

there is a liability that copious and apparently highly accurate results may be amassed which are actually unreliable. Other devices listed include Bay and Steiner's hydrogen discharge tubes for providing continuous ultra-violet sources of light, and also a micrometer liquid cell for studying the absorption of thin layers of liquid.

Biology in Shakespeare

It would be indeed a difficult problem to conceive of any new point of view from which to study Shakespeare's works. In the *Scientific Monthly* for January, Prof. Fraser-Harris has made a study of the world's greatest poet and dramatist from the point of view of biology, and though the topic is not a new one—there is a public garden in Manchester where nearly all the plants, wild and cultivated, mentioned in Shakespeare are grown, and references given—the method is new, in that Prof. Fraser-Harris has aimed, not at giving a catalogue of plants and animals, but at considering a few allusions which are of distinctly physiological or psychological interest. For example, Prof. Fraser-Harris claims four participating factors in sleep—chemical, vascular, sensory, and ideational; and Shakespeare recognises two of these in the famous soliloquy of the king in "Henry IV". Although Shakespeare was a contemporary of Harvey, there is no reference in his works to blood circulation, and though one might express surprise at this, Prof. Fraser-Harris gives sufficient argument why Shakespeare was ignorant of the then new discovery. These are only two examples of how Shakespearean lines embody deep biological truths; many more, with the appropriate quotations and commentaries, are given by Prof. Fraser-Harris in his interesting article.

Veterinary Research in South Africa

WE have received the seventeenth report of the Director (Prof. P. J. du Toit) of Veterinary Services and Animal Industry, Onderstepoort, Pretoria (Union of S. Africa: Dep. of Agriculture. The Government Printer, Pretoria, 1931. 10s. each part). It is issued in two parts of about 425 pages each, is well produced and fully illustrated, and contains a mass of valuable material dealing with all branches of veterinary research and animal industry. Part 1 contains the parasitological matter, part 2 physiological, pathological, and industrial subjects and metabolism. Of general interest may be mentioned papers on a new and cheap method of preparing pure cystine from wool, and giving a high yield, by J. G. Louw; the good effects of sulphur on merino sheep in doses of 5 gm. from once to six times weekly, the general condition of the animals, weight, and wool yield being strikingly improved, by D. G. Steyn; and the improved quality of bacon obtained by including barley meal in the pig's ration, by D. J. Schulte and C. A. Murray.

British Lenses

WE learn from Messrs. Taylor, Taylor and Hobson, Ltd., that they have recently received a contract for no less than 350,000 lenses, totalling more than half a million glasses, for inexpensive hand cameras.

Messrs. Taylor, Taylor and Hobson produce costly Cooke lenses used in some of the world's leading observatories for stellar photography, and also highly corrected Cooke lenses of large aperture for the exacting requirements of the principal cinema studios throughout Britain and the United States. It is the high degree of precision demanded by these more expensive products that has enabled the firm to design and make machinery capable of producing inexpensive lenses in such quantities and in competition with such low Continental prices as those for which the above contract has been awarded.

Eskimo Settlement in Alaska

AN expedition of the University of Pennsylvania Museum, of which Miss Frederica de Laguna is the leader, working in Alaska during the past season, reports the discovery, according to Science Service, of a prehistoric Eskimo settlement at Cook's Inlet. This area is at present inhabited by Indians, and the settlement would appear to represent the most southerly extension of Eskimo culture known. Shell heaps on the shore, some of them ten to fourteen feet in height, have been investigated. Among the relics were a number of personal ornaments, including lip plugs, beads, an ivory pendant, a carved ivory head, and a nose-pin. The objects of domestic use included a lamp, a needle-case and needles, and an ivory catch for a box. One of the most interesting relics was a mirror of slate, of which the surface showed the reflection of being damped.

Esperanto in Scientific Literature

REFERRING to the recent correspondence in *NATURE* on Esperanto in scientific literature, Prof. W. E. Collinson, professor of German and John Buchanan lecturer in Esperanto in the University of Liverpool, has written stating that the fullest and most extensively documented account of such writings is Section 86 of Dr. Eugen Wüster's "Internationale Sprachnormung in der Technik—besonders in der Elektrotechnik" (published with the support of the Akademie des Bauwesens, VDI-Verlag, Berlin, 1931). This work deals with the problem of the international standardisation of technical nomenclature in all its aspects, and shows the wide range of topics in which work has already appeared in Esperanto, namely, biochemistry, strength of materials, inorganic and organic chemistry, telephony and wireless, bacteriology, analytical geometry, etc.

Postponement of an International Congress

WE learn from the General Secretary, Prof. E. Moles, San Barnado 49, Madrid, that at a meeting of the Bureau of the International Union of Chemistry and the organising committee of the Ninth International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry held recently, it was decided to postpone the Congress indefinitely. The Congress was to have been at Madrid on April 3-10 this year, but it was felt that the present world-wide economic depression would limit seriously the usefulness of such a gathering. When conditions improve it is hoped to hold the Congress as originally arranged at Madrid.

(Continued on p. 241.)