

of exploration at Grimes' Graves has been continued and Mr. Leslie Armstrong reports on the examination of five pits, one still unfinished, since the date of the last report in 1926. Two communications deal with different aspects of related problems. Of these, one by Mr. Stuart Piggott and Prof. Gordon Childe describes and discusses the affinities of neolithic pottery from Larné, now in the Ashmolean Museum. The authors conclude that in decoration this pottery is a reflex of the current round the north of the British Isles that is supposed to have brought the passage-grave idea to Denmark, while in form it is the most distinctively Iberian in the whole Windmill industry. In the second communication, Mr. J. G. D. Clark examines the distribution of the curved flint sickle blade in Britain, and deriving it from the Nordic culture area, thinks it is to be associated with the Peterborough pottery folk, while it is probable that the Windmill Hill people used a composite sickle. In addition to other communications, there are some useful notes and references.

#### Barrages on the Niger

ONE of the most important irrigation schemes in the African Sudan is being carried out in the Upper Senegal district of French West Africa, where the project is to irrigate the Macina district from the flood waters of the Niger. A few details are given in *Terre Air Mer* for February. At Bamako the Sotuba barrage, 1,340 yards long, irrigates about 15,000 acres on the right bank. The chief barrage, however, is in course of construction below Segu about 200 miles farther downstream at Diamarabougou. This will be about 1,300 yards long and will feed a number of canals on the left of the river. Some of these are already cut and embanked. A navigation canal with locks will be built round this barrage. It is estimated that this irrigation scheme will eventually allow the population of the area affected to be increased five-fold with crops of rice, cotton, forage plants and live-stock.

#### Sir Patrick Geddes

A SUPPLEMENT issued with the recent number of the *Sociological Review* (vol. 24, No. 3) consists of tributes to the late Sir Patrick Geddes by friends, former pupils and fellow-workers, in which his many-sided genius, his fertility in ideas and his gift for inspiring enthusiasm in others are commemorated. Sir D. M. Stevenson, Lord Provost of Glasgow, writes of "the Social Reformer"; Mr. Edward McGegan, writing from the Outlook Tower, Edinburgh, with which the name of Geddes will always be associated, speaks of him as a man of action; Lord Sandwich records his part in the saving and re-erection of Crosby Hall; Dr. R. S. Buist tells of his work at University College, Dundee; while intimate views of his enthusiasms, with which he fired others, are given in accounts of his schemes for forming a university students' quarter in London, of his work in town planning in India and in Palestine and his Collège des Ecosais at Montpellier, by writers who were closely associated with him in these undertakings.

#### Moles Storing Worms

REFERRING to notes in our Calendar of Nature Topics of Feb. 25, Mr. Lionel E. Adams, Wheatley, Shide Cross, Newport, I.O.W., who contributed a valuable paper entitled "Observations on a Captive Mole" to the *Proceedings of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society* of May 31, 1906, and later, an illustrated article entitled "Moles and Molehills" to NATURE of March 10, 1910, p. 37, writes: "A farmer on whose land I was trapping moles, informed me that while digging out a 'fortress' he came across a mass of dead worms in the nest cavity close to the nest. He described the quantity as 'three spadefuls'. I have frequently watched captive moles bury worms when their hunger was satisfied. The mole would bite the worm with quick bites along its whole length and then cram it into the earth and scratch the earth over it with his fore paws."

#### Australian Entomology

AMONGST many valuable references to papers in all branches of science, *Australian Science Abstracts* (No. 4, Nov. 1932) records a "Bibliography of Australian Entomology, 1775-1930", published by the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales (1932, pp. 1-380). In the list of papers and works touching on Australian insects during that period are references to scientific expeditions which have visited Australia and information concerning authors, collectors and collections. Invaluable to entomologists, the work will be found useful also by zoologists and botanists. An index classifies papers written on various orders of insects, as well as papers on economic, medical and veterinary entomology, and on Australian fossil insects.

#### The Faraday House Journal

THE part played by the Faraday House Electrical Engineering College in providing Great Britain with electrical engineers has been a very important one. Its old students are found occupying many of the highest positions in the electrical industry, and the recent issue of the *Faraday House Journal* states that more than 2,000 students have passed through the College. The virtual founder of the College was Robert Hammond, who in 1882 opened the Hammond Electrical Engineering College. In one of the notes in the *Journal* reference is made to the attempt to light Cocker-mouth with electricity in 1881, the opening function being attended by Hammond. That same year Godalming was lighted by electricity, but whereas this proved successful the scheme at Cocker-mouth failed. The *West Cumberland Times*, however, looking ahead, said that electricity would revolutionise the world, that the maturing of fruits and vegetables would be speeded up by its use and that the dynamo would be as common on the farm as the threshing machine.

#### The Ray Society

AT the annual general meeting of the Ray Society, held on March 22, the following officers were re-elected: *President*, Sir Sidney Harmer; *Treasurer*, Sir David Prain; *Secretary*, Dr. W. T. Calman.

