

appropriately be transferred to special regional organisations. Relieved of these purely business functions, local authorities could devote themselves with greater efficiency to their remaining duties, for which they should be given greater responsibility and autonomy than in the past.

British Empire Cancer Campaign

At the recent quarterly meeting of the Grand Council of the British Empire Cancer Campaign, the following grants for the calendar year 1934 were made for the continuation of research into the cause and cure of cancer: Middlesex Hospital, £5,400; Cancer Hospital, £2,700; St. Bartholomew's Hospital, £2,250; St. Mark's Hospital, £540; Marie Curie Hospital, £540; Radon Centre at the Middlesex Hospital (through the Medical Research Council), £350; Mount Vernon Hospital, £900; Strangeways Research Laboratory, Cambridge, £350; Westminster Hospital Annexe, £300; Mr. I. Hieger (at the Cancer Hospital), £550; Dr. P. R. Peacock (Glasgow Royal Cancer Hospital), £300 and Dr. Alexander Haddow (at the University of Edinburgh), £200. Prof. E. Mellanby, who has succeeded the late Sir Walter Fletcher as secretary of the Medical Research Council, was elected a member of the Grand Council. The Grand Council resolved that attention should be invited to the fact that essays on "The Biological Effects and Mode of Action of Radiations upon Malignant and other Cells" for the 1933 Garton prize medal should reach the offices of the Campaign not later than December 31 next.

Earthquake in the Santa Elena Peninsula, Ecuador

WE have received from Dr. George Sheppard, State geologist in the Republic of Ecuador, a brief account of the severe earthquake that occurred at 10.31 a.m. on October 2 in the Santa Elena peninsula, Ecuador. Off Salinas, the cable that runs southward was broken at a distance of 14 miles from land. At La Libertad, the sea receded immediately after the earthquake, rose to high-tide level at 11.30 a.m. (low tide having been at about 10 a.m.), fell to low water at noon, and rose again to the former mark at 2 p.m. At Ancon, the ground was seen by Dr. Sheppard to be slowly undulating, and the water in a large tank flowed over the north-east side, from which it is inferred that the origin lay towards the west and beneath the Pacific. Among the after-shocks was one at 5.36 a.m. on October 3, of only slightly less intensity than the principal earthquake. It would seem, from the above account, that the epicentre was not far from that of the Colombian earthquake of January 31, 1906, the first of the three great earthquakes of that year that occurred along the Pacific coast of America.

Cultivation of Raspberries

THE Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries has recently issued Advisory Leaflet No. 180 to set forth the results of modern research upon the cultivation of raspberries. The characteristics of present-day varieties are enumerated, and general directions for cultivation are given. Organic manures are deemed

to be more suitable for the raspberry crop than artificials. Pruning for heavy crops of good quality demands more than mere thinning of the canes; the methods are set forth in the leaflet. Insect pests are not described, as other leaflets do this with requisite detail. Blue stripe wilt, a *Verticillium* disease, and mosaic, are the chief diseases. The methods of combatting the latter malady are the best that can be recommended, but the leaflet perhaps does not take sufficient notice of the fact that some of the best commercial varieties are resistant to mosaic, and therefore menaces to more susceptible varieties in the neighbourhood.

Science in Poetry

FOLLOWING upon an article in NATURE of August 26 entitled "Nature and Science in Poetry", Mr. E. Heron-Allen contributed to our issue of September 16 a letter in which he gave further examples of poems on scientific themes, among them being an "exquisite and delicate fantasy" which he attributed to the late Sir Arthur Shipley. Mr. H. S. Webster, 53 Loraine Road, London, N.W.7, has, however, written to Mr. Heron-Allen to point out that the verses were from a poem entitled "Solomon Redivivus, 1886" by Constance Naden, published in the volume of her complete poetical works, reviewed in NATURE of October 18, 1894. The poem consists of sixteen quatrains, three of which read as follows:—

We were a soft Amœba
In ages past and gone,
Ere you were Queen of Sheba,
And I King Solomon.

Unorganed, undivided,
We lived in happy sloth,
And all that you did I did,
One dinner nourished both:

Till you incurred the odium
Of fission and divorce—
A severed pseudopodium
You strayed your lonely course.

National Radium Trust

OWING to a rise of 30–40 per cent in the price in sterling of radium, consequent on the departure of Great Britain from the gold standard, the National Radium Trust pursued a conservative policy during 1932–33 and purchased only 3.76 mgm. of new radium, the needs of radium treatment centres being met by a re-distribution of the stock held. The Radium Commission has published details of the general policy adopted with regard to radium therapy for cancer, and summaries of reports from radium treatment centres (Fourth Annual Reports of the National Radium Trust and Radium Commission, 1932–1933. H.M. Stationery Office).

Health in the Tropics

THE October supplement of the *Tropical Diseases Bulletin* summarises the medical and sanitary reports from British Colonies, Protectorates and Dependencies