

### The Qattara Depression and Water Power

IN a note in *NATURE* of December 23, 1933, p. 960, on Dr. J. Ball's paper in the *Geographical Journal* for October on the utilisation of the Qattara depression for water power, a misprint occurs in the estimate of distance that the power would need to be transmitted to the Nile delta. This figure should be 150 miles, a distance over which water power could be readily transmitted, whereas the distance from the Aswan dam to the delta is 560 miles.

### Zoological Society of London

AT the monthly general meeting of the Zoological Society of London held on January 17, it was stated that the total number of visitors to the Society's Gardens at Regent's Park for the year up to the end of December was 1,557,791. The number of visitors to the Aquarium during the same period was 263,438. At Whipsnade Park the number of visitors during the year was 433,429.

### The Night-Sky in February

MERCURY reaches its greatest eastern elongation on February 18, when it will set an hour and ten minutes after the sun. It is not easy to see this planet, but a sharp look-out just after sunset in a situation where there is a good view of the western horizon may be rewarded. There will be no risk of confusion with Venus, which passes through inferior conjunction on February 5, and will not be visible in the evening sky after that date for several months, though it will be a brilliant object in the early morning sky just before sunrise. Mars is getting near the sun. On February 18 it will set twenty-two minutes before Mercury, and will be practically invisible in the glare of the sunset. Jupiter can be well seen in the early morning. In February it will rise at about 10 p.m. Saturn will be too near the sun for observation. It passes through conjunction on February 8.

### Announcements

THE Council of the South Wales Institute of Engineers has awarded the Institute's Gold Medal to Prof. A. E. Trueman, of the Department of Geology, University of Bristol, formerly of University College, Swansea, for his paper, "A Suggested Correlation of the Coal Measures of England and Wales", as being the most valuable paper received and published during 1933.

THE Committee of the Cancer Hospital (Free), Fulham Road, London, has awarded a scholarship of the value of £100 per annum to Mrs. Boyland in recognition of her services in the Research Institute of the Hospital. She has investigated with Dr. E. Boyland the respiration of normal and cancerous tissues in the presence of derivatives of cancer-producing compounds, and will continue the development of this work.

THE Secretary to the Minister of Health has announced that Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, Prof. E. P. Cathcart and Prof. Edward Mellanby, as physiologists representing the Minister's Advisory Committee on Nutrition, will confer with Prof. V. H. Mottram, Prof. S. J. Cowell and Mr. G. P. Crowden, as physiologists representing the British Medical

Association Committee on Nutrition, in regard to the differences which appear to exist between the two Committees on the question of the amount of calories and first-class protein appropriate as a basis for suitable diets.

AT the annual general meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society held on January 17 the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—*President*, Col. Ernest Gold; *Vice-Presidents*, Mr. David Brunt, Prof. Sydney Chapman, Mr. Francis Druce, Dr. A. Crichton Mitchell; *Treasurer*, Mr. R. A. Watson Watt; *Secretaries*, Dr. J. Glasspoole, Mr. W. M. Witchell, Mr. M. McCallum Fairgrieve; *Foreign Secretary*, Capt. C. J. P. Cave; *New Councillors*, Dr. A. J. Bamford, Mr. M. G. Bennett, Mr. I. D. Margary.

THE following officers of the Royal Microscopical Society have recently been elected: *President*, Prof. W. A. F. Balfour-Browne; *Vice-Presidents*, Mr. J. E. Barnard, Mr. Conrad Beck, Prof. D. M. Blair, Dr. G. M. Findlay; *Hon. Treasurer*, Mr. C. F. Hill; *Hon. Secretaries*, Prof. R. T. Hewlett, J. Smiles; *New Members of Council*, Dr. A. S. Burgess, Dr. R. S. Clay, Prof. R. Ruggles Gates, Dr. G. S. Sansom; *Hon. Librarian*, Dr. Clarence Tierney; *Hon. Curator of Instruments*, Mr. W. E. Watson Baker; *Joint Hon. Curators of Slides*, Mr. N. I. Hendey, Mr. E. J. Sheppard.

MESSRS. LONGMANS, GREEN AND Co., LTD., hope to publish shortly the first of two supplementary volumes of Thorpe's "Dictionary of Applied Chemistry". This volume will contain subjects up to and including those coming under the letter M and the second will cover the remaining letters of the alphabet and include an index. The present editors, Profs. J. Thorpe and M. A. Whiteley, have preserved continuity and the traditional connexion of the "Dictionary" with the Royal College of Science.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—A junior scientific officer in the Wood Chemistry Section of the Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire—The Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, 16 Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1 (Jan. 29). A chief instructor in the Engineering Workshop of the Polytechnic, Regent Street, London, W.1—The Director of Education (Feb. 5). A woman pharmaceutical chemist to the Gloucester County and City Mental Hospitals—The Medical Superintendent, County Mental Hospital, Gloucester (Feb. 7). A junior engineer for the Safety in Mines Research Board—The Under-Secretary for Mines, Establishment Branch, Mines Department, Dean Stanley Street, London, S.W.1 (Feb. 10). A lecturer in physiology in the University of Leeds—The Registrar (Feb. 19). A senior botanist in charge of the Cereal Sub-Section of the Botanical and Plant Breeding Section of the Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt—The Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Cairo (March 15). A professor of economics at Raffles College, Singapore—The Secretary, Universities Bureau of the British Empire, 88A, Gower Street, London, W.C.1.