

of diphtheria and tetanus, anthrax, immunity, etc. (1893), the works of Fabricius ab Aquapendente (1619-20), James Lind's "Essay on Diseases incident to Europeans in Hot Climates" (1792), the Life and Letters of Michael Faraday (1870) and George E. Ellis's Biography of Count Rumbold (1871).

The principal feature in Schuman's List B is the inclusion of nine items concerning Paracelsus, the fourth centenary of whose death takes place this year. These items are a Latin translation of one of his principal works, embodying much of his work on chemical therapeutics (1578), his surgical writings in Swiss-German (1605), English translations of Leonardo Fiorovanti's work (1653), Paracelsus's hermetic and alchemical writings (1894), and his one hundred and fourteen experiments and cures (1652), Franz Hartman's "Life of Paracelsus" (1896), the first edition of Browning's poem (1835) and an early seventeenth-century portrait of Paracelsus from the G. Ritter von Frank collection.

Colour Changes in the Paradise Fish

It is well known that the paradise fish, *Macropodus opercularis*, is capable of changing its colour. Y. C. Chin and J. C. Li (*Peking Nat. Hist. Bull.*, 15; 1941) have shown that such changes can be induced by changes in light intensity, temperature and the environmental colour. Their experiments indicate that in the performance of this reflex the eyes act as the receptors and the melanophores as the effectors. The receptor and effector systems communicate in the medulla oblongata. The melanophore nerves appear to be of two kinds, one concentrating and the other dispersive. The actual changes in the melanophores are brought about by the secretion of neurohumours secreted at the ends of the nerves and these are not transmitted by the blood but diffuse from cell to cell. The authors have attempted to express the results in quantitative terms that will permit of more accurate comparisons in future work.

Sawflies of the Berkhamsted District

MR. R. B. BENSON has given students of Hymenoptera valuable help with his paper "Sawflies of the Berkhamsted District" (*Trans. Herts. Nat. Hist. Soc.*, 21, 177-231; 1940). The work is divided into three parts: (a) Introduction, (b) List of Species, and (c) References.

In (a), among other matters, the author compares on a percentage basis the number of species—313—taken in Hertfordshire with the other insect groups which have been collected in the county, but takes care to point out that the results tend to show what groups have been best collected rather than the relative abundance of any one of them. The sawflies head the list with 72 per cent, a figure which on either count speaks much for the energy and untiring patience which the author has brought to the task of collecting these insects. Attention is directed to the fact that the abundance of a species may vary within very wide limits over a large number of years. Zoogeographical and ecological

aspects are also discussed. Range of locality in Hertfordshire, frequency of occurrence, times of appearance and food-plants of the species are given. The table of references comprises fifty-five items.

Prof. Olof Hammarsten (1841-1932)

PROF. OLOF HAMMARSTEN, the celebrated Swedish biochemist, was born at Norrköping in Sweden on August 21, 1841. He received his medical education at Uppsala, where he qualified in 1869, and was assistant at the laboratory for clinical chemistry and the physiological institute. In 1877 he was appointed extraordinary professor of physiology at Uppsala, where he became professor of medical and physiological chemistry in 1883; he held this post until his retirement in 1906. His chief work was his textbook on physiological chemistry, which for many years stood almost alone as a work of reference and was translated into several foreign languages. He had previously won a high reputation by numerous contributions to biochemistry, including the milk-curdling properties of gastric juice, the behaviour of rennin, the role of calcium in the clotting of milk and blood, the proteins of the blood and the mucous substances in the bile. In 1906 he was the recipient of a *Festschrift* which contained a bibliography of his writings up to 1905. He died on September 21, 1932.

Announcements

PROF. J. C. DRUMMOND, professor of biochemistry in the University of London and scientific adviser to the Ministry of Food, has been elected Fullerian professor of physiology in the Royal Institution in succession to Sir Frederick Keeble.

PROF. C. LOVATT EVANS, Jodrell professor of physiology in University College, London, has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Physiographical Society of Lund, Sweden.

AT the recent conferring of degrees at the Queen's University, Belfast, the degree of doctor of science was conferred on Bryan A. Toms, of the Department of Chemistry of the University.

THE Swedish International Press Bureau reports that a board for the control of incorrect or misleading advertisements of medical preparations has recently been appointed in Sweden consisting of representatives of the Royal Medical Board, the Swedish Medical Association, the Federation of Swedish Industries, the Advertising Association and the Newspaper Publishers' Association.

THE next award of the Rolleston Memorial Prize, now worth about £100, will be made in Trinity term, 1942, and graduates or research students of the Universities of Oxford or Cambridge, within ten years from matriculation, are eligible. The prize is given for original research in animal and vegetable morphology, physiology or pathology. Essays should be sent to the Assistant Registrar, University Registry, Oxford, before March 31, 1942.