

zoological specimens which have lasted to our day. With the exception of a white giraffe which has been lent by Rowland Ward, Ltd., all the specimens are drawn from the Museum collections. They show to much greater advantage in their present setting than crowded together in glazed cases in the Mammal Galleries. The exhibit, which has been arranged by Capt. J. G. Dollman, was opened to the public on May 31.

New Botanical Collections

THE Department of Botany, British Museum (Natural History), has received some noteworthy additions during the last two months. His Majesty the King has placed on permanent loan a further collection of Nepal plants presented to him by His Highness the Maharaja of Nepal. The present consignment numbers 253 specimens, which were collected by Prof. K. Sharma; Major L. Dhwoj, who was responsible for the previous collections, died during the expedition. The value of the collection is that it is from previously unexplored mountains. Another collection which will add to our knowledge of the floristics of the Himalayan region has been presented by Capt. F. Kingdon-Ward. It consists of 1233 specimens, and is from the Upper Irrawaddy and the Burma-Tibet frontier. A valuable addition is the gift of the Boswell-Syme British Herbarium by Mr. Frederick J. Hanbury. This contains about 20,000 sheets, in fourteen mahogany cabinets, and will be kept as a separate collection. Boswell-Syme (1822-1888) was the editor of the third edition of "English Botany", and the specimens on which his remarkably accurate descriptions were based are in the collection. The herbarium was purchased by Mr. Hanbury on Boswell-Syme's death, and is in excellent condition. British botanists will now be free to consult the remarkably long series of species which are rarely well represented in modern herbaria. Mr. A. Vernay has presented a set of plants obtained on the Vernay-Lang expedition to the Kalahari desert. This area is very poor floristically, and the 264 species, including twenty type gatherings, are consequently of value in extending our knowledge of distribution.

Acquisitions at the Natural History Museum

AMONG the chief recent acquisitions in the Zoological Department of the British Museum (Natural History) are 60 mammals and 590 birds obtained by the Vernay-Lang Expedition to the Kalahari Desert, presented by Mr. A. S. Vernay; the mammals include specimens of 11 forms recently described as being new to science by Mr. Austin Roberts of the Transvaal Museum. Another important gift received from Mr. Vernay is a collection of 184 mammals, 29 reptiles, 34 fishes, and 500 butterflies obtained by Capt. Beresford Holloway, who accompanied Mr. Vernay on his recent expedition to the Malay Peninsula. This collection comprises many rare species, including a specimen of the rare *Rhinoceros sondaicus*, which is now being mounted, at the expense of the donor, for exhibition in the Museum. Purchases for the Department of Geology include a specimen of

the teeth of an extinct shark, *Edestus*, from Devonian rocks of Rhenish Prussia. The median teeth of *Edestus*, instead of falling away after use as in all other sharks, remained attached to their successors, forming in the course of time an external dental spiral which must have hung over the point of the jaws and sometimes contained no less than 150 teeth. Prof. G. Vibert Douglas has collected and presented to the Department of Minerals a large series of rocks illustrating the geology and mineralisation of several mines in the 'copper belt' of Northern Rhodesia and Katanga. Samples of volcanic dust which fell after the recent eruptions (April 11-12) in the Andes have been presented by the *Times* Publishing Co. and by Messrs. H. W. Nelson, Ltd.

British Science Guild

AT the annual meeting of the British Science Guild held on May 25, Sir Samuel Hoare was re-elected president for the ensuing year, and affirmed his faith in the aims of the Guild. The annual report shows a year of useful work. Perhaps its most interesting feature is the attempt which the Guild is making, in conjunction with the Association of Scientific Workers, to provide an adequate channel for bringing before Parliament the views of scientific men. A Science Advisory Council is being set up, and it is intended that this Council shall be in some sense comparable with the Federation of British Industries, in the sense that it shall be the liaison body for providing contact with Parliament in connexion with scientific and technical matters coming before the House. The success of the projected Council will, of course, depend on the degree in which it enjoys the co-operation of scientific and technical societies, a number of which have already agreed to participate. The extent of its activities, however, will be mainly determined by that of the funds placed at its disposal, and in this aspect the matter has yet to be put on a satisfactory basis.

Research and Industry

IN a recent article in the *Journal of the Textile Institute*, on "Cotton Research and Academic Physics", Dr. F. T. Peirce points out that the tendency of men of science to get into ruts of thought is partly responsible for the tardiness of the academic mind to appreciate and interpret the problems of technology in a way that is essential for the interpenetration of science and industry. On the other hand, while as one consequence of specialisation every research worker is accustomed in his reading to slur over matter which he cannot or need not understand, the industrialist is apt to be offended if he encounters matter which is incomprehensible to him even though the practical conclusions are clear. Without claiming that scientific research is a complete cure for all the troubles of industry, Dr. Peirce urges that it is a method of securing the most effective use of available resources, and shows how, within the experience of the cotton industry, impersonal scientific methods have succeeded in saving efforts and resolving difficulties in the relations of firms or branches of the industry with