

(England), and the Forest Products Laboratories of Canada. From the point of view of Burma, it places that country in a position to answer inquiries on the subject of strengths, etc., of her more important timbers, information on the subject being obtainable from the Forest Economist, Rangoon.

American Museum of Natural History.

THE standing and the progress of the American Museum of Natural History illustrate what can be attained by effort over a relatively limited field so long as public interest approves and lends its support. On the common ground of the great public educational purposes served by the museum, the City and State of New York have combined in granting appropriations for building alone of 16,000,000 dollars; and the increasing extent of the services rendered may be judged from the jump which is foreshadowed in annual expenditure, from the "inadequate sum" of 15,000,000 dollars in January 1931 to an amount of 22,500,000 dollars in 1933, when the building programme will be completed, and the exhibition halls, laboratories, and lecture halls will be in full operation (Sixty-second Annual Report of the Trustees for the Year 1930). A new feature of the museum's educational programme is the development of the training of teachers, for whom three special courses have been instituted. But the school services also increase by leaps and bounds, so that the 23,000,000 contacts with school children in 1930 almost double those of the year before. The lantern slides loaned to public schools well exceeded a million, and it is interesting to find that the growth of the film service shows that for class purposes the narrow width film (16 mm.) is more appreciated as an aid in teaching than the standard (35 mm.) film, the real place of which is the assembly hall.

National Museum of Canada.

THE National Museum of Canada, the Annual Report of which for 1929 has just been published, attains a happy balance in its combination of field and indoor work. During the summer months the members of the staff are engaged in field work broadly distributed throughout Canada, a tradition doubtless derived from the Museum's close connexion with the Geological Survey. The result is of value scientifically and educationally. Ethnological expeditions in many areas, the investigation of the mammals of British Columbia and of the plants of Wood Buffalo Park, add material to the collections and valuable experience to the collectors, who take the opportunity of delivering popular lectures in the districts they visit. In the Museum itself great stress is laid upon the need for making a reasonable contribution to the interests of the community, and the variety of the titles in the list of the two popular lecture courses, delivered during the winter in the auditorium, indicate one way in which that contribution is successfully made. Nearly 9000 children attended the Saturday morning lectures and 3323 adults those on Wednesday evenings.

Literature of Nutrition.

THE scientific investigation of nutritional problems has attracted so many workers to this field that it is

difficult for anyone to keep in touch with advances made in directions other than those in which he is immediately engaged. We therefore welcome the appearance of the first two parts of vol. 1 of *Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews*. This new journal is issued under the auspices of the Imperial Agricultural Bureaux Council, the Medical Research Council, and the Reid Library of the Rowett Institute, Aberdeen. The editors are Dr. J. B. Orr, Prof. J. J. R. Macleod, and Dr. Harriette Chick. The first number, a double one, contains 351 pages and 1334 abstracts. Reviews are contributed by Sir F. Gowland Hopkins on nutrition and human welfare, Prof. E. P. Cathcart on some of the difficulties in the quantitative assessment of human diets, and Dr. J. B. Orr on the qualitative aspects of nutrition, with special reference to farm animals. The journal will appear quarterly. Abstracts will be made from some 450 periodicals, and the reviews will be of two types, those of a general nature, stating a point of view, as in the present number, and others dealing exhaustively with the present state of knowledge of different aspects of the subject, giving a bibliography of the literature. A hearty welcome may be extended to the new journal, which will be invaluable to workers in this science and of great use as a work of reference.

British Salmon Fisheries in 1930.

THE Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Report on the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries for the year 1930 brings to our notice that that year was characterised throughout Great Britain by the marked shortage of salmon from our rivers. Furthermore, this had followed on from a shortage that was already apparent in 1929. In both years it was the four-year-old fish which failed to come up to number, which indicates that for some reason the smolt crop of two successive seasons, in 1927 and 1928, has not returned from the sea. All available evidence goes to show no reason that would cause the smolt run from the rivers to the sea in those years to have been a failure, and one is left to conjecture that "unfavourable factors in the sea caused the destruction of the main body of smolts which descended". With most of our food fish from the sea, the abundance of future stocks is probably determined at a very early stage of the fish's life—during the first year at any rate, as shown by the successive predominance of one-year's stock from year to year in the catches. It is easy to imagine factors which may bring about heavy mortality when the fish are at a young and delicate stage, or that may even curtail spawning efforts; but the salmon are already sturdy grown fish by the time they enter the sea, and, barring excessive depredation by enemies, it is difficult to suggest a reason for their non-return.

Cattle Diseases in Australia.

