

Museum, under the guidance of Prof. L. von Plate. In the afternoon members examined the Muschelkalk at Göschwitz, where the rock is worked on the plateau in a succession of funnel-shaped quarries. A tunnel leads to the bottom of each funnel and the rock is tumbled down into the waiting waggons, which are transported by an aerial line to the cement works in the valley. Since the rock is cut out in steps, each quarry resembles a Roman amphitheatre, but with no arena. Thus ended an exceedingly interesting meeting, at which one would like to have seen more palæontologists from the British Isles.

Cotton-Growing in the British Empire.

A USEFUL account of the present position of cotton-growing in Uganda is given by Col. C. N. French in a recently published report to the Empire Cotton-Growing Corporation on his tour through the cotton areas of Uganda, Kenya, and the Mwanza district of Tanganyika. The rise and promise of Uganda as a cotton-producing region are well known. Under the careful guidance of the agricultural department, cotton has become by far the most important export of the country, the annual production amounting to nearly 200,000 bales. Practically the whole of the crop is raised by the natives, who send their seed cotton to the ginneries established at convenient centres under European or Indian control. The type at present grown is a variety of the famous "Nyasaland Upland." The quality of the cotton is good and the yield not unsatisfactory, while so far no serious pests have been encountered. Col. French considers that for the time being the producing area should not be extended, but efforts made to consolidate the present position by the application of science and improved agricultural methods with the view of producing increased quantities of cotton of better and more uniform quality from the area already under cultivation. He believes that the most immediate need for the attainment of this object is the strengthening of the scientific side of the agricultural department, and he puts forward suggestions for the reorganisation he considers desirable.

A further illustration of the work of the Empire Cotton-Growing Corporation is afforded by the "Reports from the Experiment Stations for the Seasons 1923, 1924, and 1925 (South Africa only)." In South Africa, F. R. Parnell has established the fact that resistance of the cotton plant to the attacks of "jassid" (*Chlorita fascialis*, a small winged bug forming a menace to cotton-growing in the lower veldt) is hereditary, and considerable progress has been made in the direction of breeding a jassid-resistant variety of cotton. R. C. Wood reports on the selection and other experimental work carried out at Mpanganya (Tanganyika). One of the varieties resulting from the selections made in 1922 will be the first seed to go out into general cultivation (it is hoped) in the season 1926-27. The work of establishing and laying out the experiment station at Makwapala (Nyasaland) during 1924 is described by H. C. Sampson; while details of a variety test with Sea Island cotton in St. Vincent, B.W.I., are recorded by L. H. Burd. This latter work was undertaken with the object of investigating the relationship, if any, existing between the yield and other "growing" qualities of the cotton plant, and the spinning characters of the fibre. The inconclusive results illustrate the difficulty of complicated work of this nature, but an encouraging practical outcome of the experiments is the evidence afforded by the spinning tests (carried out by the Experimental Department of the Fine Spinners' and Doublers' Association) of the superiority of all the strains of

cotton tested over the control standard sample of West Indian cotton: reduction of comber waste was considerable, and in one case a superiority of 47 per cent. over the control cotton as regards the relationship between hair strength and weight of lint was recorded.

The Empire Cotton-Growing Corporation has evidently recruited men of overseas experience in addition to scientific knowledge in their task of widening the area under cotton cultivation in the British Dominions-Overseas. The October number of the *Empire Cotton Growing Review* contains reports of their activities in all parts of the Empire. H. C. Sampson points out how cultivation implements adapted from Indian experience may be applied to cultivation with native labour in East Africa, whilst Col. C. N. French discusses the possibility of adapting the methods of administration of large-scale estates in the Punjab to the problems of cotton-growing in the Mandated Territory of Tanganyika. Mr. Youngman describes the short staple Oomras cotton and the factors leading to the cultivation of this coarse type of cotton in a vast area of Central India. It is thus once more apparent what a reservoir of experience to be applied in problems of tropical administration is rendered available through Britain's long responsibility for India's development. In a review dealing with cotton-growing, insect pests are naturally well to the fore, and H. A. Ballou discusses them in general relation to cotton; F. R. Parnell's work on breeding jassid-resistant cottons is also described, whilst incidentally, in discussing insect pests under Australian conditions, E. Ballard gives it as his experience that jassid infestation is only serious when the soil is very poor, *e.g.* deficient in potash.

University and Educational Intelligence.

APPLICATIONS are invited by the Harveian Society of London for the Buckston Browne prize, consisting of a medal and 50*l.*, for the best essay on "The Etiology of High Blood Pressure and of the Respiratory Phenomena associated with High Blood Pressure and Chronic Nephritis." The latest date for the receipt of essays is November 1, 1926. Particulars of the competition may be obtained from Dr. G. de Bec Turtle, 81 Cambridge Terrace, Hyde Park, W.2.

THE President of the Board of Education and the Minister of Labour have appointed a committee "to inquire into and advise upon the public system of education in England and Wales in relation to the requirements of trade and industry, with particular reference to the adequacy of the arrangements for enabling young persons to enter into and retain suitable employment." The committee consists of Mr. Dougal O. Malcolm, Miss Violet Markham (Mrs. Caruthers), Mr. Max J. Bonn, Mr. W. B. Kenrick, Mr. Arthur Shaw, Mr. Christopher H. Turnor, and Mr. D. Milne Watson. Mr. H. B. Wallis, Board of Education, and Mr. W. H. Lowe Watson, Ministry of Labour, are joint secretaries, and all communications should be addressed to them at the Ministry of Labour, Montagu House, Whitehall, S.W.1. The absence from the committee of any one familiar with the place of science in education, or education in science, is particularly noteworthy. Oxford and Balliol predominate in the membership of the committee, and they represent the characteristic official attitude towards scientific teaching or its relation to modern needs.

A NEW Diploma Course in Agriculture is announced by the Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture. Hitherto the College diploma course has extended over three years, like the degree course, from which it has differed but little in scope. Neither course has attracted more than a very few prospective