

Anatomy of the Tortoise

THE attention of teachers and students in vertebrate anatomy who include the tortoise in the list of the animals they study by dissection, is directed to an account of the anatomy of that animal published by the Royal Dublin Society (vol. 20, No. 28, Dec. 1932). The late Dr. J. Stuart Thomson was engaged on the preparation of this memoir over a number of years with the view of providing an account of the principal structural features of the tortoise for his own and other senior students. The descriptions, in about eighty pages, of the external characters and the various systems of organs are systematic, clear and adequate, and are supported by twenty-five well-drawn plates. This useful paper is published at the reasonable price of 8s.

Land Utilisation Survey

THE second annual report of this survey of Great Britain records that thirty-one counties are now completed or very nearly completed, comprising nearly 8,700 sheets. More than a third of the area of the country is covered by these maps. Compared with the previous year, progress has been rapid. Thirty-six counties, during the last year, have undertaken work for the survey and there are now only four counties in which nothing or very little has been done, namely Essex, Carmarthen, Argyll and Perth, but considerable help is still needed in the West Riding of Yorkshire outside the completed Sheffield area. The director of the Survey also asks for the assistance of volunteer workers in the counties of Somerset, Westmorland, Wiltshire, Peebles, Inverness and Sutherland. Work on the reduction of the results to a scale of one inch for publication is proceeding actively on several sheets in England and Scotland, including Cromer, Ipswich, Ullapool and Liverpool.

Announcements

PROF. P. Debye will deliver the fifteenth Faraday lecture before the Chemical Society on March 29, at 5.30, at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, W.1. The lecture will be entitled: "The Relations between Stereochemistry and Physics".

THE memorial fund instituted in memory of Dr. R. Stenhouse Williams, formerly director of the National Institute for Research in Dairying (University of Reading) to which reference has already been made in our columns, has now reached a total of £1,800. It is proposed to close the fund shortly, but further contributions will be welcomed. The fund will be used for the advancement of dairy science at the National Institute for Research in Dairying.

A SERIES of five talks by Mr. Charles Elton, director of the Bureau of Animal Population at the University of Oxford, on "Exploring the Animal World", will be broadcast by the British Broadcasting Corporation on Friday evenings commencing on April 21. During

these talks, co-operation will be sought between the amateur observer and scientific worker, especially in the second talk on "Woodland Life", when listeners will be asked to help in a survey of the birds of different kinds of woods all over England.

WITH reference to the note on "Illuminated Fountains" which appeared in NATURE of March 4, p. 302, Mr. A. S. E. Ackermann has pointed out that an article by him on an illuminated fountain at the Barcelona Exhibition appeared in the *Journal and Transactions of the Society of Engineers* (21, No. 3, 115; 1930). In this fountain there were 750 incandescent lamps of 2,500 candle-power, besides arc lamps. Photographs of the fountain in action are reproduced.

WE regret to learn that a serious error occurs in the description of the 'soil conductivity bridge' by the Cambridge Instrument Co., Ltd., advertised in the Supplement to NATURE of March 11, p. iv. This should read: "This A.C. Bridge will measure directly the specific resistance of samples of soils; the reciprocal of the reading being taken as the specific conductivity in mhos per cm.³. The range is from 1 to 100,000 ohms, or 1 to 10⁻⁵ mhos." The term 'mhos' (reciprocal ohms, measuring conductivity) was altered without authority by the printer to 'ohms', after the proof had been passed for press by the advertiser.

MESSRS. HOPKIN AND WILLIAMS, LTD., 16 Cross Street, Hatton Garden, London, E.C.1, have issued a useful booklet of 60 pages, price 1s., entitled "Organic Reagents for Metals", in which working directions are given for the use of sixteen organic reagents, such as picrolonic acid and quinalizarin, which have become important in analytical chemistry in recent years. Improved details are given for some of the methods, and a comprehensive bibliography is appended for each reagent.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on, or before, the dates mentioned:—A registered medical practitioner with experience in bacteriological research for the Ministry of Health—The Director of Establishments, Ministry of Health, Whitehall, S.W. (March 27). An assistant lecturer in bacteriology in the Edinburgh and East of Scotland College of Agriculture—The Secretary, 13 George Square, Edinburgh (April 7). A principal investigator for the Burden Mental Research Trust—The Secretary of the Trust, B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1 (April 10). An independent lecturer in materia medica and pharmacology in the Welsh National School of Medicine—The Secretary, Welsh National School of Medicine, The Parade, Cardiff (April 25). A woman assistant demonstrator in physics in the Royal Holloway College (University of London), Englefield Green, Surrey—The Principal (May 10). An assistant lecturer in mechanical engineering in the Battersea Polytechnic, London, S.W.11—The Principal.