

leg-bones" (p. 8). Good evidence is supplied in support of the claim that from the characters of both skull and skeleton the moas can be separated into two natural divisions: "the tall *Dinornithidæ*, with flattened broad skulls and the normal number of phalanges, are regarded as standing apart from the others." The second division absorbs the remainder, which thus includes a considerable number of genera and species. These two sections are the equivalent of Dr. Oliver's *Dinornithidæ* and *Anomalopterygidæ*. Careful diagnoses and descriptions are given of the genera and species, and these greatly help to bring order into this rather unwieldy group. In habits these birds appear to have been tolerant of different climatic conditions, vegetarian in their diet, and dwellers in open scrub and grassland. Dr. Archey refuses to credit the great *Dinornis* with a maximum height of twelve feet, and thinks that it cannot have exceeded a normal walking height of ten feet. The phylogeny of the moas is of paramount interest, being related to the problem of the origin of all the large flightless birds, but the author does little more than review this subject, although he seems inclined to cling to the belief in a loss of flight through degeneracy. Dr. Percy Lowe's brilliant anatomical researches, coupled with the discovery of an ever-increasing number of large fossil flightless birds in nearly every region of the globe, forces this old belief to appear in a somewhat fantastic light.

The last section of the book, entitled "Development and Extinction", includes much diverse information. The author concludes that the evidence all points to the "final extermination of the Moa by the earliest Polynesian immigrants a considerable time ago, first in the North Island and later in the South, and probably before the arrival of the immediate ancestors of the present Maori tribes in the Fleet migration of 600 years ago" (p. 97). There are also new and interesting details about the occurrence of the remains, notes on recent geological happenings affecting the moas, and so forth. The volume is completed with a comprehensive bibliography, a series of tables of measurements of limb bones, and fifteen plates. This brief notice should serve to show that this is a volume which will be indispensable to every serious ornithologist. D. M. A. BATE.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

[Meeting marked with an asterisk is open to the public.]

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6

INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS (LONDON AND HOME COUNTIES' BRANCH) (at the South-West Essex Technical College, Forest Road, Walthamstow, London, E.17), at 2.30 p.m.—Dr. W. G. Wearmouth: "Physical Problems in the Plastics Industry".

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY (at Kensington Gore, London, S.W.7), at 3 p.m.—Lieut. L. G. Trorey: "Photographic Survey by High Obliques; the Canadian Plotter and Crone's Graphical Solution".

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

CHADWICK PUBLIC LECTURE (at the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 26 Portland Place, London, W.1), at 2.30 p.m.—Mrs. Blaise Gillie: "Post-War Housing in the Light of War-Time Experience".*

ILLUMINATING ENGINEERING SOCIETY (at the E.L.M.A. Lighting Service Bureau, 2 Savoy Hill, London, W.C.2), at 2.30 p.m.—Mr. R. Maxted: "Infra-Red Radiation and Equipment, their Application to Industrial Processes".

INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (Joint Meeting with the Institutions of Civil and Electrical Engineers) (at Central Hall, Westminster, London, S.W.1), at 10.45 a.m.—Conference on "Air Raid Precautions and the Engineering Industry".

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN (at 21 Albemarle Street, London, W.1), at 2.30 p.m.—Prof. J. C. Drummond: "Recent Advances in the Science of Nutrition and their Significance in War-Time".

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS (at John Adam Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.2), at 1.45 p.m.—Miss Elizabeth Denby: "The Post-War Home—Its Interior and Equipment". 2: "Using Space to Advantage".

PHYSICAL SOCIETY (COLOUR GROUP) (at the Electric Lamp Manufacturers' Association, 2 Savoy Hill, London, W.C.2), at 2.35 p.m.—Dr. F. H. G. Pitt: "Colour Blindness and its Importance in Industry".

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY (at 17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.1), at 2.30 p.m.—Mr. Thomas Tickle: "The Influence of Analytical Chemistry on Pharmacy" (Harrison Memorial Lecture).

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12

NORTH-EAST COAST INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS AND SHIPBUILDERS (at the Mining Institute, Newcastle-upon-Tyne), at 6 p.m.—Dr. A. Caress: "Plastics and Engineering".

APPOINTMENTS VACANT

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments on or before the dates mentioned:

PROFESSOR OF AGRICULTURE—The Principal, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth (January 15).

JUNIOR ASSISTANT DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION ENGINEER by the Government of Sierra Leone—The Ministry of Labour and National Service, Central Register Branch, Queen Anne's Chambers, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1 (quoting E.339).

FIRST ASSISTANT PORT ENGINEER for the Basrah Port Directorate, Government of Iraq—The Ministry of Labour and National Service, Central Register Branch, Queen Anne's Chambers, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1 (quoting E.340).

SECOND ASSISTANT PORT ENGINEER for the Basrah Port Directorate, Government of Iraq—The Ministry of Labour and National Service, Central Register Branch, Queen Anne's Chambers, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1 (quoting E.341).

SENIOR ASSISTANT DRAINAGE AND IRRIGATION ENGINEER by the Government of Sierra Leone—The Ministry of Labour and National Service, Central Register Branch, Queen Anne's Chambers, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1 (quoting E.345).

ASSISTANT ENGINEER (CIVIL) for the Gold Coast Government Railway—The Ministry of Labour and National Service, Central Register Branch, Queen Anne's Chambers, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1 (quoting E.346).

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

Great Britain and Ireland

Interim Scheme for the Training and Resettlement of Disabled Persons. Pp. 8. (London: Ministry of Labour and National Service.) [411]

University of London: University College. Calendar, Session 1941-1942. Pp. lxiv+223+lxv+lxviii. (London: Taylor and Francis, Ltd.) [1111]

Other Countries

Brooklyn Botanic Garden Record. Vol. 30, No. 4: Prospectus of Courses, Lectures and other Educational Advantages offered to Members and to the General Public, 1941-1942. Pp. vi+225-251. (Brooklyn, N.Y.: Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.) [311]

Trinidad and Tobago: Forest Department. Administration Report of the Conservator of Forests for the Year 1940. Pp. 6. (Trinidad: Government Printer.) 6d. [311]

Government of Travancore. Administration Report of the Government Museum, 1115 M.E. Pp. ii+8. (Trivandrum: Government Press.) [311]

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections. Vol. 101, No. 4: Diseases and Artifacts on Skulls and Bones from Kodiak Island. By Alčá Hrdlička. (Publication 3640.) Pp. ii+14+11 plates. (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution.) [1011]

Gold Coast Colony. Report on the Forest Department for the Year 1940-41. Pp. 6. (Accra: Government Printing Department; London: Crown Agents for the Colonies.) 1s. [1011]

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