

Museum under its director, Mr. Tom Harrison. Field research in various directions has been undertaken, new buildings have been put up, and the *Journal* of the Museum has been revived. Two recent issues of the *Sarawak Museum Journal* (6 and 7, New Series) give some indication of the scope of its activities. They include historical matter, notably an account of some of the pioneers of development in Borneo, zoology, accounts of aboriginal customs, myths and archaeology. A matter of some general interest is the occurrence of Chinese porcelain and other imported wares in the possession of aboriginal groups in the interior. This is the subject of an article by the director, and further light is thrown on it by the report of the excavation of two interesting burials of about a century ago by Mrs. Harrison. In a time of rapid change, the *Journal* is performing a useful service in recording information which will soon be unobtainable, besides the results of exploration and research where much remains to be done.

#### University of London: Appointments

THE following appointments in the University of London have been announced: Dr. C. C. Butler, reader in physics, and Prof. A. W. Skempton, professor of soil mechanics, both of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, to the University chairs of physics and of civil engineering, respectively, tenable at that College; Dr. M. J. Blunt, senior lecturer in anatomy at St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, to the University readership in anatomy tenable at that College.

#### The Physical Society Exhibition

THE Physical Society Exhibition of Scientific Instruments and Apparatus is to be held during March 25-23 in the Royal Horticultural Society's Old and New Halls, Westminster, London, S.W.1. The opening ceremony will be performed in the New Hall by Prof. P. M. S. Blackett, on March 25, at 11 a.m. Discourses will be given at 6.15 p.m. as follows: (March 25) "The International Geophysical Year", by Sir Harold Spencer Jones; (March 26) "The Supply and Distribution of Liquid Helium", by Dr. E. Mendoza; and (March 27) "On Recent Trends in Acoustics", by Prof. E. G. Richardson. Inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, Physical Society, 1 Lowther Gardens, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7.

#### Gas Chromatography

A SYMPOSIUM on "Vapour Detectors for Gas Chromatography" will take place at the University of Oxford on May 3, at 11.15 a.m. The meeting is being organized, under the auspices of the Hydrocarbon Research Group of the Institute of Petroleum, by the Gas Chromatography Discussion Group. The following detectors will be described:  $\beta$ -ray ionization cells; the low pressure discharge tube; the gas density balance; and thermistor thermal conductivity cells. The proceedings will not be recorded or published. Application for tickets should be sent (before April 1) to Mr. D. H. Desty, Gas Chromatography Discussion Group, British Petroleum Co., Ltd., Research Station, Chertsey Road, Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex.

#### Announcements

DR. F. T. ROSSER has been appointed vice-president (administration) of the National Research Council of

Canada. Dr. Rosser, who was formerly director of the Division of Administration, succeeds Dr. E. R. Birchard, who continues in his position of president of Canadian Patents and Development, Ltd.

AMONG the courses being given at Norwood Technical College is one of twelve lectures, held on Saturday mornings from 9.15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., commencing on April 6, on "Semi-microchemical Methods". Application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Norwood Technical College, Knight's Hill, London, S.E.27.

THE Society for Applied Bacteriology announces that during its summer conference, to be held in Leeds during July 2-5, a one-and-a-half day symposium will be presented on "The Formation and Germination of Bacterial Spores". Further details can be obtained from the secretary, G. Sykes, Boots Pure Drug Co., Ltd., Microbiology Division, Nottingham.

A DISCUSSION on the "Molecular Mechanism of Rate Processes in Solids" will be held by the Faraday Society in conjunction with the Koninklijke Nederlandse Chemische Vereniging at the Netherlands Royal Tropical Institute, Mauritskade, Amsterdam, during April 15-18. Inquiries should be addressed to the Assistant Secretary, Faraday Society, 6 Gray's Inn Square, London, W.C.1.

AN Electronics Exhibition, organized by the Radio and Telecommunications Group of the North Western Centre of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, is to be held in the College of Science and Technology, Manchester, during March 26-27. This Exhibition is intended to stimulate recruitment to the electrical engineering profession. Demonstrations of working electronic equipment will illustrate the type of work undertaken by those choosing electronic engineering as a career.

THE Photoelectric Spectrometry Group recently conducted a survey on the use of spectroscopic solvents in an effort to assist the manufacturers of solvents in determining a likely market and quantities in demand. A preliminary report compiled by Dr. H. Campbell has been published in Bulletin No. 9 (September 1956) of the Photoelectric Spectrometry Group (from the Hon. Secretary, 56 Arbury Road, Cambridge; 7s. net).

THE Italian Physical Society is organizing the third International Conference on Ionization Phenomena in Gases, to be held in the Fondazione G. Cini in Venice during June 11-15. The four general sections will discuss: fundamental processes in ionized gases; mechanism and properties of various types of discharges; nuclear reactions in discharges; and technical and instrumental questions. English will be the preferred language, and the proceedings will be published in the *Supplemento of Il Nuovo Cimento*. Those who wish to attend the Conference or require further information should write before March 15 to the general secretary of the Conference, Prof. Ugo Facchini, Laboratori CISE, Via Procaccini 1, Milan.

ERRATUM. In the review entitled "Story of the Atom Bomb" in *Nature* of February 2, it is stated (p. 223) that a permanent increase by a factor of 100 in the general level of ionizing radiation would result in "a world radiation dose to the whole population of more than 400 roentgens"; for "400 roentgens" read "300 roentgens".