

Materia Medica has concentrated on investigations of Chinese drugs, such as Chinese ephedra. The active principles have been isolated, and their properties and pharmacological action studied. Some materials such as ephedrin and vitamin B₁ have been prepared on a commercial scale for clinical use. The Institute of Physiology has extended its investigations on the physiological effects of various Chinese drugs to investigations on the nutrition values of the foodstuffs used by inhabitants of the south-west of China, and the treatment of Chicken cholera with sulphanilamide. The Institute of Zoology, besides work on the fauna of Yunnan, has made systematic studies of the principal freshwater fauna of Yunnan, particularly the fishes of the inland lakes, their diseases and enemies. The Institute of Botany has commenced investigations on economic botany, in addition to those on agriculture and forestry already in progress, and a special survey of the plant life of north-west China has been planned and organized. The Institute of Geology is mainly occupied with the detailed mapping of mineral deposits (see also p. 9 of this issue of *NATURE*).

Earthquake in Turkey

ON June 20, following foreshocks during the previous night to the accompaniment of torrential rain, a severe earthquake shook the beautiful, rich, fruit-growing district just to the east of the Gulf of Ismid, on either side of the Istanbul-Ankara Railway about sixty miles east of Istanbul. The epicentre of the shock was near, and probably just east of, the town of Adapazar, where most of the buildings were wholly or partly wrecked. Other towns more or less damaged in the district were Geyve, Arefie and Hendick, the latter twenty miles east of Adapazar. Nearly all the villages in the district suffered. The shock was felt severely in Istanbul, where some apprehension was caused by walls collapsing. The Constantine Pillar in old Istanbul, dating from the first half of the fourth century, is reported to have been damaged.

Adapazar is a town of some 20,000 inhabitants, and it is fortunate that most of the people there and in the surrounding districts were out of doors, otherwise the death-roll would have been higher than the present estimate of 2,000. Telephone and rail communication broke down so that full information is not yet available, but it is known that the bulk of the population is now living in tents in the fields and orchards of the district. A strong shock was recorded at Stonyhurst College Observatory, near Blackburn (Rev. J. P. Rowland, *S.J.*), at 15h. 38m. 26s., and another at 17h. 59m. 18s., both probably from the Turkish focus. The shock, therefore, probably took place about 15h. 32·8m. and the aftershock about 17h. 53·7m. Help has been sent to the stricken area from Ismid, Bolu and Istanbul, and further information from the district is awaited. The last serious earthquake in Turkey was some six months ago, though the country, particularly that part to the east of the present disturbance, has never been free from recurrent small shocks since the great Turkish earthquake of December 27, 1939 (*NATURE*, 145, 13; 1940).

Wellcome Research Institution

FREQUENT inquiries are being received, both from this country and abroad, with regard to the two Wellcome Museums. They are, and will continue to be,

housed in the Wellcome Research Institution, 183-193 Euston Road, N.W.1. Although the Wellcome Research Institution building suffered considerable damage by enemy action, its structure was unharmed and the Museums can quickly be put into shape again as soon as labour and materials become available after the War. While some of the objects in the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum were damaged, it has been possible to replace or repair most of them. Fortunately, the specimens and other valuable material in the Wellcome Museum of Medical Science remained comparatively intact.

Both Museums are now under the directorship of Dr. S. H. Daukes. A comprehensive scheme for the Wellcome Historical Medical Museum has been prepared and will be brought to completion as speedily as possible after the cessation of hostilities. The Wellcome Medical Library, comprising more than 150,000 volumes, will also be in the same building, and suitable accommodation will be provided for research workers so that both the library and collections may be readily available. The Wellcome Museum of Medical Science—which in the past has been much used by teachers, students and those engaged in post-graduate studies—will be re-established in its entirety at the end of the War with the utmost possible speed. The large lecture hall will be fully re-equipped, including film projection apparatus, and will then be available for scientific lectures and meetings.

Local Industrial Health Advisory Councils

SHORTAGE of medical personnel makes it impossible to satisfy the need for an industrial health service at all fully at the present time in Great Britain, but in every area there are individuals who have sufficient knowledge and experience to give very material assistance in solving local problems. The workers themselves are beginning to take an active interest in measures to promote safety and health, and in some factories safety and/or health committees have already been set up. One of the difficulties that faces these committees in factories where no medical officer is available is how to obtain professional and technical advice in dealing with their problems. Advice on points to note that are particularly valuable as indications of general health trends can also be well used by interested workers. The Leicester Branch of the Socialist Medical Association has endeavoured to bridge this gap in the following way. First, a meeting of workers' representatives was called and an outline given to them of the problem as seen from the point of view of medical and allied personnel. At this meeting, considerable information was obtained regarding health conditions in local factories, and questionnaires were distributed so that further details might be submitted and collated. A second meeting was then held, this time for health workers—medical men, nurses, social workers, welfare officers, etc.—and the information received in the questionnaires was put before them. Arising out of this meeting, a local industrial health advisory council has been set up, through which it is hoped that specialist advice on industrial health matters will be available wherever it is required. There is also, of course, the Central Council for Health Education (Tavistock House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.2), which has considerable facilities and offers help and advice on industrial and other health problems.