

present to participate fully, equally and without prejudice to their positions in the Conference.

The text of the tentative draft constitution for the proposed Organization consists of seven sections. It opens with a statement of the underlying reasons why international co-operation in educational reconstruction should be attempted. The functions of the projected Organization are then defined in terms which should permit it to work effectively in the fields of educational and cultural rehabilitation and reconstruction, and to develop ultimately into a permanent body with broader activities. Membership is to be open to all the United Nations and Associated Nations and to such other nations as shall be accepted by the assembly, upon application thereto, after the cessation of hostilities with the Axis Powers. Provision is made for an assembly with equal representation and votes for all member States, an executive board to be elected by the assembly and an international secretariat. The financial section states that administrative expenses shall be shared by the member nations on a basis to be agreed by the assembly. It also provides for the creation of an Emergency Rehabilitation Fund controlled by a committee, which will fix contributions and also make allocations from the Fund. The committee will consist of representatives of the three States making the largest contributions for administrative expenses and three members elected by the executive board. Member nations would be required to supply information about education and cultural matters. Provision is also made for defining the legal status of the Organization and its staff, providing for co-operation between the Organization and existing international organizations in the educational and cultural fields, and governing the relationship of the Organization to any agency for co-ordinating public international organizations.

#### Clinical Use of Penicillin

THE issue of the *British Medical Journal* dated April 15 includes eight papers which record the results of work done at one of the four main centres established in March 1943 by the Penicillin Clinical Trials Committee of the Medical Research Council. A leading article comments on these papers and on other work in the United States, where much larger supplies of penicillin are available, so that work on a larger scale is possible. In the first article, Prof. L. P. Garrod and Dr. Christie describe the work and policy of the centre at which all this work was done. Other articles deal with the systemic administration of penicillin by continuous intravenous drip, intramuscular injection, drip transfusion into the bone marrow of the sternum and continuous intramuscular drip transfusion; with the effects of penicillin on infections of the mandible and of bone, the latter indicating that treatment of chronic bone infections is not yet satisfactory; with its use as a local application to lesions of soft tissues (wounds, abscesses, cellulitis and infected skin eruptions); and its effects on breast abscess and certain skin diseases.

A final article by Prof. Garrod explains the extensive laboratory work which is necessary if the clinical work is to be properly controlled. Penicillin is supplied in the form of a powder or tablets and solutions have to be made from these. Because penicillin is a very labile substance, and because many bacteria are quite unaffected by it and may, therefore, live in these solutions or even decompose them so that they lose their activity, the greatest care is necessary

in making up the solutions. Further, it is advisable to determine, before treatment, what micro-organism is being treated and the sensitivity of the particular strain concerned, because certain strains of some kinds of bacteria (especially *Staphylococcus*) vary in their resistance to penicillin. It is also necessary to obtain swabs from the patients to check by *in vitro* methods the effects of treatment. Because the therapeutic effect depends on keeping up a sufficient concentration of penicillin in the lesion, the concentration actually being maintained must be ascertained from samples taken from the patient. Estimations of the penicillin content of the blood are also done.

It will do no harm, perhaps, to repeat Prof. Garrod's reminder that it is of the first importance to realize that penicillin acts only on certain bacteria, most of which are Gram-positive, the chief exceptions being the gonococcus and meningococcus; and that certain bacteria are highly resistant to it. On the other hand, it has, he says, enormous antiseptic power, is almost completely indifferent to the medium in which it acts and almost completely non-toxic to the body as a whole. Clearly everything possible is being done in Great Britain and elsewhere to apply this remarkable antibacterial substance to the relief of suffering in man and animals. Those who impatiently demand quicker progress are evidently unaware of the great difficulties involved, and are often incapable of assessing the scientific care required, or the dangers of drawing premature conclusions from the extensive experimental work that is being done.

#### Warrington Yorke Memorial Fund

THE death of Prof. Warrington Yorke, tragically unexpected by those who knew his vigour and force of character, was a great loss to the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and to medicine and biology. His work on the trypanosomes, the nematodes and on other parasitic and tropical diseases earned for him an international reputation, and his later work on the chemotherapy of parasitic diseases was of equal value. It is said of him (*Brit. Med. J.*, April 15) that his introduction of drugs of the diamidine series is making it possible to master kala-azar in places where it is resistant to compounds of antimony, and tribute is paid to his efforts to place British chemotherapy in the front rank. Not only the former colleagues and friends of Warrington Yorke, but also all who respect and admire scientific ability and devoted effort to apply it to the relief of human and animal suffering, will like to know that their admiration may take a practical form. The Council of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine is appealing for funds to establish the Chemotherapeutic Research Department of that School as a fitting memorial to Warrington Yorke, who started the work now going on in it. Subscriptions may be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Warrington Yorke Memorial Fund, Chamber of Commerce, 1 Old Hall Street, Liverpool.

#### Tattersall Memorial Fund

PAST and present students of the Department of Zoology, University College, Cardiff, have opened a Tattersall Memorial Fund, the object of which is to found a studentship in zoology in the College as a memorial to the late Prof. W. M. Tattersall, who died on October 5, 1943. The organizers of the Fund also desire to invite the many friends of Prof. Tattersall, particularly zoologists, in various parts of the world, to join them in perpetuating his memory.

Information may be had from Mr. G. E. H. Foxon, who is acting as the honorary secretary and treasurer of the Fund, at the Department of Zoology, University College, Newport Road, Cardiff, and to whom donations should be sent.

