

zoites, following their penetration into erythrocytes, develop into gametocytes. Infections were determined by staining thin smears of peripheral blood with Wright's stain, and more detailed observations were made following Giemsa's stain. Sections of viscera (liver, spleen, kidney, lung and heart) were fixed in alcohol-formalin-acetic acid, stained with Heidenhain's iron hæmatoxylin and cut 15 microns in thickness.

#### Factors affecting Tubers in *Begonia evansiana* Andr.

THIS species of *Begonia*, which is evidently a useful plant for investigations of developmental physiology, has buds which consistently form aerial tubers when exposed to short days. These tubers, when given sufficient short-day treatment, do not sprout when afterwards exposed to long days. However, if the plants are transferred to long days after a certain minimal short-day exposure, the tuberizing buds resume growth. There is evidence, from defoliation experiments, that the tuber may itself be sensitive to light (Esashi and Nagao, *Sci. Rep. Tohoku Univ.*, Ser. 4 (Biol.), 24, 81; 1958). These authors (*ibid.*, 25, 191; 1959) have now reported that aerial tubers of *Begonia evansiana* Andr., which are formed under short-day conditions, begin to sprout when isolated and exposed to continuous light while they are actively thickening. After the completion of thickening, however, the tubers sprout no more in response to light. These dormant tubers can be induced to sprout after low-temperature treatments. Whether or not the tubers sprout, they develop roots. In a study of the action of gibberellin on the dormancy of the tubers, Nagao and Mitsui (*ibid.*, 199) found that gibberellin treatments in the concentration range from 0.1 to 100 p.p.m. had no dormancy-breaking effect. Gibberellin treatments at concentrations of 10 and 100 p.p.m. inhibited the sprouting of aerial tubers. The gibberellin effect was greater in more dormant tubers. Gibberellin seemed to induce or prolong the tuber dormancy. The gibberellin-induced dormancy appeared to be broken by low-temperature treatments like natural dormancy. Rooting of aerial tubers was affected but slightly by gibberellin.

#### Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

A REPORT on gifts, grants and bequests to Rensselaer, 1958-59, has been issued by the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute as a supplement to the annual development report, and to emphasize the major importance of such assistance in helping the Institute to achieve its educational goals (pp. 16. Troy, New York: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, 1960). Without such contributions the Institute could neither survive nor establish firm plans for future growth. In the past fiscal year such gifts of cash and equipment amounted to 1,362,854 million dollars.

#### Summer School in Crystal Structure Determination

A SUMMER School in "Modern Methods of Crystal Structure Determination" will be held in the Manchester College of Science and Technology during August 29-September 9. The main topics to be dealt with, by lectures, practical work and discussions, will be direct methods, Fourier-transform and optical-transform methods, anomalous scattering, and refinement procedures. In addition, there will be some

lectures and discussions on recent results in various fields, with assessment of their implications. The fee for the course will be £25, including accommodation in one of the University halls of residence. The fee for attendance without accommodation will be £5. Further information can be obtained from the Director, Extra-Mural Department, The University, Manchester 13.

#### Association of Consulting Scientists

AT the annual general meeting of the Association of Consulting Scientists, held in London recently, the following officers and Council for 1960-61 were elected: *chairman*, Dr. J. G. Davis; *hon. treasurer*, Dr. G. W. Ferguson; *hon. secretary*, Mr. W. H. Stevens; *other members*, Dr. M. Barent, Dr. H. H. Chambers, Dr. Julius Grant, Dr. J. H. Oliver, Mr. O. W. Roskill, Mr. F. G. Sarel Whitfield.

#### The Linnean Society of London

AT the anniversary meeting of the Linnean Society of London, held on May 24, the following were elected officers and Council for the session 1960-61: *president*, Prof. C. F. A. Pantin; *treasurer*, The Earl of Cranbrook; *secretaries*, Dr. C. R. Metcalfe (botany), Dr. H. G. Ververs (zoology), Dr. John Smart (editorial). *Vice-presidents* appointed were: Mr. E. J. H. Corner, The Earl of Cranbrook, Asst. Prof. H. R. Hewer and Dr. W. G. Templeman. *New members of Council*: Dr. A. J. Cain, Prof. A. R. Clapham, Dr. W. P. Crowcroft, Mr. F. C. Deighton and Mr. J. F. Levy. *Linnean Gold Medals* were presented to: Dr. Libbie Henrietta Hyman and Dr. H. Hamshaw Thomas. *The Trail Award and Medal* was presented to Dr. Laurence Ernest Rowland Picken. Prof. Dr. C. G. G. van Steenis and Dr. Robert E. Snodgrass were elected foreign members and Mr. H. F. Comber, Mr. Dennis A. Kempson and Prof. Alexander Eric Kohts were elected associates *honoris causa*.

#### Royal Society of South Africa

THE following were elected as officers and Council for 1960: *president*, Dr. S. M. Naudé; *honorary general secretary*, Mr. W. J. Talbot; *honorary treasurer*, Dr. N. Sapeika; *acting honorary editor of transactions*, Mr. A. M. Talbot; *honorary librarian*, Dr. J. H. Day; *other members of council*, Dr. R. A. Alexander, Dr. S. F. Bush, Dr. A. L. Hales, Dr. W. E. Isaac, Dr. M. R. Levyns, Dr. R. H. Marloth, Dr. S. H. Skaife, Dr. R. H. Stoy and Dr. C. L. Wicht.

#### The Leopoldina German Academy of Sciences: Elections

DIE Deutsche Akademie der Naturforscher, Halle, recently elected the following new members to the Sections indicated: *Astronomy*, Prof. Paul ten Bruggencate (Göttingen), Prof. A. A. Michailow (Pulkowo, Leningrad), and Prof. Martin Schwarzschild (Princeton); *Medicine*, Prof. Heinrich von Hayek (Vienna), Prof. Josef Kimmig (Hamburg), Prof. Friedrich Matzen (Leipzig), Prof. Hans Netter (Kiel), Prof. Karlheinz Sommer (Halle), and Prof. Werner Wachsmuth (Würzburg).

#### "Ataxia in Hens poisoned by Triparaethylphenyl Phosphate"

WITH reference to her communication under this title in *Nature* of January 23, p. 247, Miss Ann Silver writes: "I should like to emphasize that the first