

Manchester Museum : Annual Report for 1948-49

THE annual report of the Manchester Museum for the year ending July 31, 1949 (pp. 24; Manchester: the Museum, 1950), records that the period under review was a notable one in the history of the Museum. This was not so much on account of any remarkable progress made during the year, but because of various long-term policies that were initiated. During recent years shortage of staff and lack of money have been serious handicaps. The improvement of finance—chiefly due to the increase of annual grants from the City and the University—have made it possible for the committee to increase the staff in several directions. This increase of staff—professional, administrative and technical—is already reflected in increased activity in the exhibition galleries, overhaul of reserve collections, carrying out of various works of conservation, publishing literature relating to the collections, and in advancing scientific research. All these are major functions of a museum, and it is gratifying to record that the Manchester Museum is placing its increased income to these purposes.

Biological Indicators in the Northern North Sea

MARINE animals, the distribution of which is limited to oceanic water-masses of defined characters, may be used for indicating the movements of such water-masses into other areas. As 'biological indicators' they may provide powerful tools for the physical oceanographer. Salps and doliolids may be so used for indicating Atlantic oceanic water intruding on to the Continental Shelf. In a publication of the Scottish Home Department, Fisheries Division, entitled "Scientific Investigations, 1949, No. 1: The Distribution of Thaliacea (Salps and Doliolids) in Scottish Waters, 1920 to 1939" (pp. 44; Edinburgh and London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1949; 2s. net), Dr. J. H. Fraser has examined plankton hauls taken over a period of twenty years by Scottish research vessels and has produced evidence of much value to the physical oceanographer and fisheries naturalist. The numbers and distribution of salps and doliolids in the northern North Sea have varied much from year to year and accord with the hydrographical observations. Influxes of Atlantic water are variable and do not occur in Scottish waters when there are large influxes into the English Channel and vice versa.

Clayton and Manville Fellowships and Grants

UNDER two bequests, the Clayton Bequest and the Manville Bequest, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers has made the following awards for post-graduate training, experience or research in mechanical engineering, for research at the places mentioned: *Clayton Fellowships*, 1950: J. Halling (Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, on "Rolling Friction with Special Reference to Surface Finish"); E. P. Hotchen (College of Technology, Manchester, on "The Measurement of Flue Gas Temperatures"); John Houghton (Queen Mary College, London, on "The Effect of End Constraint on Thin-walled and Solid Cylinders of Hyperbolic Aerofoil Shape"); R. V. Macbeth (King's College, London, on "The Combustion of Oil Fuels"); G. Moss (King's College, London, on "A New Form of Continuous Filter"); F. Ellis (Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, on "Certain Aspects of Hot and Cold Rolling by Photo-elastic and Other Methods"). *Manville Fellowship and Clayton Grant*,

1950: B. Mills (University of Birmingham, on "The Flow of Gas Through Poppet-type Exhaust Valves at Subsonic and Supersonic Velocities"); *Clayton Grants*, 1950: E. Harvey (Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, on "A Method of Jet Propulsion for Marine Application"); H. C. Barty (for development of "Damping Devices for Road Vehicle Suspension")

Announcements

IN connexion with the International Congress of Anatomists, meeting at Oxford, the University of Oxford has conferred the honorary degree of D.Sc. on Prof. George W. Corner, director of the Department of Embryology, Carnegie Institution of Washington, Prof. W. M. Woerdeman, professor of embryology in the University of Amsterdam, and Dr. L. S. B. Leakey, curator of the Coryndon Memorial Museum, Nairobi.

MR. W. A. ROBERTSON, forestry adviser to the Secretary of State, will be retiring from his present post at the end of this year, and Mr. F. S. Collier, at present chief conservator of forests, Nigeria, has been appointed to succeed him. Mr. Collier will take up his duties in the new year.

THE annual conference of Aslib (incorporating the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux and the British Society for International Bibliography) will be held in the University of Bristol during September 22-25. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Aslib, 4 Palace Gate, London, W.8.

A SYMPOSIUM on the techniques of subjective appraisal is to be held in London on October 14. The programme is to be divided into two main topics: (a) stimulus-sensation relationship; (b) the subject as an assessor of sensation. The organisation is in the hands of a committee consisting of Dr. D. W. Fry, Department of Phonetics, University College, London, Prof. R. C. Oldfield, University of Reading, and Dr. R. G. Hopkinson, Building Research Station, Garston, Watford, Herts (*secretary*); further information can be obtained from Dr. Hopkinson.

A TWO-DAY joint meeting has been arranged by the Edinburgh Section and the Fine Chemicals Group of the Society of Chemical Industry, to be held in Edinburgh during October 6-7. The programme includes an address by Dr. F. Bergel, chairman of the Fine Chemicals Group, on "The Biological and Therapeutic Significance of Organic Phosphates occurring in Nature"; and the third Lister Lecture of the Society, to be delivered by Prof. G. F. Marrian, professor of chemistry in relation to medicine in the University of Edinburgh, under the title of "The Adrenocortical Hormones". Further particulars can be obtained from the honorary local secretary of the Edinburgh Section, Mr. G. W. Walker, c/o T. and H. Smith, Ltd., Wheatfield Road, Edinburgh 11.

WELLCOME PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS of £350 each for one year have been awarded to the following: Miss M. Dawson, for research at the School of Pharmacy, Royal Technical College, Glasgow, where she is on the staff, on the properties of pyrogenic substances; Mr. J. R. Hodges, for work at the School of Pharmacy, University of London, in pharmacology; and Mr. G. P. Lewis, for research at the Welsh National School of Medicine, into the properties of a group of newly synthesized anti-histamine compounds.