### Earthquakes Registered at Fiji

THE first seismological bulletin has been received from the acting director of the Meteorological Office at Suva (Dr. W. Ralph Dyer). At this station a Milne-Shaw horizontal seismograph has been set up to register north-south movements, the co-ordinates of the station being latitude  $18^{\circ} 08' 56''$  south, longitude  $178^{\circ} 27' 26''$  east. The first earthquake to be recorded officially at this station occurred on July 31, 1943. Thirty earthquakes were registered in August, and up to September 21 twenty-two earthquakes were registered during September. On September 21 the seismograph was temporarily out of action owing to delays in the supply of photographic paper. The initiation of this new station is warmly welcomed. The attention of the Seismological Committee of the British Association for the Advancement of Science to this matter has been mentioned previously in the columns of NATURE, and the new station is also receiving assistance from the Dominion Observatory at Wellington, New Zealand. The Fiji Seismological Station is in an excellent position for the recording of the frequent earthquakes and tremors, a large number of which are submarine, in that Pacific region.

### Town and Country Planning Association

THE Town and Country Planning Association will move to the Planning Centre, 28 King Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2 on May 8. The new premises provide a room for public meetings (including the Association's fortnightly lunch-time meetings), space for exhibitions and film shows and a meeting room for the Association's members and guests. The Association's library service will be greatly extended and an information service will be made available to deal with all aspects of town and country planning. The Association has arranged an exhibition "The English Town: its Continuity and Development", which is being taken to various parts of England during the next few months, and also an exhibition and film "When We Build Again".

### Comet Schaumasse

PROF. H. SHAPLEY reports a telegram received from Strömgren and Lundmark announcing the re-discovery of this comet on March 30. The elements of its orbit and an ephemeris are given in the "Handbook of the British Astronomical Association", 1944. Perihelion passage took place about November 27.

### Research into Problems of Hearing and Deafness

By arrangement with the Medical Research Council, an Otological Research Unit has been established at the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Square, London, W.C.1. It is to be maintained jointly by the Council and the Hospital, as in the case of the existing Neurological Research Unit. The director is Dr. C. S. Hallpike, a whole-time member of the Council's scientific staff and aural physician to the Hospital. The Medical Research Council, also, has appointed three new committees to advise and assist in promoting a general programme of research work into problems of deafness. They will deal with the following divisions of the

subject. (a) Medical and surgical problems of the causation, prevention and treatment of deafness (chairman: Prof. H. Cohen, University of Liverpool). (b) Electro-acoustical problems relating to the design and application of instruments used in the investigation and alleviation of deafness (chairman: Dr. W. G. Radley, Post Office Research Station). (c) Problems relating to the educational treatment of deafness in children and adults (chairman: Prof. F. C. Bartlett, University of Cambridge). The membership of the committees includes nominees of Government departments and various bodies concerned with the practical questions which are involved.

### Birds of Ceylon

MR. P. DERANIYAGALA, director of the National Museums of Ceylon, writes, pointing out that in the obituary notice of Hugh Whistler appearing in NATURE of August 21, 1943, no reference is made to his last major work, the avifaunal survey of Ceylon by the British and Colombo Museums. Whistler worked out the collections, and the results are now being printed in the Colombo Museum journal, *Spolia Zeylanica*; they should be published by about May.

### The Night Sky in May

FULL moon occurs on May 8d. 07h. 28m. U.T., and new moon on May 22d. 06h. 12m. The following conjunctions with the moon take place: May 20d. 13h., Mercury  $2^{\circ}$  N.; May 24d. 04h., Saturn  $2^{\circ}$  N.; May 27d. 01h., Mars  $1^{\circ}$  N.; May 28d. 10h., Jupiter  $1^{\circ}$  S. There is only one occultation during May, and that is of 56 Gemi. on May 25d. 21h. 00.1m. (D). Mercury is in inferior conjunction on May 2 and is stationary on May 14. The planet rises about the time of sunrise in the middle of the month and forty minutes before sunrise on May 31. Venus, rising shortly before the sun throughout May, is not very well placed for observation. Mars moves from the constellation of Gemini into Cancer about the middle of May and is visible during the early part of the night. On May 1 the planet sets at 1h. and on May 31 at 23h. 48m. Jupiter is in the constellation of Leo and sets at 2h. 10m. and 0h. 19m. at the beginning and end of May. Saturn, in the constellation of Taurus, is drawing near the sun and sets at 23h. and 21h. 19m. at the beginning and end of the month. The  $\eta$  Aquarids are active during May 1-6 and can be seen in the early morning hours. The radiant is close to R.A. 22h. Dec.  $-2^{\circ}$ .

### Announcements

SIR JOHN MARSHALL, formerly director-general of archaeology in India, has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Asiatic Society.

PROF. W. N. HAWORTH, professor of chemistry in the University of Birmingham, has been elected president of the Chemical Society.

THE Committee on Nutrition Surveys, set up by the English Group of the Nutrition Society, a year ago, has drawn up a list of investigations, recent or in progress, into: (a) Consumption of Food; (b) Nutritional State; and (c) Effect of Supplements on Health and Efficiency. The number is unexpectedly large. A list of these investigations will be sent to anyone working on the subjects, on application to the director, Prof. J. R. Marraek, Advisory Committee on Nutrition Surveys, Bureau of Nutrition Surveys, London Hospital, E.1.