

commander of a military patrol going through that part of Northern Libya was requested by the Survey of Egypt to take aneroid readings, and the result was so surprising that at the earliest opportunity a scientific surveying party was sent there to confirm the data obtained. This led to a visit to the region by Hussein Sirry Bey (now Prime Minister), at that time director-general of the Survey Department, accompanied by Dr. Ball, director of the Desert Surveys branch.

There and then was conceived the huge project of bringing the water of the Mediterranean to the depression through a 60-km. aqueduct, part canal and part tunnel, and utilizing its fall from the exit—about 250 m. below the summit of the escarpment—for the generation of electric power on an enormous scale. They calculated that evaporation would effectively prevent the resulting lake from rising to the level of the site of the power-station.

This scheme appealed immensely to the people of Egypt—always worshippers of everything on a grand scale—for they immediately saw a navigable canal connecting the sea with a vast lake over which they might sail almost to Siwa, as well as a natural and inexhaustible electrical supply of 250–350,000 kw., providing cheap power and light for the towns and villages of the Delta.

After some experimental outlay on ascertaining the nature of the strata to be excavated, the idea was entirely abandoned, as its cost would have been prohibitive and exhausted the exchequer before any returns could reasonably be expected.

A point of considerable interest is that in the Miocene and later beds of the 300-metre escarpment of Qattara, a discovery was made of fossil bones of prehistoric animals, descendants of the Eocene *Arsinoitherium Zittelii* and contemporary ancestors of the elephant, excavated nearly forty years ago in the Fayum Province of Egypt. Owing to stress of work, this find could not be investigated, and is known only to the finder.

Qattara is the starting-point of many of the sand-dune belts of the Libyan Desert. Wind-erosion is persistently disintegrating the clays, sandstones and limestones out-cropping on the face of the escarpment, the grains being unceasingly swept away and blown southwards to add to the ever-increasing volume of these dunes, the most deadly obstacles to the domination of the desert yet encountered by man.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY (at Kensington Gore, London, S.W.7), at 3 p.m.—Mr. J. W. Crowfoot: "Syria".

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS (DOMINIONS AND COLONIES SECTION) (at John Adam Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.2), at 1.45 p.m.—Dr. Maurice Ashby: "British Empire Drugs Production".

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".

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN (at 21 Albemarle Street, London, W.1), at 2.30 p.m.—Sir John Russell, F.R.S.: "Collective Farming in Russia and the Ukraine".

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (at Savoy Place, Victoria Embankment, London, W.C.2), at 5 p.m.—Dr. W. G. Radley and Mr. E. P. G. Wright: "Voice-Frequency Signalling and Dialling in Long-Distance Telephony".

APPOINTMENTS VACANT

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

LECTURER IN ENGINEERING—The Clerk to the Governors, South-East Essex Technical College, Longbridge Road, Dagenham (December 17).

ASSISTANT LECTURER IN MATHEMATICS at the Brighton Technical College—The Education Officer, 54 Old Steine, Brighton 1 (December 19).

LECTURER IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING at the Hull Municipal Technical College—The Director of Education, Guildhall, Hull (December 22).

HEAD OF THE MECHANICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT of the Rutherford Technical College—The Director of Education, City Education Office, Northumberland Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 2 (December 27).

EDUCATION PSYCHOLOGIST (man or woman) and a PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER (woman)—The Director of Education, City Education Office, Northumberland Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 2 (December 31).

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER by the Nigerian Government Public Works Department—The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4 Millbank, London, S.W.1 (quoting M/9422).

ENGINEER by the Hong Kong Government Public Works Department—The Ministry of Labour and National Service, Central Register Branch, Queen Anne's Chambers, Tothill Street, London, S.W.1 (quoting E.352).

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

Great Britain and Ireland

Éire: Roinn Talmhaidheachta (Department of Agriculture): Brainse Iascaigh (Fisheries Branch). Report on the Sea and Inland Fisheries for the Year 1939. (P. No. 4657.) Pp. 30. (Dublin: Stationery Office.) 6d. [1111]

Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy. Vol. 47, Section B, No. 6: Salmon of the Owenduff (Ballycroxy) River. By Arthur E. J. Went. Pp. 161–178. (Dublin: Hodges, Figgis and Co., Ltd.; London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd.) 1s. [1311]

Other Countries

Canada: Department of Mines and Resources, Mines and Geology Branch: Bureau of Geology and Topography, Geological Survey. Memoir 226: Palaeozoic Geology of the Brantford Area, Ontario. By J. F. Caley. (No. 2458.) Pp. iv+176. 50 cents. Memoir 227: Jacquet River and Tetagouche River Map Areas, New Brunswick. By F. J. Alcock. (No. 2459.) Pp. iv+46. 25 cents. Memoir 230: Mineral Industry of the Northwest Territories. By C. S. Lord. (No. 2462.) Pp. vi+136. 50 cents. Paper 40-18: Report and Preliminary Map, Houston Map-Area, British Columbia. By A. H. Lang. Pp. iii+18+map. 10 cents. Paper 41-5: Preliminary Map, Manson Creek, British Columbia. By A. H. Lang. 10 cents. Paper 41-6: Vassan-Dubuisson Map Area, Abitibi County, Quebec (Summary Account). By G. W. H. Norman. Pp. iii+9+map. 10 cents. Paper 41-7: Northeast Part, Beauchastel Township, Temiscamingue County, Quebec (Summary Account). By E. D. Kindle. Pp. iii+5+map. 10 cents. Paper 41-8: Preliminary Map, Morley, Alberta. By G. S. Hume and H. H. Beach. 10 cents. Paper 41-9: Preliminary Map, Bighorn River, Alberta. By B. R. Mackay. 10 cents. Paper 41-11: Preliminary Map, Redcliff, Alberta. By J. S. Stewart. 10 cents. (Ottawa: King's Printer.) [1011]

U.S. Department of the Interior: Geological Survey. Bulletin 908: Geology of Area between Green and Colorado Rivers, Grand and San Juan Counties, Utah. By Edwin F. McKnight. Pp. v+147+13 plates. 1.50 dollars. Bulletin 910-C: Fineness of Gold from Alaska Placers. By Philip S. Smith. (Mineral Resources of Alaska, 1937.) Pp. vi+147-272+plate 3. 30 cents. Bulletin 911: Ore Deposits in the Vicinity of the London Fault of Colorado. By Quentin D. Singewald and B. S. Butler. Pp. vi+74+21 plates. 1.50 dollars. Water-Supply Paper 848: Ground Water in Keith County, Nebraska. By Leland K. Wenzel and Herbert A. Waite; with Sections on Platte Valley Public Power and Irrigation District, Sutherland Project, by E. E. Halmos, and Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District, Tri-County Project, by G. E. Johnson. Pp. iv+68+8 plates. 70 cents. Water-Supply Paper 869: Flood of August 1935 in the Muskingum River Basin, Ohio. By C. V. Youngquist and W. B. Langbein; with Sections on the Associated Meteorology and Hydrology, by Waldo E. Smith and A. K. Showalter. Pp. vi+118+8 plates. 40 cents. Water-Supply Paper 885: Surface Water Supply of Hawaii, July 1, 1938, to June 30, 1939. Pp. v+142. 20 cents. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) [1311]

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