

types, description and characteristic species; (v) general conclusions and synopsis.—A. McKerrall: The Burmese sesamum varieties. Notes on their variation and growth. After discussing the literature dealing with this crop and the importance of sesamum to Burmese agriculture, the author proceeds to describe the different varieties grown in Burma and their variations, using as a basis material collected from the principal sesamum districts and grown at the Talkon Agricultural Station. The description is followed by a tentative classification of the Burmese sesamums based on the branching habit, vegetative period, and colour of the seed, and by a discussion of the abnormalities which occur. In conclusion, the author discusses the possibilities of improvement, especially through single-plant selection.

VICTORIA.

Royal Society, March 14.—Mr. J. A. Kershaw, president, in the chair.—Prof. O. Nordstedt: Australasian Characeæ. This synopsis includes about fifty species of Chara and Nitella, one of Talypella, and one of Lychnothamnus, and was communicated by A. D. Hardy, who incidentally remarked on the over-production and subsequent decay of the species of Nitella in some Victorian reservoirs.—A. D. Hardy: Note on pentamery in Narcissus. The author described an inflorescence of "Soleil d'Or" (*N. tazetta*) in which five flowers were normal, the sixth having the floral formula of $K_5 C_5 A_5 + 5 G_5$. Careful search amongst many thousands of flowers of this species during the season failed to discover a similar specimen. The only other case of a similar kind known to the author was that of *Crocus* ($K_5 C_5 A_5 G_5$), quoted by Worsdell in "Principles of Plant Teratology."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Invertebrate Fauna of Nottinghamshire. By Prof. J. W. Carr. Pp. viii+618. (Nottingham: J. and H. Bell, Ltd.)

Manuale di Fisica ad uso delle Scuole Secondaire e Superiori. By Prof. B. Dessau. Vol. iii. Pp. vii+760. (Milano: Società Editrice Libraria). 23 lire.

A Handbook of Briquetting. By Prof. G. Franke. Translated by F. C. A. H. Lantsberry. Vol. ii. Pp. xi+214. (London: C. Griffin and Co., Ltd.) 15s. net.

"Inasmuch": Some Thoughts concerning the Wreckage of the War. By J. Oxenham. Pp. 26. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd.) 6d. net.

Aids in the Commercial Analysis of Oils, Fats, and their Commercial Products. By G. F. Pickering. Pp. viii+133. (London: C. Griffin and Co., Ltd.) 7s. 6d. net.

Tropical Wild Life in British Guiana: Zoological Contributions from the Tropical Research Station of the New York Zoological Society. By W. Beebe. Vol. i. Pp. 504. (New York: Zoological Society; London: Witherby and Co.) 12s. 6d. net.

Practical Organic and Bio-Chemistry. By R. H. A. Plimmer. New edition. Pp. xii+636. (London: Longmans and Co.) 18s. net.

Tychonis Brahe Opera Omnia. Tomi Quarti. Fasc. Prior. Pp. 376. (København K.)

The Problem of Man's Ancestry. By Prof. F. Wood-Jones. Pp. 48. (London: S.P.C.K.) 7d. net.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES.

THURSDAY, MAY 30.

ROYAL SOCIETY, at 4.30.—A Method of Avoiding Collision at Sea: Prof. J. Joly.—A Statistical Survey of Colour Vision: Dr. R. A. Houstoun.—The Production of Anthocyanins and Anthocyanidins. III.: Dr. A. E. Everest.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—The Abode of Snow; its Appearance, Inhabitants, and History: Sir F. Younghusband.

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INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, at 6.—Annual General Meeting.
ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 4.30.—The Cotton-mill Industry of India: Hon. Sir Dinshaw E. Wacha.

SATURDAY, JUNE 1.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Problems in Bird-migration: Prof. C. J. Patten.

MONDAY, JUNE 3.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, at 5.
SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY, at 7.30.—A Cadmium-vapour Arc Lamp: Dr. H. J. S. Sand.—The Estimation of Tin in High-grade Wolfram Ores and the Use of Lead as a Reducing Agent in Pearce's Assay: A. R. Powell.

VICTORIA INSTITUTE, at 4.30.—Germanium: Rev. Chancellor Lias.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5.

GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 5.30.
ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, at 8.—Studies in Rhynchophora. IV. A Preliminary Note on the Male Genitalia: D. Sharp.
SOCIETY OF PUBLIC ANALYSTS, at 5.—A Method for the Colorimetric Estimation of Cobalt: E. G. Jones.—Nucleic Acid and its Analytical Examination: A. C. Chapman.—(1) Opium Wax. (2) Estimation of Morphine in Opium by Polarimeter: Jitendra Nath Rakshit.—The Application of the Valenta Turbidity Test to Mineral Oils: P. J. Fryer.—The Valenta and Crismer Tests: J. H. Johnston and Dr. A. W. Stewart.—A New Method of Identifying Starches: A. W. Blyth.—Two Plant Products from Colombia, S.A.: A. L. Bacharach.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—The Abode of Snow; its Appearance, Inhabitants, and History: Sir F. Younghusband.

LINNEAN SOCIETY, at 4.30.—A Revision of Some Critical Species of *Echium* [*Viper's Bugloss*], as Exemplified in the Linnean and other Herbaria, with a Description of *Echium judaicum*, a New Species from Palestine: C. C. Lacaita.—Experiments with Cyclamen: Capt. A. W. Hill.—The Relationship between the Symbionts in a Lichen: R. Paulson and S. Hastings.—Abnormal Apple-blossoms and Fruit: W. C. Worsdell.

FRIDAY, JUNE 7.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 5.30.—The Romance of Petroleum: Sir B. Redwood.

SATURDAY, JUNE 8.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, at 3.—Problems in Bird-migration: Prof. C. J. Patten.

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