reminiscences of fifty years ago, including his first attendance at the Quekett Club with Huxley as president. 'Notes and Queries' and descriptions of apparatus and instruments complete an interesting number, which may be obtained from Messrs. Watson and Sons, 313 High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

MESSRS. Bowes and Bowes, Cambridge, have just circulated a useful catalogue (No. 444) of second-hand works—1000 in number—ranging over the following branches of science: Scientific biography and travel; agriculture, with gardening and forestry; anthropology and ethnology; chemistry and physics; geology and mineralogy; biology (general), including microscopy; botany; zoology (general); marine and fresh water zoology; entomology; ornithology, and miscellaneous science. The catalogue can be had upon application.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—An experimental biologist at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, for radiological research bearing on the therapy of malignant disease—The Dean of the Medical School, Middlesex Hospital, W.1 (Nov. 26). A lecturer in civil engineering at Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne—The Registrar, Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Nov. 27). A professor of dental surgery and pathology and superintendent of studies in the Dental School, Cairo—the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Egyptian University, Cairo (Nov. 28). A special librarian for the Institute of Metals—The Secretary, Institute of Metals, 13 Members' Mansions, Victoria Street, S.W.1 (Nov. 29). A professor of materia medica and therapeutics at the Royal Veterinary College—The Secretary, Royal Veterinary College, Camden Town, N.W.1 (Nov. 30). A lecturer in biology and chemistry in the chemistry and dyeing department of the Leicester College of Technology—The Registrar, College of Technology, Leicester (Nov. 30). A lecturer in applied mathematics in the Faculty of Science of the Egyptian University, Cairo—The Dean of the Faculty of Science, Egyptian University, Cairo (Dec. 1). A lecturer in physiology in the University of Birmingham—The Secretary, The University, Birmingham (Dec. 3). A physiological botanist for research work on cotton to be carried out at Coimbatore under the Development Department of the Government of Madras—The Secretary to the High Commissioner for India, General Department, 42 Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1 (Dec. 14). A secretary of the Education Committee of the League of Nations Union—The Secretary, League of Nations Union, 15 Grosvenor Crescent, S.W.1. An assistant to the surveyor of the School of Agriculture Estate Management Branch, University of Cambridge—The Estate Management Branch, School of Agriculture, Cambridge. A lecturer in agricultural biology at the Seale Hayne Agricultural College—The Principal, Seale Hayne Agricultural College, Seale Hayne, Newton Abbot.

Our Astronomical Column.

A RECENT SUNSPOT.—A large group, typically 'bipolar' in appearance, has recently been under observation. The group was conspicuous on account of the size and regularity of the leader spot, which exceeded 700 millionths of the sun's hemisphere. There was a cluster of spots forming the other extremity of the group 15° of longitude behind the big spot. On Nov. 4, when the group was near the east limb, Mr. Newbegin noticed a bright reversal of the *C*-line of hydrogen in the preceding part of the umbra of the leader spot, and he also detected dark filaments between it and the cluster of spots in the rear. These latter spots seemed to be associated with a metallic prominence seen at the east limb on Nov. 3. No associated magnetic disturbance was recorded about the time of central meridian passage of the group on Nov. 9, further particulars of which are as follows:

No.	Date on Disc.	Central Meridian Passage.	Latitude.	Area.
10	Nov. 2-15	Nov. 9·4	16° S.	1/1100 of hemisphere.

THE ECLIPSE OF MAY 9, 1929.—*Astr. Nach.*, No. 5589, contains an article by Mr. F. J. M. Stratton on this eclipse, which is the third in the present century in which Sumatra enjoys totality; the others were in 1901 and 1926. On this occasion Siam and the Philippine Islands are also available as stations. The Greenwich and Cambridge party will occupy Alor Sta in Kedah, and Pattani in Siam. The investigation of the Einstein displacement of stars near the sun will be made at both stations; the Greenwich astrographic equatorial will be mounted at Pattani and a cœlostat at Alor Sta. The spectrum of the chromosphere and corona will be studied, also polarisation and rotation of the corona.

There will be numerous other parties. German expeditions will be sent from Potsdam, Kiel, Hamburg, and Göttingen. Italian and French expeditions, and two or three American ones, will also be observing the eclipse. The line of stations to be occupied is so long that there is very good prospect that at least some of the parties will have favourable weather conditions.

THE INDEBTEDNESS OF GREEK ASTRONOMY TO BABYLON.—The *Observatory* for October publishes a lecture on this subject, delivered last February by Dr. J. K. Fotheringham. It has been made clear in the present century that much of the knowledge of the motion of the sun and moon that had been supposed to have been deduced by the Greeks from their own observations was derived from Babylonian astronomers, in particular Naburiannu and Kidinnu. To them was due the determination of the length of the synodic month which Ptolemy attributed to Hipparchus. One important discovery still seems to be Hipparchus's own, that is, the precession of the equinoxes. The Babylonians seem to have noticed some anomalies in longitude, but not to have traced them to a motion of the equinox. Dr. Fotheringham is able to fix the year 383 B.C. as that of the adoption of some of Kidinnu's values, and the beginning of the use of the 19-year lunar cycle. Naburiannu's date is about 500 B.C. The extraordinary fact is brought out that Kidinnu's value for the motion of the sun from the node was nearer the truth than that used by Oppolzer in his Canon of Eclipses more than two thousand years later. Kidinnu's value was based on the Babylonian observations of eclipses for the preceding 360 years. His good result is a testimony to the quality of these observations.