

seven million B.Th.U. per hour. The total floor area now being heated is 32,000 sq. ft. and the volume of space is 330,000 cu. ft.

History of Coal

"At the Root of it All", a brochure published by the National Coal Board (Public Relations Branch), Hobart House, Grosvenor Place, London, S.W.1 (pp. 32), is the best of the numerous booklets on the British coal industry which have been issued by the Board. It is suitable for general science reading in the upper forms of secondary schools and it should prove interesting to the intelligent layman. It is succinct and factual. The script is by Mr. W. E. Dick, editor of *Discovery*, and the method employed in the booklet is historical, descriptive and statistical. The monochromatic illustrations are good, and a romantic element has been confined to a few coloured plates. The subjects discussed, which have been outlined clearly and accurately, are the formation of coal from decayed vegetation, the improvement of the steam-engine from that of Thomas Savery in 1698, and the uses of coal in the iron and steel industries, for producing electricity and in the home. Short, illustrated sections describe the use of coal in locomotion and the development of lighting by gas. Considerable attention is paid to the by-products of the gas industry: dyes, detergents, disinfectants, antibiotics, insecticides, perfumes, nylon and so on. The booklet ends with a brief account of the mining industry as it has developed, and includes a statement of the sociological aspects and problems of miners. The booklet in its brevity and objectivity is scientific in outlook and is pleasantly free from any political bias. Thus, it admirably fulfils its aim, which is to show the paramount importance of coal in modern living.

United States National Museum: Annual Report for 1949-50

THE report of the United States National Museum for the year ending June 30, 1950 (pp. 141; Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1951), provides interesting reading, and a summary of its activities and acquisitions extending to more than a hundred pages is an indication of the magnitude of the work. This Museum, which is situated in Washington, D.C., and forms part of the Smithsonian Institution, has as its responsibility the classification and preservation of collections, and it is refreshing to note that this and the fundamental policies in general are still recognized. Furthermore, it is recognized that the Museum is not only a storehouse for certain objects but also that its exhibits reveal to the public "the resources of the world in which we live, the material cultures that illustrate the political, cultural and technical achievements of man and the principles that have resulted from scholarly research". These, indeed, are noble aims, and the report indicates how they are put into practice.

Conference on Evolution and Education

THE group of organizations interested in the teaching of biology will hold a further joint conference on "Evolution and Education", this time at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham, during December 7-8. At the opening session, when Sir Raymond Priestley will preside, Dr. J. B. S. Haldane will deliver an address on "The Evolutionary Process". On December 8, lecture-demonstrations will be given by Miss F. R. Elwell of the B.B.C.

broadcast series, "How Things Began", and by Miss E. M. Tuke, on the "Teaching of Evolution". Miss M. Going will speak on "Classroom Problems in Teaching Evolution", with special reference to work in grammar schools. These sessions will be followed by a general discussion, to be opened by Dr. L. M. J. Kramer, over which Mr. W. J. Heasman, H.M.I., will preside. The closing address will be delivered by Prof. S. Zuckerman, speaking on the "Evolution of the Brain". The fee for admission to the conference is 10s. Tickets may be obtained from the British Social Biology Council, Tavistock House South, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

British Region of the Biometric Society: Officers for 1952

AT the recent annual general meeting of the British Region of the Biometric Society, the following officers and members of committee were elected for 1952: *Vice-President*, Dr. F. Yates; *Treasurer*, Dr. A. R. G. Owen; *Secretary*, Dr. D. J. Finney (6 Keble Road, Oxford); *Members of Committee* (1952-54), Prof. R. A. Fisher and Dr. R. R. Race.

Brazilian Geological Society: Officers for 1951-52

OFFICERS for the term September 1951-November 1952 of the Brazilian Geological Society have been elected as follows: *President*, Prof. O. Barbosa; *Vice-Presidents*, Prof. O. H. Leonardos and Prof. F. W. Lange; *Secretary*, Prof. R. R. Franco; *Treasurer*, Prof. A. F. Barbosa; and *Director of Publications*, Prof. J. C. Mendes. Further details about the Society can be obtained from the Secretary, whose address is Sociedade Brasileira de Geologia, Alameda Gleite 463, Caixa Postal 105 B, São Paulo.

"Epitaxis of Rubidium Iodide on a Barium Stearate Substrate Deposited on Mica"

MR. A. A. FULLER writes, with reference to the communication under the above title published in *Nature* of September 15, p. 471: "I was unable to refer, during the course of my experiments, to the *Zeitschrift für Kristallographie*, and so missed reading an account of a series of similar experiments by Dr. R. S. Bradley (*Z. Krist.*, A, 96, 499; 1937). I regret I was therefore unable to mention this work in my communication."

Announcements

DR. P. B. TREACY, who for three years has been working in the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, has been appointed a Research Fellow of the Australian National University, Canberra, and will work in the Department of Nuclear Physics under the direction of Prof. E. W. Titterton.

THE Langley Memorial Prize of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine has been awarded to Dr. J. H. Gerber, medical officer in charge, Endemic Diseases Control Unit, Kailahun, Sierra Leone, for his paper on "Bilharzia in Boajibu". This Prize is awarded by the School triennially for the best paper written by a member of the West African medical staff on tropical medicine and surgery, hygiene, entomology or parasitology.

ERRATUM. In Table 1 of the communication "C₂₀₋₂₂ Unsaturated Acids of Butterfat" in *Nature* of July 14, p. 75, Sample A1, for "sap. equiv. 338.3" read "sap. equiv. 318.3".