

R. H. Jeffers. The articles are written in a semi-popular strain with, however, a slight tendency to emphasise the sensational which should be firmly repressed if the publication is to carry weight among scientific workers or thinking laymen.

#### Auguste Rateau, 1863-1930

THE late Prof. Auguste Camille Edmond Rateau, whose death was recorded in *NATURE* of February 8, 1930, held a chair at the School of Mines at St. Etienne for about ten years. When, in 1897, he resigned this position, he was succeeded by M. Emile Jouquet, who in the *Annales des Mines* for September 1932 gives a full account of the researches and inventions of his distinguished predecessor. The son of an architect, Rateau at an early age gave signs of mathematical talent and when he completed his two years' study at the Ecole Polytechnique, he passed out at the head of his class. He was twenty-five years of age when in 1888 he was made a professor in the School at St. Etienne, where previously, as M. Jouquet says, Burdin was a professor and Fourneyron, "the Watt of the hydraulic turbine", was a student. Rateau's work was in direct line with theirs and from it came the Rateau mine ventilators, centrifugal pumps and steam turbines. The impulse steam turbine of Rateau was applied to a French torpedo boat in 1904 and Rateau turbines, as developed by the Ateliers et Chantiers de Bretagne, Nantes, have recently been fitted in the fastest flotilla leaders in the world. A prominent member of many societies, Rateau was elected a member of the Paris Academy of Sciences in 1919. A monument to him was unveiled on January 17, 1931, in the grounds of the Societe Rateau at La Courneuve (Seine).

#### Expedition to South-Eastern Honduras

THE Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., announces the dispatch of an expedition of archaeological exploration to the Chorotegan area of south-eastern Honduras. The members of the expedition are Messrs. Alan Paine, W. D. Strong and Norman Haskell. The Chorotegan area is one of the least known in the whole of America and no trustworthy maps of it exist. The object of the expedition is to locate and determine the character of ancient ruined-city sites, to collect specimens of bird and animal life, and to get into touch with the practically unknown Payas and Sumu Indians, whose language, thought to be linguistically on the border line between North and South America, may throw light on the language of the ancient Maya. The specific problem to be investigated is the possibility that the culture of this area may have been a southward extension of the Mayan 'New Empire' of Yucatan, three hundred miles to the north. From time to time, natives and chicle hunters have reported the existence of ancient ruined stone cities in this area, and it is believed that it was from here that the Maya obtained the precious metals and the turquoise, of which they made such extensive and elaborate use in their decorative art.

#### Air Survey Methods

THE increasing use of aerial photography for mapping makes the publication of a simple handbook on the subject very welcome. This has been written by Lieut. J. S. A. Salt under the title of "A Simple Method of Surveying from Air Photographs" and published as No. 8 of the Professional Papers of the Air Survey Committee (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 4s.). The book aims at explaining the methods required in the production of medium-scale maps based on a limited ground control and involving the use of comparatively simple apparatus. The demands made on pilot and navigator are explained and there is a full discussion of the relation between ground control and plotting and the problems of the cartographer in general. The work is clearly written and amply illustrated with diagrams and plates. It should prove a useful guide and textbook.

#### Announcements

DR. C. TATE REGAN, director of the British Museum (Natural History), has been elected a foreign member of the Royal Danish Academy.

MR. CHARLES AUGUSTUS CARLOW was elected president of the Mining Institute of Scotland at the annual general meeting held on April 26.

THE Rubber Industry Bill was introduced in the House of Lords by Lord Irwin, president of the Board of Education, on May 2, and read a first time. The Bill provides for contributions by the rubber manufacturers in the United Kingdom to the Research Association of British Rubber Manufacturers, and for the collection and application of such contributions.

THE Challenger Society for the Promotion of the Study of Oceanography is offering a sum of money, not exceeding £25, for the assistance of a suitable student (or students) carrying out research at any of the marine laboratories. Application should be made to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. R. Norman, British Museum (Natural History), South Kensington, S.W.7.

FROM the interest of the Sir George Beilby Memorial Fund, awards are made to British investigators in science to mark appreciation of records of distinguished original work, preference being given to investigations relating to the special interests of Sir George Beilby, including problems connected with fuel economy, chemical engineering and metallurgy. Two awards of £250 each were made in 1930, and two awards of £105 each in 1932. The administrators will meet in June, and will be glad to have their attention directed to outstanding work of the nature indicated. Correspondence should be addressed to the Convener, Sir George Beilby Memorial Fund, The Institute of Chemistry, 30, Russell Square, London, W.C.1, not later than June 1.

THE Rockefeller Medical Fellowships for the academic year 1933-34 will shortly be awarded by the Medical Research Council, and applications should be lodged with the Council not later than