The Transvaal Museum

At the present time, museums are extending their ancillary services in many directions while still maintaining their essential function of the collection and preservation of objects. It is interesting to note in this connexion that the Transvaal Museum is sponsoring a bat banding project to serve as an aid in the study of these animals (*Bulletin Transvaal Museum*, No. 5. Pp. 8. July 1960). At present the emphasis is on cave bats and species of the genera *Rhinolophus*, *Miniopterus* and *Myotis* are being dealt with, though house bats such as Tadaridae have also been banded. While most of the work is at present concentrated on the Transvaal, banding in Bechuanaland and Natal has also been carried out. Bats have been recaptured over a maximum period of nearly two years and over the longest distance of about 100 miles. Chameleons have been kept in the museum for the purpose of studying behaviour and the flap-necked, dwarf, forest and horned chameleons have been included in this research. Particular attention has been given to a comparison of the aspects of behaviour in related species and genera.

National Museum of Wales

The fifty-third annual report of the National Museum of Wales for the year ended August 1960 records the welcome grant to the Welsh Folk Museum of £10,000 towards the cost of constructing a new car park and ticket office and for widening the approach road to the new entrance (Pp. 78 + 4 plates. Cardiff: National Museum of Wales, 1960). In the Department of Geology the systematic and stratigraphical fossil collections have been re-housed, and the model of the Penrhyn Slate quarry and collection of miners' lamps transferred to the new Industry Gallery. The artist in the Department of Botany has made models of 23 flowering plants, all of which replace the less attractive dried material previously on show. In the Glanely Gallery, Department of Zoology, the exhibit of birds' nests and eggs has been reorganized and augmented, and casts have been used to replace spirit specimens. In the Department of Archæology notable progress has been made in modernizing the Roman Gallery, and a careful watch has been maintained for chance discoveries. The Department of Industry was officially opened in May 1960, which event naturally culminated a year of preparation. The Department of Art has been much engaged in the work associated with temporary exhibitions. In this short note it is only possible to mention the highlights in the work of this progressive and stimulating museum.

Nomenclature of Human Chromosomes

The rapid growth of knowledge of human chromosomes and their importance in genetics and medicine have led to some confusion about nomenclature in the literature. Consequently a small study group of workers recently met in Denver, Colorado, to formulate an acceptable scheme of nomenclature (*J. Hered.*, 51, 214; 1960). It was agreed to number the chromosomes serially, from 1 to 22, as nearly as possible in descending order of length; that the sex chromosomes should continue to be referred to as *X* and *Y*, and that the 22 autosomes should be classified into 7 groups, distinction between which can readily be made. Within these groups, especially that comprising chromosomes 6 to 12, and including also the *X*-chromosome, identification of the chromosomes is difficult by present criteria, though it is believed that with very favourable preparations all or most of the chromosomes can be identified. Two valuable suggestions emerged from the discussions. One concerned the storage of documentation for reference, perhaps in a central repository; the other referred to the need to preserve cultures for future reference, comparison and exchange.

Studentships and Fellowships in Agriculture

The Agricultural Research Council has issued a useful booklet giving particulars of the thirty postgraduate studentships offered in 1961, tenable for one to three years, and including a limited number of veterinary training grants, of four years duration, given to enable science graduates to read for a veterinary qualification (Pp. 20. London: Agricultural Research Council, 1961). The studentships, which are open to honours graduates in science or those holding a veterinary qualification, or to graduates in agriculture or horticulture who have shown special interests in one of the basic sciences, and veterinary training grants vary from £340 to £520 per annum tax free, together with educational fees. Particulars are also given of three agricultural research fellowships of £700 to £1,000 per annum, tenable for up to three years, offered to honours graduates of not less than three years postgraduate experience, and two veterinary research fellowships of £900, rising to £1,000 per annum, tenable for up to three years, open to qualified veterinary workers with not less than three years experience in veterinary research. The booklet also describes the scope of agricultural research and outlines the openings available to agricultural research and advisory work.

Biographical Material relating to Richard Owen

Prof. Jacob W. Gruber, associate professor of anthropology, Temple University, Philadelphia, Penn., U.S.A., writes: "During the past few months, I have been preparing a catalogue of the collection of Owen correspondence in the possession of the British Museum (Natural History). It has occurred to me that it would be valuable to bring together as many materials relating to the life of Richard Owen as may still be extant. I would, therefore, appreciate any information relating to the nature and whereabouts of such materials".

The Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding

The following have been elected officers and councillors of the Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding: *President*, Dr. E. K. Janaki Ammal; *Vice-presidents*, Dr. A. R. Gopal-Ayengar, Dr. A. B. Joshi; *Secretary*, Dr. M. S. Swaminathan; *Editor*, Dr. B. P. Pal; *Councillors*, Dr. S. M. Sikka, Dr. S. Govindaswamy, Prof. P. N. Bhaduri, Dr. B. S. Kadam, Shri G. P. Argikar, Dr. K. Ramiah.

Royal Society Visiting Professorship

The Council of the Royal Society has appointed Prof. R. Couteaux, professor of animal biology, University of Paris, to be Royal Society visiting professor for the academic year 1961–62. He is expected to take up the appointment on October 1 and work in the Department of Biophysics at University College, London, on the structure and function of neuro-muscular connexions. Prof. Couteaux is a distinguished histologist who has made outstanding contributions by microscopic and histochemical means to our knowledge of synaptic structures.

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