

has caused serious alarm amongst those engaged in the trade. The moth had hitherto been regarded mainly as a pest of cocoa, but in 1929 large stocks of tobacco in London were found to have become infected. The gravity of the situation called for a thorough investigation of the matter and the results of the inquiry carried out by H. H. S. Bovingdon have been published under the auspices of the Empire Marketing Board (H.M. Stationery Office; price 1s.). The pest is readily imported from a number of countries and infestation is chiefly incurred by bales damaged in transport, a fact which negatives the discovery that a wrapping of tarred brown paper covered with hessian acts as a deterrent to the moth. *Ephestia* has a distinct preference for bright cigarette leaf, and though it attacks both kiln and air-cured tobacco it will not feed upon the fire-cured material. As regards measures of control, vacuum fumigation with ethylene oxide is a successful if costly procedure, but the reconditioning of tobacco by a modern machine or storage at low temperature will also destroy all stages of the pest.

News from China

A CORRESPONDENT in China sends us the following items of scientific news:—Prof. Chenfu Wu, of Yenching University, Peiping, has been granted a travelling professorship by the Rockefeller Foundation for use during his furlough year 1933–34 to complete his catalogue of Chinese insects. He will spend part of his time at Cornell University and the rest visiting museums in England and on the Continent.—Prof. Chihwei Luh, of Yenching University, Peiping, has been granted a fellowship by the China Foundation, which he will use at the University of Chicago during his furlough year 1933–34 for further work in neuroanatomy and psychology.—The Alpha Chapter in China of the Biological Honor Society Beta Beta Beta held its annual meeting on June 9 at Yenching University for the initiation of new members and election of officers. Prof. C. L. Liu, of the Biology Department of the Peiping Normal University, presided over the initiation.—At the eighth annual meeting and dinner of the Peking Society of Natural History, held on April 28, Dr. H. H. Hu, of the Fan Memorial Institute of Biology, was elected president of the Society, to serve for the year 1933–34. At the same meeting, announcement was made of the election of Dr. Sven Hedin as honorary member of the Society. The special event of the Society's annual meeting and dinner was the awarding of the King senior medal to Dr. C. Ping, director of the Biological Laboratory of the Science Society, Nanking, in recognition of his work on palaeozoological subjects and also of his work as a teacher of young Chinese scientific workers in whom he has awakened and cultivated a truly scientific spirit. Mrs. T. S. Oldroyd, of Stanford University, California, has been elected a corresponding member of the Society.

Hong-Kong University

IN the *Engineer* of July 28, Prof. C. A. M. Smith, Taikoo professor of engineering in the University of

Hong-Kong, refers to the coming of age of the University, its growth and development, and in the interest of both England and China pleads for a closer co-operation between the University and British industry. The University was opened in March 1912 by the Governor of Hong-Kong, now Lord Lugard, Prof. Smith being the only professor on the staff. To-day there are 15 full-time professors—3 for engineering, 6 in the medical departments and others for mathematics, physics, chemistry, economics, education and English. In 1912 the annual revenue was less than 90,000 (Hong-Kong) dollars, it now exceeds 1,000,000 dollars. The residential system is compulsory, there being seven halls of residence, and students have come from all the 18 provinces of China. The British staff, now numbering 28, takes a keen interest in all the social activities of the University and the Chinese undergraduates have a good record of athletic contests with Europeans and Chinese in the colony. All the engineering equipment in the University—much of it presented—is British, all instruction is in English and British textbooks are used. A thorough training in engineering is given, but it is often desirable for students to proceed to works in England on completing their course. The University, says Prof. Smith, is not merely a local affair, but an Imperial asset. "It is, in a sense, the contribution which Hong-Kong makes to the whole Empire, as well as to China."

French Locomotive-Testing Station

IN *Engineering* of August 4 is a description of the new locomotive-testing station at Vitry-sur-Seine, Paris, which was formally inaugurated on July 29. The plant has been designed by the Office Central d'Etudes de Matériel de Chemins de Fer (O.C.E.M.) and erected on a site belonging to the Compagnie du Chemin de Fer de Paris à Orléans. The main plant is contained in a building about 180 ft. × 80 ft. The essential elements of a locomotive-testing plant consist of a testing bench with supporting rollers on which the driving and coupled wheels of the locomotive revolve, brakes to absorb the power and a dynamometer to record the pull on the drawbar. There are also means for recording the fuel and water consumption and apparatus for measuring steam and water temperatures and pressures, and the vacuum in the smoke box, furnace and ash pit. In the new plant there are eight pairs of rollers of which six pairs can be coupled up to the hydraulic brakes, which were supplied by Messrs. Heenan and Froude, Ltd. Each of the brakes can absorb up to 1,200 horse-power, the permissible rim speed of the rollers is 100 miles per hour and the permissible weight per roller 15 tons, the plant thus being capable of dealing with heavier and more powerful locomotives than are in use in France at the present time. There are several locomotive-testing plants in various countries, some of which were described in Mr. H. N. Gresley's paper, "Locomotive Experimental Stations", read to the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in 1931. The only testing plant in Great Britain is that laid down by the Great Western Railway Co. at Swindon in 1905; but it has often been