THE subsidization of private growers of cinchona in India is being urged by the India Chemical Manufacturing Association, which points out that, if anti-malarial treatment is to be provided in India, at least 6 lakh lb. of quinine will be required annually. The present consumption is about 2 lakh lb., of which India produces about 70,000 lb., the remainder being imported from abroad.

A new national natural history society chiefly for scouts, guides and schoolboys under eighteen years of age, to be known as the Grey Owl Society, was recently formed at Haslemere, Surrey, by D. P. Faux, who is honorary secretary, the other officials being: *President*, Eric Hardy; *Editor*, P. Shaw Baker; *Hon. Treasurer*, Miss Watson. The society is to have a half-yearly journal called *Wild Life*, to publish instructive pamphlets, organize lectures, outdoor meetings; correspondence, an identification service and possibly nature study examinations. An explanatory booklet is now in the press. The secretary's address is 5 Lion Lane, Haslemere, and membership is also open to people over eighteen.