

already stated their intention to take part in the Exposition. A view of the 400-acre island reclaimed from the sea in San Francisco Bay is shown in the *Electrician* of December 10.

Meteorology in the Navy

THE Admiralty has announced the re-institution of a Naval Meteorological Branch of the Hydrographic Department, a branch which was created during the Great War but was merged with the Meteorological Office in 1920 when the latter institution was taken over by the Air Ministry, and then became the Naval Division of the Meteorological Office. Capt. L. G. Garbett, who has been its superintendent, is to be the chief superintendent of the reconstituted Naval Meteorological Branch of the Hydrographic Department, under the Hydrographer of the Navy, and will be assisted by three naval officers and a civilian staff. Although the change is being made only for administrative convenience, and does not coincide with any drastic change in naval meteorological practice, the applications of meteorology to naval operations have steadily increased in recent years, especially that part of meteorology concerned with the wind structure and the physical state of the upper atmosphere, which are of such importance for flying operations. For this reason, the existence of an efficient meteorological service organized especially in accordance with naval requirements has become a matter of even greater importance than formerly. The Meteorological Office, under the Air Ministry, has also greatly extended the scope of its activities, and will remain the principal seat of meteorological learning and research.

Palestine Journal of Botany and Horticultural Science

IN 1935-36 three numbers appeared of a new journal with this title, under the editorship of Dr. H. R. Oppenheimer; the journal is published at irregular intervals; each volume contains 10-15 sheets, of 16 pages each, and is sold abroad at the rate of one shilling per sheet. Papers published deal mainly with the plants and plant problems of Palestine or with experimental work in plant physiology or horticulture. From its descriptive nature, botanical work in a new country needs a local publication medium to record observations which are, in the main, of interest to the inhabitants of the new country, though they also attract the attention—of systematists especially—of all countries. It is to be hoped that this new venture, which includes brief Hebrew summaries of the main items in the last number of the volume, may find enough supporters in Palestine and amongst those interested in systematic botany and horticulture to enable it to continue. It is announced that Dr. Israel Reichert, mycologist and plant pathologist, joins the editorial board from the publication of the second volume; this suggests that plant pathology will be more strongly represented in future numbers. The third number contains an editorial appreciation and photograph of G. Mosheyoff, assistant in plant physiology at the Hebrew University, who died at the age of twenty-

three years as the result of wounds received during the recent disturbances at the defence of the colony Koryath Anavim. The agent for the journal in Europe is W. Junk, The Hague.

Gift to University of Melbourne Medical School

THE University of Melbourne has received from the trustees of a large estate in Australia the sum of £50,000, to be held in trust and the income applied to the Medical School, and especially to raise the status of the pre-clinical chairs. The salary attached to the chairs of anatomy, physiology, pathology and bacteriology, hitherto £1,200 (Australian) a year, is to be raised to £1,700 a year, in addition to which the University pays 2½ per cent to a superannuation fund. It is hoped by this means to strengthen the scientific portion of pre-clinical education, particularly in the second and third years, thus improving the fundamental basis for the following three years of the present six-year course.

A New Species of *Sempervivum*

DR. W. B. TURRILL describes a new species of *Sempervivum* in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* of October 23. It is *S. octopodes* Turrill, and was discovered on Mt. Peristeri in north Macedonia, by Dr. R. Seligman, during an expedition with Dr. Giuseppi. A full Latin diagnosis appears in the paper, and it is encouraging to note that the variety *apetalum* promises to become a good plant for the garden. Both type and variety have been cultivated by Dr. R. S. Wale, but the variety is much more amenable to horticultural treatment than the typical species.

Official Statistics

THE Guide to Current Official Statistics of the United Kingdom for 1936 (London: H.M. Stationery Office. 1s.) has been published. It is compiled on the lines which have now become familiar. The main part of the volume is an alphabetical list of subjects with reference to the official volumes available. Secondly, there is a numerical list of publications arranged under the headings of various departments. The volume reveals the wide range of subjects upon which official statistical information is available.

Thomas-Gilchrist Basic Process

A PAPER by F. W. Harbord at the autumn meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute gives an account of the history of the Thomas-Gilchrist basic process from 1879 to the present date, from the preliminary experiments in a six-pound converter to the present-day production of ninety million tons of basic steel per year. As a contribution to the history of modern steel-making this paper is of real value.

Announcements

THE King has been pleased to appoint the following members of the medical profession engaged in public health work, both in central and local government, as honorary physicians: Sir Arthur MacNalty, chief medical officer, Ministry of Health and Board of