

timbers, Australia has not been behind other parts of the Empire. In 1933 the Division of Forest Products of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research published as a pamphlet Part 1 of "A Guide to the Seasoning of Australian Timbers", in which it was pointed out that timbers of different species frequently differ so widely in physical properties that it is impossible to prescribe a general set of conditions for air-drying or kiln-drying for all timbers, or even for all sizes of one timber. Part 2 of this Guide has been recently issued (Div. of For. Products, Pamphlet No. 68, Technical Paper, No. 22. Melbourne, 1937) written by W. L. Greenhill and A. J. Thomas. The work of determining suitable kiln schedules for various species and sizes of timber is being carried out in laboratory kilns, supplemented by information operated by the Queensland forest service. Based on the results of the work carried out since the publication of Part 1, seasoning notes and suggested schedules for twenty-two additional species are given in the present pamphlet.

#### Tuberculosis in the Far East

THE problem of tuberculosis was one of the subjects dealt with at the Conference of Far Eastern Countries on Rural Hygiene last August (League of Nations. Health Organisation. Report of the Intergovernmental Conference of Far-Eastern Countries on Rural Hygiene. Held at Bandoeng (Java), August, 1937. London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 2s. 6d.). Tuberculosis is recognized as being one of the scourges in Eastern countries. Unfortunately, there is an almost complete absence of accurate data concerning the extent and severity of the disease in rural areas. The importance of carrying out preliminary surveys and sample tuberculin tests in the country is advocated. Financial limitations make it important that an anti-tuberculosis campaign should be simple and adapted to local conditions, and the gradual establishment of a network of rural dispensaries would appear advisable. The establishment of sanatoria, in the Western sense, would not seem to be applicable, but simpler institutions are suggested. A scheme for mass research on tuberculin sensitiveness was drafted.

#### Chinese Medicine and the Pangolin

The pangolin or scaly ant-eater (*Manis pentadactyla dalmanni*) is the most primitive of Chinese mammals, and although it is fully protected by law in the colony and island of Hong-Kong, the demand for its carcass makes more extensive protection in South China necessary (*Hong Kong Naturalist*, July 1937, 79). The animal itself is eaten, but a greater danger arises from the belief that the scales have medicinal value. Fresh scales are never used, but dried scales are roasted, ashed, cooked in oil, butter, vinegar, boy's urine, or roasted with earth or oyster-shells, to cure a variety of ills. Amongst these are excessive nervousness and hysterical crying in children, women possessed by devils and ogres, malarial fever and deafness. So much are pangolin scales in request for these purposes that yearly the scales from some 4,000 or 5,000 individuals were imported from Java, with a value of 3,700 guilders.

But recent regulations in Java, which prohibit capturing and killing of pangolins and the export of scales, will turn the attention of the Chinese medicine men more forcibly towards the native product.

#### James Eights: a Pioneer Antarctic Naturalist

DR. W. T. CALMAN has done worthy service to the memory of an American naturalist of the early nineteenth century in his presidential address to the Linnean Society (*Proc. Linn. Soc.*, 149, 171; 1937). The accuracy of the descriptions and drawings made by James Eights, his discovery of a ten-legged pycnogon (*Decolopoda*), in which no one believed until the rediscovery of the species by the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition almost seventy years later, his discovery of a new seal and a new dolphin, neither of which he named, his description of the breeding of the king penguin, and of the South Shetland Islands, all mark him as a naturalist of keen perception. It is unfortunate that the appearance of his descriptions in journals not readily accessible should have obscured and delayed the recognition of his merit, and more sad to learn that in his own country he dropped out of the current and lived for a quarter of a century, until his death in 1882, in loneliness, obscurity and poverty.

#### Spectrograms of Nova Herculis 1934

THE editors of the *Astrophysical Journal* in 1935 collected data as to the spectrograms of Nova Herculis 1934 available at different observatories, partly with a view to the ultimate production of an atlas showing the changes day by day in the spectrum of the star during the first few months after the initial outburst. On the appointment of a Nova Sub-commission in the Commission of Stellar Spectra of the International Astronomical Union, this material was handed to Prof. F. J. M. Stratton as chairman of that Sub-commission. Further data as to the observational material available were secured, and now the spectrum of Nova Herculis for nearly every day is available from one source or another from the head of the Balmer series to  $H\alpha$ . The Solar Physics Committee at Cambridge has approved the production by the staff of the Solar Physics Observatory of an atlas showing daily changes over that range of spectrum. It is hoped to print the whole atlas on 16 stiff cards—one quarter of the spectrum on each card and one card for each month. The cost will depend on the number of subscribers to the atlas, and subscribers may be asked to pay as much as 25 shillings. If sufficient support is forthcoming, it is hoped to start work on the atlas early in 1938.

#### Rabies Prevention in India

DETAILS of the preventive treatment of rabies at the Pasteur Institute of India, Kasauli, are given in the thirty-fifth annual report for the year 1935 by the director, Dr. R. O. A. Smith. The total number of patients attending the Institute and its centres was 21,898, an increase of 657 patients as compared with the previous year, of whom 16,627 received the