

but also to analyse with precision, periodic movements in explosion flames occurring with frequencies up to a million a second. A number of the resulting photographs were exhibited showing the influence of compression waves in accelerating explosion flames and setting up detonation therein and, more particularly, the new phenomenon of 'spin' in detonation, which is due to a highly luminous comet-like 'head' of detonation spiralling through the medium with a frequency of several tens of thousands a second, and appears to be a concentrated locus of positively charged particles. These developments are not merely important but have also opened up a new field in the investigation of the propagation of chemical change through gaseous media under the most intensive conditions of temperature and pressure.

#### Recent Acquisitions at the British Museum (Natural History)

THE Rev. A. H. Cooke has given the whole of his collection of shells of land-snails of the genus *Clausilia* and of the dog whelk (*Thais lapillus*); the former is very rich in series from central Europe and the Balkans, and the latter includes specimens from practically the whole distributional area, and illustrates very completely the remarkable variation of this species. Recent accessions to the Department of Entomology include the final instalment, consisting of several hundred Hymenoptera, of the very large amount of material collected by the Percy Sladen Trust Expedition to the Seychelles and other islands of the western Indian Ocean. This expedition, which was led by Prof. (then Mr.) Stanley Gardiner, in 1905 and 1908-9, resulted in the gift of many thousands of specimens to the Museum. The final instalment consists almost entirely of small or minute wasps, many of them obviously new, which it has so far proved impossible to work out owing to the lack of specialists in these groups. The Department has also received a set of the Hymenoptera collected on the island of Rodriguez by the late H. J. Snell and by Mr. H. P. Thomasset. From Mount Kina Balu in North Borneo a series of a new species of *Blepharocera* has been sent by Mr. H. M. Pendlebury. Flies of this genus have hitherto been found only in the north temperate regions, and their discovery in Borneo is therefore both surprising and of importance in zoogeography. The larvae of these insects live only in waterfalls and rapids, attaching themselves to rocks and stones by means of ventral suckers; and it has been considered therefore that they would be able to spread only along land routes. The four, widely separated, compound eyes in this species give the head a most remarkable appearance. The American Museum of Natural History has presented to the Department of Geology a model of an extinct straight-tusked elephant.

#### Game Animals in the British Museum (Natural History)

THE Trustees of the British Museum announce the closing of the exhibition of the game animals of the British Empire in the New Whale Gallery at the Natural History Museum on March 19. As, owing

to the financial stringency, it was impracticable to begin last year the removal of the exhibited specimens of whales to their new quarters, the Trustees decided to use the space available for the temporary exhibition of the game animals, grouped by the three great faunal regions in which they occur and arranged without glazed cases. Unhappily the skins are attractive to moths; it would therefore be risky to leave the specimens exposed when the moths begin to fly in spite of the daily dusting which these skins receive, and they will be returned to their cases before the end of the month. Capt. Guy Dollman, who was responsible for the arrangement of the exhibition, will talk in the New Whale Gallery about the animals in the three great faunal regions at 11.30 on March 4, Indo-Malaya; March 11, Africa; March 18, Canada and Newfoundland. Visitors will be admitted free.

#### Ross Institute for Tropical Diseases

AT a recent meeting of the Industrial Advisory Committee of the Ross Institute, Putney Heath, London, S.W., reports were received of the over-seas activities of the Institute. Seven research centres in Assam and northern Bengal have been opened, and anti-malarial work and the testing of new drugs for the treatment of malaria have been pursued there and in Rhodesia and East and South Africa. In the Assam tea gardens, anti-malarial work has resulted in much improved health, for in 1930 among a population of 13,248 the admissions to hospital were 23,226 but in 1932 with a slightly larger population the admissions were reduced to 15,141. A standard oil mixture for killing mosquito larvae has been devised in conjunction with the Burma-Shell group. The health among lead miners in Yugoslavia was investigated and a health scheme was formulated and is now in operation. At the conclusion of the proceedings, Mr. Still and Sir Malcolm Watson addressed the meeting on the subject of yellow fever. Now that travel by aeroplane is so rapid, the grave danger that infection may be carried from the yellow fever zone in West Africa to East Africa and Asia, which would be followed with disastrous consequences, was emphasised.

#### Norwegian Antarctic Expedition

CAPT. H. RIISER-LARSEN, the leader of the forthcoming Norwegian expedition to the antarctic, has outlined his plans in the *Polar Record* for January. With two companions and eighty dogs, he hopes to be landed from a whaler at Enderby Land early this year. A hut will be built as a base for the winter months but various sledge journeys will be made in April and May. In the spring the three men will start sledging westward over the sea-ice along the coast of the Weddell Sea to Snow Hill or Hope Bay in Graham Land, where supplies were to be landed by a whaler this (southern) summer. The expedition is to be picked up early in 1934. A short wave radio equipment will be carried which will make it possible for arrangements with the whaler to be altered. Capt. Riiser-Larsen believes, from his view of the