

stands out prominently. It is lighter than aluminium and has a much higher melting point than either aluminium or magnesium. In order to provide authoritative information about beryllium and the distribution of deposits of beryl—the only source of which adequate supplies are available—a useful little monograph has been prepared by the Mineral Resources Department of the Imperial Institute (“The Mineral Industry of the British Empire and Foreign Countries—Beryllium (Glucinum) and Beryl”, 1931, pp. 26, price 6d.). At present the metal is being produced commercially only in Germany and the United States. However, it is clear from the details provided that the British Empire is in a strong position to exploit its resources of beryl if adequate financial help can be found to follow up the preliminary work already accomplished in the field and laboratory. As is usual in this well-known series of monographs on economic minerals, there is a very full bibliography of the leading literature on the subjects dealt with.

National Institute of Industrial Psychology

THE eleventh annual report and the accounts for the year 1931 of the National Institute of Industrial Psychology have recently been published. The development of the Institute's work, in spite of the present financial crisis, continues satisfactorily. There is reported an increase of more than twenty-six per cent in the number of industrial and commercial firms for which the Institute has carried out investigations during the year, and an increase of nearly seventeen per cent in the number of cases examined for vocational guidance. The investigations are concerned with very varied activities, including work in gold mines, gasworks, a fish paste factory, and schools, and the problems investigated include equipment and lay-out of factories, as well as bonus schemes and staff selection. The very valuable work on vocational guidance continues, and while the Institute has acquired knowledge which enables it to advise young people on the choice of a career, yet it is recognised that much remains to be done: research work which will require several years for fruition is in progress. An allied problem, namely, occupational analysis, is also being continued, and studies being made of the abilities required for the various types of women's secretarial work and nursing. Other researches described include the nature and measurement of the mental abilities involved in factory assembly operations, motor drivers' tests, colour discrimination, and a very important investigation into the part played by rhythm in typewriting.

Health of the Army

THE health of the Army, at home and abroad, during 1930 is dealt with in the War Office Report recently issued (H.M. Stationery Office. 2s. 6d. net). The ratio per 1000 of the strength of men admitted to hospital was 428.4, which is the lowest since the War, with the exception of 1928. Malaria caused 7365 admissions, venereal diseases, 6146, and inflammation of the tonsils, 5519. The principal causes

of invaliding from the Army were tuberculosis, 200 cases, and middle ear disease, 182 cases. Enteric fevers accounted for only 253 cases, of which 207 were in India. A single case of undulant fever is reported, an *abortus* infection at York. There were 534 cases of pneumonia, with a case mortality of 10.6 per cent. It is of interest that the pneumonia figures of forty years ago, selected at random, give a mortality figure of 12 per cent. Considering the less efficient nursing then available, this suggests that effective treatment of pneumonia has not materially advanced. Some details are given of researches carried out by officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

International Oceanography

PROF. R. DE BUEN, with the co-operation of leading international oceanographers, has compiled a valuable chronological list of voyages, long and short, made by vessels of all countries that have resulted in addition to oceanographical knowledge (“Lista cronológica de las campañas y navegaciones a las que se deben observaciones científicas de carácter oceanográfico”. *Memorias del Consejo Oceanográfico Ibero-Americano*, No. 5, Madrid, 1930). The entries are arranged separately for each country, and indications are in most cases given of objects or results of the voyages, names of the leaders, and in some cases of scientific personnel. The compiler is open to receive corrections or additions to the list, which indeed appears to be very complete already. The earlier entries, which begin at the end of the fifteenth century, are for voyages primarily of a geographical nature. It is interesting to note that the British records, although not given in great detail, occupy nearly one-half the whole.

Agricultural History

THE Agricultural History Society of America wishes to secure as full bibliographical information as possible relating to books or essays on agricultural history for inclusion in its quarterly journal. Writers in the British Isles of essays on farming history and the history of rural life in all its phases, are therefore requested to forward details of their publications from time to time to the Associate Editor for Great Britain, Mr. G. E. Fussell, at 47 Maple Street, London, W.1. Information regarding sections of scientific works which contain historical data, works of general history, or the history of specific trades or districts which contain sections dealing with agricultural history, might also be included. The quarterly journal of the Society, *Agricultural History*, is obtainable on payment of an annual subscription of three dollars, which should be forwarded to the Treasurer, Agricultural History Society, Room 304, 1358 B Street S.W., Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

The Remsen Memorial Collection

FORMER students in chemistry at Johns Hopkins University have organised the chemistry alumni of the University, with Dr. Harry N. Holmes, of Oberlin College, as president, and Dr. Lyman C. Newell, of Boston University, as secretary. Two meetings are held each year, ordinarily at the time of the meetings