

by Dr. S. K. Banerji with the aid of a Milne-Shaw seismograph located in Bombay, and also of recent researches into the system of upper winds over India. At the present time, maps are prepared daily showing the wind systems at seven different levels between 500 metres and 6,000 metres above the ground. These maps are of great service to aviation. Speaking of the dangers to flying in India, Mr. Field pointed out that these include most of those encountered in Europe with the addition of dust storms, and of hail storms that at their worst probably surpass any that occur in Europe; he spoke of cases where hail stones of at least five inches diameter have destroyed Indian villages and killed every living creature in them. A point that emerged very clearly was the inadequacy of the financial provision for dealing with the requirements of aviation over the Indian section of the air route from England to Australia. The service was described as a "skeleton provision, materially below the standards recommended in the International Air Convention". This, fortunately, can be regarded as a matter that in the forward march of aviation must inevitably be set right, sooner or later. It is to be hoped that realisation of the importance of more complete meteorological information will not be delayed until after numerous fatal accidents have directed public attention to the subject.

#### Plant Collecting in Asia

MR. F. KINGDON WARD contributes the first of a series of articles about his twelfth expedition in Asia to the *Gardeners' Chronicle* of August 4. His object was, of course, to find new plants with which to enhance the beauty of gardens, and to add to the knowledge of the systematic botany of Asia. He was accompanied on part of the journey by Mr. R. Kaulbach, and by Mr. Brooks-Carrington, who is a cinematographer sent out by Ray-Col British Corporation Ltd. Ten thousand feet of colour film illustrating "Plant Hunting on the Edge of the World" have been prepared, and will shortly be on view in Great Britain. Mr. Kingdon Ward's journey began at Calcutta on February 25, 1933; thence he journeyed to Sadiya by way of Shillong, the capital of Assam. From Sadiya he went to Rima and beyond, to the snow range, entering the unexplored regions beyond Shugden Gumpa. Returning to Zayul, he explored that province, and finally returned from Tibet to Assam via the Delei valley. A number of new plants were collected on the expedition, and will be described in subsequent instalments of the narrative, which is also highly descriptive of the country traversed.

#### Pollen Carried by Dust Storms

IN connexion with a note published in *NATURE* of June 16, p. 905, on the high proportion of pollen found in the dust storms experienced this year in the United States, Mr. K. Biswas, curator of the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta, directs attention to the "Puspa-bristi" (rain of flowers) frequently noticed in India. During late February and March, which is the flowering period of a large

number of trees in the plains and *terai* of the Eastern Himalayas, the pollen seems often to be carried up to high levels in the hot air and then distributed over a wide area by dust storms. The pollen settles later with the dew or rain in drops of liquid, which dry upon the foliage of the plants leaving residues of pollen grains.

#### Useful Birds

THE Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has just added to its attractive series of coloured food-charts of birds, pictorial representations of the proportions of useful, harmful and neutral work (so far as human interests are concerned) done by the jackdaw, kestrel, nightjar and yellow-hammer. The cards, which are issued at 4d. each post free, or 4s. 4d. for the series of 16, are telling exhibits for use in museums or school-rooms. Recently the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has issued Advisory Leaflets describing the characteristics and habits of the barn owl, woodpeckers, starling, swallow, martins and swift, lapwing and wagtails. A leaflet in the same series describes some simple nest boxes for the encouragement of the breeding of useful birds in gardens, orchards and allotments. They cost 1d. net each.

#### Dinosaur Discovery in Wyoming

DR. BARNUM BROWN, leader of the American Museum Sinclair Dinosaur Expedition, has discovered (according to Science Service, Washington, D.C.) an extraordinarily rich collection of fossil dinosaurs in Red Gulch Quarry, twenty-five miles east of Greybull, Wyoming. The number of skeletons unearthed up to the end of July was twelve, and Dr. Brown believes that they represent the remains of a herd of gigantic sauropod dinosaurs, caught in drying lakes and swamps, during an extended drought in the area some 125 millions of years ago.

#### An Automatic Firedamp Recorder

THE Safety in Mines Research Board has issued as Paper No. 86 an account of an automatic firedamp recorder, reference to which has already been made and a picture of the plant published in the twelfth annual report of the Safety in Mines Research Board, whilst the recorder had previously been described in the *Transactions of the Institution of Mining Engineers*. The present paper, however, gives the construction in more detail than either of the previous publications above referred to. The paper is by Mr. H. Lloyd, who designed the instrument in question.

#### Stemming Materials

THE Safety in Mines Research Board has just published Paper No. 84 dealing with stemming materials and written by Prof. J. A. S. Ritson and Mr. H. Stafford. This paper is practically a resumé of a number of papers and observations which Prof. Ritson and his colleagues have been carrying out for a number of years. The first paper was published by them in the *Transactions of the Institution of*