

the Winchester collections, already well known to students at home, should attract to "the capital city of Alfred and Canute" visitors from farther afield. In the reorganised Museum, he also points out the need for a printed guide and the maintenance of a small reference library. These are matters which are often overlooked by an authority responsible for an otherwise good museum service.

Diseases of Flax

IN February 1943 the Minister of Agriculture (Eire) set up a Flax Development Board for the purpose of encouraging flax production. Owing to the stimulus of better prices and a guaranteed market for flax under war-time conditions, the area cropped in 1942 had already risen to 18,552 acres compared with only 4,123 acres in 1939. The Board's activities resulted in a further sharp rise in area under flax, the peak being reached in 1945 when just over 32,800 acres were grown. Such intensive cultivation inevitably introduced fresh problems, and diseases and pests became more prevalent and assumed greater significance. At the request of the Board, Dr. R. McKay has prepared a bulletin, "Flax Diseases" (price 5s.), which will meet a long-felt want. Though the information contained in this publication does not claim to be new, it has hitherto been so scattered in various scientific and agricultural journals as to be quite inaccessible to the ordinary farmer, flax inspector or mill-owner. The diseases are grouped according to the causative factor, whether it be fungus, parasitic flowering plant or non-parasitic agent, such as weather conditions. Insect pests are also included. The symptoms are clearly described and illustrated in each case and control measures suggested where possible. References are supplied for those who wish for more detailed information, and a useful glossary of scientific terms included.

Pacific Science

THE University of Hawaii has long been an active centre for scientific investigations in the Islands, as has the Bishop Museum, Honolulu. This work will now be intensified as the result of the wise co-ordinating policy laid down by the National Research Council of the Pacific Science Conference at its meeting in Washington in June 1946. Partly as a result of this, the University has undertaken to sponsor a new quarterly journal, entitled *Pacific Science*, which is devoted to the furtherance of biological and physical sciences in the Pacific region. Two numbers of this publication, those for January and April, are now to hand and they are excellently printed, illustrated and produced. The personnel of the editorial board covers a wide range of subjects and, interestingly enough, the editor-in-chief is the head of the Department of English.

Each number consists of sixty-eight pages, very similar in size to *Nature*, and is provided with an attractive coloured cover on the inside of which are useful instructions to authors for the preparation of papers. The two numbers include papers on forestry, geology, ornithology, parasitology, mycology, botany, an apparatus for chloride and oxygen determination for pond waters in the field, and the Tsunami, that long-period gravity wave associated with volcanic disturbance, one of which in April 1946 created such havoc in the Islands. No. 1 contains, as a sort of appendix, the interesting recommendations of the National Research Council referred to above, and No. 2 similarly reviews the facilities for research in

the Islands provided by more than twenty government or private institutions. The subscription to *Pacific Science* is 3.00 dollars per annum, payable to the Office of Publications, University of Hawaii, Honolulu 10, Hawaii. With the extraordinary wealth of material available not only in the Islands themselves but also in the rest of the Pacific group which will be included in its scope, the journal should have an assured future, and we wish it every success.

Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

THE report of the Board of Management, Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851, dated December 1946, covers the seven years since July 25, 1939 (from the Commission, 1 Lowther Gardens, London, S.W.7). The award of industrial bursaries was discontinued on the outbreak of war, and in July 1946 only seven of the twenty-nine bursars appointed in 1939 and none of those appointed earlier remained on the books. While the Board has already given 'rehabilitation' grants to a few bursars who wished to complete their industrial training and who have been unable to obtain assistance for this purpose under the regulations of the Ministry of Labour and National Service, the Board has resolved to suspend the scheme for the present and to re-examine the position when industry in Great Britain and its pattern of recruitment have acquired a more definite pattern. The Board has, however, increased to £500 a year the value of the post-graduate scholarship in naval architecture, and new regulations have been prepared which will open the field to candidates from all university institutions in the United Kingdom which have departments of naval architecture or engineering science. The scholarship will be tenable normally for two years, and the conditions have been designed to make it attractive to the trained research worker. Arrangements have also been made for the partial resumption of the activities of the British School at Rome, and discussions on the re-development plan for the South Kensington estate have been renewed. Certain modifications in the plan have become necessary in view of the urgent importance of extending the Fuel Technology Laboratory already on the site to the west of the Royal College of Music, and which the Imperial College of Science and Technology had originally proposed to relinquish.

The Board of Management also endorses the views expressed by the Science Scholarships Committee in a separate report covering the proceedings of the Committee since April 1939. The Committee, reviewing the working of the Science Research Scholarships Scheme between the two Wars, agrees that no major change is needed in the general principle of the overseas scheme, but recommends that the value of the scholarships should be increased to £350 a year with a £50 annual grant for fees, and that a second annual scholarship should be allocated to India. On the other hand, it recommends that the value of the senior studentships should be increased to £500 a year with a possible extra £50 for expenses, but that the number of annual awards should be reduced from five to four. The additional expense of giving effect to these recommendations is estimated at rather more than £3,000 a year. Particulars are included in the report of the appointments made for 1946 in accordance with these recommendations; although normally only ten overseas scholarships are awarded, an additional scholarship has this year been granted to New Zealand in view of the exceptional merits of the two candidates put forward.