

public the essential facts in regard to the great industrial museums of Europe.

PLASTER casts of the Deinosaur eggs found by the Mongolian Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History (see H. F. Osborn, NATURE, October 4, p. 504) have been presented to the Trustees of the British Museum and are now on view, with elucidatory labels, in a special table-case at the entrance to the Geological Department. Beside them have been placed for comparison certain fossil eggs of reptiles, some of which have been in the Department since 1864. In this table-case it is proposed to show the more interesting recent acquisitions, changing them from time to time. There are also exhibited in it some remarkable fossil frogs and a salamander, in bituminous shale, of Oligocene (?) age, from mines at Libros, in the province of Teruel, Spain, the gift of Dom Longinos Navás, S.J., who recently described a new fauna from that locality, including also birds, beetles, spiders, and molluscs.

MESSRS. Wheldon and Wesley, Ltd., 2 Arthur Street, W.C.2, have just circulated another of their special scientific catalogues, namely, New Series, No. 14, which is devoted to "Zoology, Part I—Vertebrata." Upwards of 1500 works are classified under the headings: Bibliography, Biography and History, General Systems and Iconography, Evolution, Heredity, Biology, Anthropology and Ethnology,

Mammalia, Aves, Reptilia and Batrachia, Pisces, Domestic Animals and Poultry, Game Animals and Sport, Palæozoology, Miscellanea.

THE new list of announcements of Messrs. Longmans and Co. contains the titles of many books of scientific interest, among which are vol. 5 of Dr. J. W. Mellor's "A Comprehensive Treatise on Inorganic and Theoretical Chemistry"; "Gluco-proteins," Prof. P. A. Levene, and "The Action and Uses of Digitalis and its Allies in Medicine," Prof. A. R. Cushny ("Monographs on Biochemistry"); and "Elements of Mechanism," Profs. F. S. Carey and J. Proudman.

MESSRS. C. Baker, of 244 High Holborn, London, W.C.1, have sent us a copy of their classified list (No. 82) of second-hand scientific apparatus. This differs slightly from the well-known quarterly lists previously issued by the firm in that the section dealing with photographic apparatus has been omitted. This is now issued separately. The catalogue still contains plenty of material, however, which is well worthy of consideration by scientific workers. Section I., dealing with microscopes and accessories, is particularly full, while there are also long lists of surveying instruments, telescopes, spectroscopes, and other physical apparatus. Surveying instruments are let out on hire for various periods by the firm.

Our Astronomical Column.

PLANET OR COMET?—A very interesting object, which was evidently stellar in aspect, but the motion of which is suggestive of a comet, was discovered by Dr. Baade at Bergedorf on October 23. The following positions have been telegraphed from the I.A.U. Bureau at Copenhagen.

	G.M.T.	R.A.	N. Decl.	Mag.
Oct. 23	7 ^h 25 ^m 5 ^s	21 ^h 5 ^m 16 ^s	15° 28' 0"	10.5
	25 8 59.0	21 15 31.0	14 7 9	9.5

Deduced daily motion, +4^m 57.8^s, S. 39'.15.

If the object is a planet, it would seem to belong to the Eros type, with a perihelion far inside the orbit of Mars, so that it is of importance to obtain observations. Photography offers the readiest means of identifying it by its trail. The increase of a magnitude in brightness in two days should not be stressed, as it is difficult to estimate the magnitude of a trail.

On November 1 the estimated position is R.A. 21^h 50^m, N. Decl. 9½°, some 3° east of ε Pegasi. The object souths about 7 P.M., and is thus in a favourable position for observation.

TELESCOPES IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.—An extract received from the *New Zealand Evening Post* contains an account of the inauguration of a 9-inch telescope at Kelburn, Wellington, under the auspices of the Wellington City Council. It is at present housed in a temporary wooden shed, in order to allow work on Mars to be undertaken, but a more suitable building is promised in the near future. The object glass is a photo-visual one, and it may be presumed that the mounting is equatorial, though details are not to hand. This interest of a City Council in pure science deserves grateful recognition.

From the *Observatory* for October we learn that Yale Observatory is accepting the invitation of Dr. Innes to set up a 26-inch photographic telescope in the grounds of the Union Observatory, Johannesburg, so as to continue the parallax studies of the American observatory in the Southern Hemisphere.

Dr. Innes has also organised a scheme of interchange of observers between Leyden and Johannesburg, under which Dr. Hertzprung is at present at Johannesburg on a 15 months' visit; he will be followed by Mr. Van den Bos.

Dr. Innes makes a suggestion that every observatory should send annually to the International Astronomical Union a report on its work. Such reports would make it easier to decide on a programme of work without needless overlapping, and would help to keep observatories in touch with each other.

FINSLER'S AND ENCKE'S COMETS.—Finsler's Comet was followed at Heidelberg until October 6, but was then lost from its proximity to the sun. Dr. Kobold gives the following orbit in *Astr. Nachr.* 5326, using observations on September 20, 26, 30.

$$\left. \begin{aligned} T &= 1924 \text{ Sept. } 4.3370 \text{ G.M.T.} \\ \omega &= 66^\circ 31'.18 \\ \Omega &= 80^\circ 2'.54 \\ i &= 120^\circ 9'.36 \end{aligned} \right\} 1924.0$$

$$\log q = 9.60855.$$

Encke's Comet was followed until October 22, being then of at least the fifth magnitude and visible in considerable twilight. The observations indicate October 31.437 G.M.T. for the time of perihelion passage.