Mr. Charles Oldham was elected a vice-president and Mr. D. J. Scourfield, Mr. J. Spedan Lewis and Mr. David Bryce were elected new members of council. It was announced that the third volume of Dr. Gurney's "British Freshwater Copepoda" is in the press, and will form the issue for the current year. For future issue, in addition to the second volume of Prof. Stephenson's "British Sea Anemones", the Council has provisionally accepted works on British Neuroptera by Mr. F. J. Killington, on British Psocoptera by Mr. J. V. Pearman, and on British Freshwater Planarians by Mr. Philip Ulyott, all of which are in active preparation.

#### Announcements

At the annual general meeting of the Institute of Metals, the following officers were elected for the year 1933-34: *President*: Sir Henry Fowler; *Vice-Presidents*: Prof. C. H. Desch and Prof. R. S. Hutton; *Members of Council*: Eng. Vice-Admiral Sir Robert Dixon, Mr. Wesley Lambert, Mr. H. C. Lancaster, Mr. A. H. Munday, Mr. A. J. G. Smout, Mr. F. Tomlinson. The silver Jubilee meeting of the Institute will be held in Birmingham on September 18-21. It was in Birmingham that the first general meeting of the Institute was held in the autumn of 1908, under the presidency of the late Sir William White.

THE Institute of Physics announces that the B.O.I.M.A. Prize for the best paper published in the *Journal of Scientific Instruments* during the year 1932 has been awarded to Mr. E. Lancaster-Jones, of the Science Museum, for his paper on "The Principles and Practice of the Gravity Gradiometer", and the Institute of Physics prize for the best contribution to the Laboratory and Workshop Notes in the *Journal* has been awarded to Dr. J. L. Miller and Mr. J. E. L. Robinson of Messrs. Ferranti, Ltd., for their joint note entitled "A Three-Dimensional Adjustment of an Electrode in Vacuo".

A SPECIAL exhibition in commemoration of the death, on April 22, 1833, of Richard Trevithick, the great advocate of the high-pressure steam engine and the 'father' of the railway locomotive, is being held in the Main Hall of the Science Museum, South Kensington, from March 31 until the end of June. The exhibition includes examples of engines, etc., designed by him as well as numerous other objects relating to him and his work.

THE fourth annual exhibition of television and photoelectric apparatus arranged by the Television Society will be held at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, S.W.7 on April 5 at 6-9 p.m. and April 6 at 3-9 p.m. The exhibition catalogue (price 6d., or post paid, 7d.) can be obtained on about April 3 from the exhibition secretary, Mr. W. G. W. Mitchell, "Lynton", Newbury, Berks. Further information and cards of admission can be obtained from the honorary business secretary of the Television Society, Mr. J. J. Denton, 25, Lisburne Road, Hampstead, N.W.3.

WE have received from British Glues and Chemicals Ltd., Imperial House, 15, 17, 19 Kingsway, London, W.C.2, a pamphlet containing particulars of an international competition organised with the object of promoting interest and research in the development of the uses of bone glue. Provision has been made for prizes to the total value of 20,000 Swiss francs and a further sum of 10,000 Swiss francs is held in reserve to be employed in special cases set out in the rules. A copy of the pamphlet containing the rules and any further information may be obtained at the above address (Department I/S).

IN the review of Dr. W. N. Bond's "Numerical Examples in Physics" in NATURE of March 4, the reviewer suggested that it was a slip on the part of the author to express the mass of the sun as 1.47 kilometres, and to specify a piece of glass as having a refractive index of 1.961. Lord Holden has written to point out that the former is a statement in terms of units that Eddington has found it convenient to use. It may therefore be regarded as correct but rather cryptic. As regards the second statement, glass has been made of such a large refractive index as is given in the question, though it is not very satisfactory in use, turning yellow with age. The high value of the refractive index was intended by Dr. Bond to add point to the numerical example.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—Three junior assistants in the Chief Engineer's Department of the Metropolitan Water Board—The Chief Engineer, Offices of the Board, 173, Rosebery Avenue, E.C.1 (April 6). A temporary principal technical assistant in the Shellfish Services Staff and an assistant naturalist in the Fisheries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries—The Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10, Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1 (April 10). Examiners in botany and mathematics in the matriculation and General School examination of the University of London—The Secretary to the Matriculation and School Examination's Council, University of London, South Kensington, S.W.7 (April 18). A professor of physiology in the University of Sheffield—The Registrar (April 20). A senior pathologist in the Department of Preventive Medicine of the University of Bristol—The Secretary (April 20). A scientific assistant in the Imperial Bureau of Plant Genetics: Herbage Plants, Agricultural Buildings, Aberystwyth, Wales—The Director (April 21). A demonstrator in the Department of Zoology at Bedford College for Women, Regent's Park, N.W.1—The Secretary (April 29). An inspector of installations (heating, ventilating, electrical, sanitary, etc.) for the new buildings of the Société des Nations—Le Bureau du Personnel, Secrétariat Société des Nations, Geneva (April 30). A lecturer in helminthology in the Department of Zoology and the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College (University of Edinburgh)—The Secretary of the University (May 24).