

World Power Conference

THE preparatory work of the organising committee at Stockholm of the next World Power Conference, which will take place in 1933 in Scandinavia, is proceeding steadily. The first plenary World Power Conference was held in London in 1924, the next in Berlin in 1930. There have also been sectional meetings with special programmes, for example, at Basel in 1926 and London in 1928. The Scandinavian Conference will be such a special meeting, dealing with the energy problems of large industry and transport. Participation and collaboration of fifteen countries outside Scandinavia is assured and more than 170 reports are announced. Some forty reports to be published at the meeting deal with problems of energy supply in large-scale industry, such as combined power and heat supply, the rôle of large-scale industry in national power schemes, etc. Many of the technical papers deal with the problems of long distance gas transmission, while other papers are devoted to more special power problems concerning the iron and steel industry, pulp and paper, and cement, sugar, textile and other steam heat consuming industries. Energy questions of transport provide the subjects for 62 reports; railway and marine transport, the peculiarities of city and suburban traffic are to be discussed with due emphasis on the new aspects which have been introduced by electric traction and Diesel engines.

Medical Research in South Africa

THE annual report of the South African Institute for Medical Research, by the director, Sir Spencer Lister, summarises the work of the Institute during 1931. Methods of dust estimation and studies on underground humidity in the air of the Witwatersrand mines have been pursued. The pneumonia attacking the native labourers in the copper mines of Northern Rhodesia has been investigated, and has been found to be caused by the *Streptococcus pyogenes* and other organisms, but rarely by the pneumococcus. This change of type of the organisms causing pneumonia has also been found in the Kimberley diamond mines. Much experimental work has been done on cancer, and Dr. des Ligneris has found that a micro-organism, *Salmonella gallinarum* of fowl typhoid, if cultivated in the tumour filtrate of the Rous fowl sarcoma for several generations, appears to have the power on inoculation of prolonging the life of fowls with the Rous sarcoma by about fifteen per cent.

The March of Influenza

ACCORDING to a report of Science Service, Washington, D.C., a considerable outbreak of influenza is in progress in several States of the Union, particularly in the south and west, the United States Public Health Service reporting 14,291 cases during the week ended December 3. In Great Britain outbreaks are reported in Southampton and Birmingham, and during the week ended December 17 in 117 great

towns, including London, of England and Wales, 85 deaths from influenza were certified. In the same week Glasgow reported 28 deaths from this disease.

Announcements

THE following have been elected officers of the Royal Society of South Africa for 1933: *President*: Dr. W. A. Rogers; *Treasurer*: Dr. L. Crawford; *General Secretary*: Dr. B. F. J. Schonland.

THE Royal Society Mond Laboratory at Cambridge will be opened by the Chancellor of the University, the Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin, on February 3. It will be recalled that the hydrogen liquefaction plant of the Laboratory was described in NATURE for February 13, 1932, p. 224.

WE regret to learn of the death on December 25 of Prof. Paolo Enriques, professor of zoology in the University of Padua and president of the last International Congress of Zoology; he was just starting for Naples to pursue his researches in the Zoological Station. Also of Prof. James Johnstone, professor of oceanography in the University of Liverpool, formerly director of the Marine Biological Station, Port Erin, aged sixty-three years.

CATALOGUE No. 552 of Messrs. Francis Edwards Ltd., High Street, Marylebone, W.1, includes a miscellaneous collection of books, autographs and manuscripts, falling under such headings as Africa, America, Economics, Geography, History, First Editions, Scripture, Shakespeare and the like. There are also special series such as the publications of the Hakluyt Society and books from special presses such as the Kelmscott and Doves Presses. Among the books listed under Africa to be noted especially are Angas "The Kaffirs" with the coloured lithograph plates (£21) and a copy of the 1727 folio edition in Dutch of Peter Kolben's famous and invaluable account of the Cape of Good Hope (£15). The most notable item offered, however, is George Lily's map of Britain, 1546, of which the only other known, and slightly inferior, copy is in the British Museum, and was one of the six treasures selected from the British Museum for the International Geographical Congress in 1928. Apart from Ptolemy's atlas, this is the first printed map of Great Britain (£105).

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—A secretary of the Iron and Steel Institute and editor of the *Proceedings*—The Chairman, Appointments Committee, Iron and Steel Institute, 28, Victoria Street, S.W.1 (Jan. 21). A full-time tutor for the practical course in social science at the University of Cape Town—The Secretary, Office of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, 73, Strand, W.C.2 (Jan. 31). A professor of textile industries at the University of Leeds—The Registrar (Feb. 28). A principal of the School of Metalliferous Mining (Cornwall)—The Secretary to the Governors, Cambridge (March 31).