AFTER considerable delay, arrangements have now been completed by the Australian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research for the carrying out of research work into cattle diseases in northern Australia. The Empire Marketing Board is generously meeting half the cost, up to a maximum of £5000 per annum; the Queensland Government is providing £1000 annually

and is making available its station at Townsville; the cattle industry of the State will provide £2000, to be raised by a compulsory annual levy of 1s. on every hundred head of cattle other than dairy herds; the Queensland Council of Agriculture has offered £300, and it is hoped that the meat exporters will provide the balance. Dr. A. W. Turner will be in charge of the station, with Dr. John Legg as chief assistant. In pursuance of the policy of linking together work in different parts of the Empire by personal contact between investigators, Dr. Legg is at present in South Africa studying the problems and organisation of the Veterinary Research Institute at Onderstepoort.

Germ of Infantile Paralysis.

PROF. FREDERICK EBERSON, director of clinical laboratories and research at the Mount Zion Hospital, San Francisco, announced at the recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science that he has succeeded in cultivating the virus of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) in a special culture medium, and in reproducing the disease in the monkey by inoculation of the culture. The virus has long been known as an invisible and filterable one, in which state it is present in the brain and spinal cord of the patient, but in the culture it is claimed that it becomes larger and assumes a form which is just visible microscopically.

Announcements.

WITH the year 1931, Prof. Luigi Palazzo closed his long and valued service as director of the Central Office of Meteorology and Geophysics at Rome, in which he followed the late Prof. Pietro Tacchini thirty years ago. With his work as director, he also combined the guidance of the Italian Seismological Society. He is succeeded by Prof. Emilio Oddone, until lately the head of the Geophysical Section of the Central Office. Two months earlier, Prof. G. Agamennone also retired from the directorship of the Royal Geophysical Institute of Rocca di Papa, to which he was appointed thirty-two years ago after the death of Prof. M. S. de Rossi.

IN view of the disturbed economic and financial conditions that prevail in Europe and America, the Council of the Institute of Metals has found it necessary to postpone this year's meeting, which was to have been held in the United States and Canada next autumn. The meeting had been planned with the close co-operation of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers. The Council's suggestion that the meeting be postponed was sympathetically received in America, and the assurance has been made that the members will be welcome at such later time as may suit their convenience.

MESSRS. Watson and Sons (Electro-Medical), Ltd., Sunic House, 43 Parker Street, Kingsway, W.C.2, have issued a booklet containing a description of their apparatus for, and full details of, 'surgical diathermy'. This is a procedure by which a high-frequency alter-

nating current is concentrated at a small electrode in the form of a short knife edge, so that a small 'cutting' arc is produced, which takes the place of the scalpel or knife ordinarily used in surgical operations, burning instead of cutting through the tissues.

A COLLECTION of collotype reproductions of early English county maps is announced for immediate publication by the Royal Geographical Society. Twenty-one sheets from the collections of the Society have been chosen to represent the chief cartographers and the engravers employed by them. The reproductions will include specimens of the work of Saxton, Symonson, Camden, Speed, and others, with notes by Mr. E. Heawood.

MESSRS. G. Bell and Sons, Ltd., announce the forthcoming publication, in a limited edition, of the diary of Michael Faraday, covering Faraday's experimental work between the years 1820 and 1862. The diary will be issued in seven volumes. Messrs. Bell also promise an account of Prof. Donnan's experiments with membrane equilibria, and the discoveries resulting from them. The author is Dr. T. R. Bolam, and the title of the volume "The Donnan Equilibria".

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—A lecturer in electrical engineering at the Swindon Technical College—The Principal, College, Swindon (Jan. 12). A Goldsmiths' professor of metallurgy in the University of Cambridge—The Vice-Chancellor, The University, Cambridge (Jan. 16). An assistant master at the Bolton Municipal Technical College, for chemistry and physics—The Director of Education, Education Office, Nelson Square, Bolton (Jan. 16). An assistant lecturer in engineering at the Brighton Technical College—The Secretary, Education Offices, 54 Old Steine, Brighton (Jan. 16). An advisory officer in agricultural economics at the Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture—The Secretary, Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture, 13 George Square, Edinburgh (Jan. 18). An assistant curator in the Raffles Museum and Library, Singapore—The Director of Recruitment (Colonial Service), 2 Richmond Terrace, Whitehall, S.W.1 (Jan. 30). A works superintendent and chief engineer at the Manchester Municipal College of Technology—The Registrar, College of Technology, Manchester (Jan. 30). A pathologist in the Public Health Department of the Corporation of Glasgow—The Town Clerk, City Chambers, Glasgow (Feb. 1). A medical man for research work under the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association (Indian Council), in collaboration with the Calcutta School of Tropical Medicine and the All-India Institute of Hygiene—The Honorary Secretary, British Empire Leprosy Relief Association (Indian Council), Talkatora Road, New Delhi, India (Feb. 29). A male assistant superintendent of traffic in the London Telephone Service, and a male assistant traffic superintendent in the Provinces, G.P.O.—The Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Burlington Gardens, W.1 (March 3).