

The trip was undertaken mainly with the view of making scientific collections for the Museum. This account is notable for the numerous and beautiful illustrations; 92 phototype plates are included in addition to no less than 180 photographic illustrations in the text. These photographs illustrate scenery, particularly vegetation, native types, architecture, etc., and in many cases are exceptionally clear. Naturally the photographs include very good illustrations of palms, mangroves, lianes, epiphytes, etc., and two exceptionally fine illustrations of that remarkable parasite, *Rafflesia arnoldi*.

The Ministry of Health

IN the fourteenth annual report of the Ministry of Health, 1932-1933 (H.M. Stationery Office, 5s. net), recently issued, the subjects dealt with fall under the main headings of public health, housing and town planning, local government and local finance, poor law, national health insurance and contributory pensions. A separate section deals with the work of the Welsh Board of Health, and the annual report of the chief medical officer of the Ministry is published separately. Expressed as a percentage of total births, vaccinations have declined from 44.8 in 1926 to 39.0 in 1931, with a corresponding increase in declarations of conscientious objectors from 40.9 to 46.7. Samples of foods and drugs analysed numbered 137,981, the largest number ever recorded. Of these samples, 7,019 or 5.1 per cent were adulterated or not up to standard, a slight increase over the two previous years. Infant mortality (deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 births) in England and Wales was 64.6 in 1932, the lowest recorded except in 1930 when it was 60.0.

Child Welfare Work in Uruguay

THE progressive character of some of the South American Republics is well illustrated by the record of pre-natal, infant, and child, welfare work in Uruguay, contained in the *Boletín del Instituto Internacional Americano de Protección a la Infancia* for July (17, No. 1, Montevideo. Text in French, with Spanish and English summaries). The work appears to be much on the lines of that in Great Britain, with pre-natal clinics for expectant mothers, school clinics, free meals and milk rations for the needy, open-air schools, day nurseries for the children of working mothers, playgrounds, gymnasiums, and the like. The associations are partly voluntary and partly State-aided. In Montevideo, children under one year are vaccinated against smallpox, and after that age against diphtheria.

Progress in a Local Scientific Society

ANNUAL reports of scientific societies so frequently record declining membership in these days that it is gratifying to see an increase from 200 to 220 in the records for 1932 of the Natural Science and Archaeology Society of Littlehampton. The report also shows evidence of the activity of the members in field work. A good start has been made with lists of the Lepidoptera, Odonata, and birds of the district, the last

including a record of a flamingo seen on the West Sussex coast in January 23, 1933; and the archaeological section has excavated a Romano-British settlement at Shopherds' Garden. Evidence of the increasing interest taken by the public in these matters is shown by the attendance of close upon 15,000 visitors at the Museum with which the Society is intimately associated.

Announcements

BRIEF reference was made in NATURE of August 19, p. 270, to the geological excursion to the Lower Palæozoic rocks of the Welsh borderland and Severn valley which precedes the Leicester meeting of the British Association. An outline programme is now available. The excursion, which is under the leadership of Prof. W. W. Watts, will begin on September 1 and accommodation is being arranged at Much Wenlock; it will end on September 6 at Leicester. Further particulars can be obtained from Miss G. M. Bauer, 387 Harborne Road, Birmingham.

A TRANSLATION into French of the discussion on "The Evolution of the Universe" held at the centenary meeting of the British Association in London in 1931 (see NATURE, 128, 699, Oct. 24, 1931) has recently been published (pp. xii+68. Paris: Gauthier-Villars et Cie, 1933. Price 15 francs). The discussion is translated by Prof. Paul Couderc, who has also contributed an introduction.

IN issuing a second edition of its guide to national information services and to the international loan and exchange of literature, the International Committee of Intellectual Co-operation has rendered a further service to the co-ordination of bibliographical and library work. The information originally supplied on special or national library services in different countries has now been supplemented by particulars of the conditions under which the books are lent, and of postal facilities and customs regulations affecting the exchange of books. Information on photostat services where such exist, and the inclusion of the names and addresses of institutions which are prepared under reciprocal conditions to loan the works held in their libraries, make this pamphlet a highly useful and important guide to existing official machinery for the exchange of scientific literature between different countries.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—Two draughtsmen in the Directorate of Technical Development of the Air Ministry—The Secretary, Air Ministry (S.2), Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2 (Sept. 4). A lecturer in the Department of Pure and Applied Science (Chemistry) at Loughborough College—The Registrar (Sept. 9). A temporary lecturer in economics in the University College of the South West of England, Exeter—The Registrar (Sept. 9). A research physiologist for the Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., Millbank, London, S.W.1—The Medical Officer (Oct. 1).