

especially with north and east, in the earlier 'palace' period of occupation. A large number of smaller objects, scarabs, bronze rings, pottery, rattles and figurines, together with stone and alabaster vases, some dated at the xviiiith dynasty, from the tombs are shown. Interesting miniature furniture of the period of the Jewish kingdom, it has been suggested, may have had a magical intention. Next to the bronze helmet crest-piece (NATURE, loc cit., Fig. 2, p. 898), the most interesting exhibits are a 'Maat' feather of gold leaf on textile fabric and plaster, dated at about 1300-1200 B.C., which was found in the suburban settlement on the side of the Tell, and a piece of fluted iron mail which concurs with the crest piece in recalling the Lachish reliefs in the British Museum.

#### Imperial Institute

THE annual report for 1932 of the Imperial Institute has recently been published by the director, Lieut.-Gen. Sir William Furse (Pp. 54. London: Imperial Institute, 1933. 2s.). The work of all the departments continues to expand. The exhibits have been improved and amplified and attract increasing attention from schools and other institutions. This, however, is only one aspect of the work of the Institute. The Investigation Section has been active in the examination of various raw materials such as fibres, woods, oils, etc. and the assessment of their value. Other inquiries have dealt with insecticides, suitable crops for particular conditions, and the marketing possibilities of such varied products as beeswax, duck feathers and dried fruits. Investigations on minerals from many parts of the Empire have been numerous and the useful "Statistical Summary" of the world's chief minerals was issued as usual. Various countries continue to devote attention to such matters as Empire timbers, silks, fibres, oils and resins, hides and skins and tanning materials.

#### Rotenone as an Insecticide

ACCORDING to Science Service, Washington, D.C. (June 10) the compound rotenone is the latest addition to chemical methods of controlling insect pests of crops, animals and the household. It was first discovered through the use of plants containing it as fish poisons by natives of tropical countries. Its principal commercial source is the derris plant of the East Indies, but it is also present in a South American plant called 'cubé' and in the North American plant popularly termed 'devil's shoe-string'. All the plants that are known to yield rotenone are members of the natural order Leguminosæ. Rotenone is exceedingly toxic to many kinds of insects but quite harmless to man and all warm-blooded vertebrates. While not all insects are susceptible to its toxic effects, in the form of sprays and other preparations, it has been shown to be fifteen times as toxic as a nicotine spray when used as a contact poison against aphides, and thirty times as toxic as acid lead arsenate, when tested as an internal poison against certain caterpillars.

#### Announcements

PROF. EDWARD MELLANBY has been appointed secretary of the Medical Research Council in succession to the late Sir Walter Morley Fletcher. Prof. Mellanby, who has been professor of pharmacology in the University of Sheffield since 1920, is at present a member of the Council. He will not assume full duty as secretary until next January. The secretary of the Medical Research Council is *ex officio* secretary of the Committee of Privy Council for Medical Research.

MR. W. A. ROBERTSON, of the Indian Forest Service (retired), has been appointed Director of Forest Products Research under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in succession to Sir Ralph S. Pearson who retires on September 30.

DR. STANLEY H. BADOCK, pro-chancellor and treasurer of the University of Bristol, has accepted the office of president of the next Congress of the Royal Sanitary Institute, which is to be held at Bristol on July 9-14, 1934.

THE Institution Engineering Gold Medal of the North-East Coast Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders has been awarded to Mr. W. T. Bottomley, for a paper entitled, "Radiation in Boiler Furnaces", read before the Institution on January 13.

THE tenth annual conference of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux will be held in the Wills Hall, Stoke Bishop, Bristol, on September 22-25, under the presidency of Sir Charles Sherrington. During the conference a symposium will be held on the "Planning and Editing of Information Bulletins and House Journals". Further information concerning the Conference, which is open to non-members, can be obtained from the Secretary, 16, Russell Square, London, W.C.1.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—A lecturer in physiology at the University of Leeds—The Registrar (Aug. 5). A lecturer in physics at the University of Reading—The Registrar (Aug. 5). An assistant lecturer in applied mathematics at the University of Liverpool—The Registrar (Aug. 14). An assistant lecturer and demonstrator in chemistry at Robert Gordon's Technical College, Aberdeen—The Registrar (Aug. 14). Two geologists in the Geological Survey of Southern Rhodesia—The Official Secretary, Office of the High Commissioner for Southern Rhodesia, Crown House, Aldwych, London, W.C.2 (Aug. 15). An assistant civil engineer to the Assam-Bengal Railway Co.—Messrs. Rendel, Palmer and Tritton, 55, Broadway, Westminster, S.W.1 (Aug. 15). An assistant librarian at the Polytechnic, 309, Regent Street, London, W.1—The Director of Education (Aug. 19). A teacher of geography at the Borough Polytechnic, Borough Road, London, S.E.1—The Principal (Sept. 7).