

of the river for hundreds of yards. The first recorded damming of the Shyok occurred in 1779, the water breaking through and causing a flood the following year. Since then the river has been dammed many times but experts find great difficulty in forming any conclusion regarding the periodicity of the advance and retreat of the glaciers. One observer, Major Mason, however, considers that after 1932 there will be no danger of a block for another thirty years.

Medical Uses of Radium

THE Medical Research Council has issued under the above title a summary of reports from research centres for 1931 on the radium treatment of cancer (Special Report Series, No. 174. London: H.M. Stationery Office. 1s. 3d. net). The main lines of radium therapy employed at present are described, and the results of the treatment of cancer of certain organs—tongue and mouth, breast, uterus, rectum, and others—are detailed. While the immediate results of the treatment are generally beneficial, the ultimate results are disappointing, few cases surviving after three or four years. But it must be remembered that most of the cases are advanced ones and inoperable. For these almost the only hope lies in radium therapy, and occasionally a striking result is obtained. Various methods of applying radium are being tested at the various centres, and we may hope in the future that improved methods will yield better results. A statistical analysis of all the cases treated at the Middlesex Hospital since 1925 is given in an appendix.

New Nature Reserve in Cheshire

AN addition of value has been made to the possessions of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in the Eastwood Nature Reserve, Stalybridge (*Bird Notes and News*, Autumn Number). The reserve, originally extending to about eight acres, was bequeathed by the Right Hon. John F. Cheetham, together with £5,000 for its upkeep. To this has been added an adjacent four acres, with £500, by a niece of the donor, Mrs. Wimbush of Taunton. The reserve is a beautiful ravine within the public park given by Mr. Cheetham to Stalybridge, and his wish that it should be kept in a natural state as regards fauna and flora will insure the continuance of a sample of wild Nature in the heart of an industrial area. Already there is abundance of wild plants and unexpected variety of birds, and judicious treatment of the reserve should add to the attractiveness of both.

Announcements

SIR ARTHUR KEITH, who is recovering from a serious illness, has been given six months' leave of absence by the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England. During his absence, the duties of conservator of the Museum of the College will be taken over by Mr. R. H. Burne, physiological curator to the Museum.

THE New Tank of the William Froude Laboratory at the National Physical Laboratory will be opened by the Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin on November 18 at three o'clock. Several demonstrations will be given at the opening ceremony, including screw propeller tests in the New Tank and rough water experiments in the Alfred Yarrow Tank.

A COURSE of lectures on "The Fear of Death in Primitive Religion" will be delivered by Sir James Frazer at University College, Gower Street, London, W.C.1, on November 25, November 29 and December 1, at 5 P.M. The lectures, although addressed to students of the University, will be open to others interested in the subject. Admission will be free and without ticket.

PROF. M. ISHIMOTO has been appointed director of the Earthquake Research Institute, Tokyo, in succession to Prof. K. Suyehiro, who died on April 9 of this year (see *NATURE*, 130, 132, 1932). Prof. Ishimoto is well known as the inventor of a tiltmeter, resembling Zöllner's horizontal pendulum, with which he has made many interesting observations on the tilts of the ground immediately preceding earthquakes.

At the anniversary meeting of the Mineralogical Society held on November 1 the following officers were elected:—*President*: Sir John Flett; *Vice-Presidents*: Prof. C. Gilbert Cullis, Mr. Arthur Russell; *Treasurer*: Mr. F. N. Ashcroft; *General Secretary*: Mr. W. Campbell Smith; *Foreign Secretary*: Prof. A. Hutchinson; *Editor of the Journal*: Dr. L. J. Spencer.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—An assistant lecturer in mathematics, mechanics and physics at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, London, W.1.—The Director of Education (Nov. 21). A joint examiner in mathematics for the Higher School Certificate Examination of the University of Bristol—The Registrar (Nov. 30). Two assistant civil engineers for the Directorate of Works, The War Office—The Under-Secretary of State (C.5.), The War Office, London, S.W.1 (Nov. 23). A public analyst to the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich—The Town Clerk, Town Hall, Woolwich, S.E.18 (Dec. 2). A waterfowl research assistant at the National Institute of Poultry Husbandry—The Director, National Institute of Poultry Husbandry, Newport, Salop (Dec. 5). A laboratory steward in the Department of Zoology of the University of Bristol—The Registrar (Dec. 6). A secretary, assistant librarian and assistant curator of the Manx Museum—The Curator, Manx Museum, Douglas, Isle of Man (Dec. 7). A research fellow in bacteriology at the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine—The Secretary, Lister Institute, Chelsea Bridge Road, London, S.W.1 (Dec. 9). An independent lecturer in applied mathematics at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth—The Secretary (Feb. 1).