

Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Many years will be required for the evolution of an animal suitable for northern tropical conditions but success, if attained, will be of considerable importance to many parts of the Empire.

Coloration Problems in Animals

ALL who are concerned with the problems raised by the coloration of animals will be interested in the announcement that two hog-deer (*Cervus porcinus*) have just been born at the Gardens of the Zoological Society of London. This animal, of about the size of a roe-deer, has a more or less conspicuously spotted coat in the summer, and one of a uniform brownish hue speckled with white in the winter. But the young are heavily spotted, as with our fallow and red-deer, the spots serving to form a 'concealing' coloration. Another coloration problem, and in a way yet more interesting, now presents itself in the sixteen flamingoes just purchased and sent to the Society's park at Whipsnade. These birds lose much of the brilliance of their pink coloration in captivity. Careful note should therefore be made of the intensity of pigmentation of the new arrivals. It has been stated that birds in the London Gardens recovered their lost brilliance when they were turned out into a paddock affording free access to a large pond, well-stocked with small crustaceans. In the gardens of the New York Zoological Society an interesting experiment was made, years ago, on the beautiful rosy flamingo (*Phaenicopterus ruber*) which, in successive moults during captivity, became paler and paler, and finally almost white. By mixing a harmless dye with the food the fading process was considerably lessened, while some retained their original full colour for years. What was the 'harmless dye', and was it continuously administered? Under the more favourable conditions at Whipsnade, perhaps these birds may breed. In this event a valuable opportunity will be furnished to mark the effect, if any, of climatic influence, and food, on the coloration in their progeny.

Australian Sector in the Antarctic

THE Australian National Research Council is very much gratified at the announcement that an Order in Council has been issued by the British Government affirming that His Majesty the King has sovereign rights over the antarctic territory, other than Adelle Land, south of lat. 60° S., between long. 160° and 45° E., and placing such territory under the authority of the Commonwealth of Australia from the date on which the necessary legislation is passed by the Commonwealth Parliament. Seven years ago, during the presidency of Sir David Orme Masson, the Research Council urged that sanction be sought for Australian administration of that part of the continent between long. 160° and 90° E. The matter was discussed at the Imperial Conference in 1926 when it was placed on record that there were certain areas to which British title existed by virtue of discovery. More thorough exploration of this 'Australian sector' was, however, obviously desirable and to that end the Governments of Great Britain,

Australia and New Zealand, with liberal financial aid from Sir MacPherson Robertson of Melbourne, fitted out the "Discovery" expeditions under Sir Douglas Mawson in the seasons 1929-30 and 1930-31. These explored the greater portion of the sector between long. 160° E. and 45° E. including Enderby Land, Kemp Land, Queen Mary Land, King George V Land and new areas to the east of Kemp Land which were named MacRobertson Land and Princess Elizabeth Land. Australia will now presumably assume a measure of responsibility for developing and regulating existing and possible industries in the sector, including the enforcement of the International Convention on Whaling.

International Cloud Photography

THE intensive international study of meteorology during the Second International Polar Year, 1932-33 includes also the sky, and General Delcambre, president of the International Commission for the Study of Clouds, selected two periods for specially detailed investigation in France and neighbouring countries. The first was on April 12 and 13, while the second is arranged for July 12 and 13, 1933, and General Delcambre has asked for material from England. Should conditions on July 12 and 13 be suitable, meteorologists with cameras are asked to take at least three cloud photographs each day, as near as possible to the hours of 8 a.m., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. B.S.T., and others at intermediate hours whenever the general character of the sky changes. The purpose of the photographs is to represent the changes of the sky as a whole, and cloud-systems should be photographed rather than individual clouds, using, for preference, a wide-angle lens. Artistic merit is a secondary consideration; the prints should show as much detail as possible, but should not be re-touched. Filters should be used if necessary to bring out the structure. It is important that the following information should be given on the back of each print: name and address of the photographer, place where taken, date and time. It is desirable also that notes should be added as to the fraction of the sky covered by cloud, the nature of the clouds in the part of the sky not included in the photograph, the direction in which the camera was pointing and the approximate elevation above the horizon. Prints, suitably packed, should be addressed to: M. le Ministre de l'Air, Office National Météorologique, 196 rue de l'Université, Paris 7, and in the corner should be written "Année des Nuages".

Trevithick Centenary Commemoration Programme

THE centenary commemorations of the death of Richard Trevithick will be held on April 22, 23 and 24. On Saturday afternoon, April 22, a demonstration will be held at Camborne, where Trevithick made his first experiments with a steam road carriage, and on Sunday afternoon a memorial service will be held in the Tregajorran Methodist Chapel, in the parish of Illogan, Cornwall, his birthplace. On Sunday morning a memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. in Dartford Parish Church, Kent, where the preacher will be the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop