

the Middle Atlantic States plus Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia of the South Atlantic Division, not a single case of smallpox occurred in 1940. In that year, as in every year, the majority of cases were reported in the north central area and in some of the western States. In most of these States large numbers of people disregard the danger of contracting smallpox, and minimize or ignore the efficacy of vaccination. On the other hand, in the neighbouring country of Canada, smallpox has been practically eliminated, as is shown by the fact that in 1940 there were only eleven cases and no deaths, while in eighty-seven cities there was not a single case.

Psychiatry in Sweden

IN a recent address (*Nordisk Med.*, 10, 1921; 1941) at the opening of the new Psychiatric Clinic at the Caroline Hospital, Stockholm, Dr. Viktor Wigert gave a retrospect of clinical psychiatry in Sweden during the last hundred years. In 1844 it was stated by the authorities in charge of the hospitals in Sweden that no expert knowledge was required for the treatment of insanity, which was therefore no concern of public health. This pronouncement had been occasioned by a demand made by a Royal Commission headed by Dr. Carl Ulrik Sondén that all institutions to be built for the care of the insane should provide for the treatment as well as for the confinement of the patients. Sondén, who was a pioneer in Swedish psychiatry, was the first to emphasize the importance of instruction in this branch of medicine, which was introduced in Sweden by Dr. Nils Gustaf Kjellberg, at the Uppsala Asylum in 1859. Kjellberg was an eminent man of science, who as early as 1863 expressed his conviction of a causal connexion between syphilis and general paralysis. In 1861 psychiatry was made a compulsory subject for the medical student in Sweden. In the 'nineties demands were made, particularly by Prof. Frey Svenson of Uppsala and Dr. Bror Gadelius of Stockholm, that special clinics for instruction in psychiatry should be created and that professors of psychiatry should be relieved of their duties as senior physicians to large asylums. Opposition to this demand, however, was not overcome until 1928, when it was decided to open a psychiatric clinic at the Lund University Hospital. The establishment of a similar clinic at the Uppsala University Hospital has since been decided upon, but this has not yet been completed. The psychiatric clinic recently established at the Caroline Institute of Stockholm finally realizes Sondén's desire for an institution for the cure of mental diseases.

War and Birds

ONE of the most noticeable effects of the war-time conditions upon British bird-life has been the rapid increase of magpies, judging from reports in many parts of the country. Much larger flocks than usual have been seen in many counties, like Cheshire, but there is no evidence of any harmful effect. The cessation of game preservation and 'vermin' shooting is the chief cause, and the jay, carrion-crow and sparrow-

hawk have shown increases from a similar cause. The felling of woods on a large scale is, however, affecting the distribution of the long-eared owl, woodcock, heron, rook, hawfinch as well as some of the woodland mammals and rarer birds of prey. Efforts to locate hobbies breeding in Wiltshire in 1941 failed.

The Night Sky in January

THE moon is full on January 2d. 15h. 42m. U.T. and new on January 16d. 21h. 32m. Lunar conjunctions with the planets occur on the following dates: Mercury on January 18d. 5h., Mercury 4° S.; Venus on January 18d. 13h., Venus 2° N.; Mars on January 24d. 8h., Mars 5° N.; Saturn on January 25d. 17h., Saturn 3° N.; Jupiter on January 27d. 10h., Jupiter 5° N. On January 21d. 1h. Mercury is in conjunction with Venus, Mercury being 6.2° S. Mars, Jupiter and Saturn are well placed for observation during the night, and Saturn's ring system is well presented for observation. Venus can be seen in the evening hours in the west and does not set until 19h. in the middle of the month. The earth makes its closest approach to the sun on January 2. The Quadrantid meteor shower is active on the first few days of January: the radiant is at R.A. 5h. 24m., Dec. 51° N., but this shower is not usually very conspicuous. On January 26d. 22h. 17m. there will be an occultation of γ Tauri, mag. 3.9. During the month the interval from sunset to sunrise in the latitude of London shortens by 1h. 12m.

Announcements

THE following officers of the Iron and Steel Institute have recently been elected: *President*, Mr. James Henderson; *Vice-president*, Dr. Andrew McCance; *Hon. Treasurer*, The Hon. R. G. Lyttelton; *Members of Council*, Prof. J. H. Andrew and Mr. N. H. Rollason. Mr. Walter S. Tower, president of the American Iron and Steel Institute, has been nominated an honorary member of the Institute, and the presidents of the Sheffield Society of Engineers and Metallurgists and of the Sheffield Metallurgical Association have been appointed honorary members of the Council.

CATALOGUE 27, entitled "Science", has recently been published by Ifan Kyrle Fletcher, late of 26 Old Bond Street, London, W.1, and now of Merridale, Caerleon, Mon. It contains lists of old books on astrology, chemistry, mathematics, medicine and physics, as well as important works on civil and marine engineering from the library of Sir William Cubitt (1785-1861). Among the books of special interest and rarity are William Beaumont's "Experiments and Observations on the Gastric Juice and the Physiology of Digestion" (1833), Thomas Vicary's "The Englishman's Treasure with the True Anatomie of Man's Bodie" (1599), the "Histoire de l'Académie Royale des Sciences avec les Mémoires de Mathématique et de Physique", vols. 1700-1730, lacking the volume for 1728, but containing the rare supplementary volume for 1718, and Robert Boyle's "Paradoxa Hydrostatica" (1670).