

have also been studied, and in this connexion special attention has been paid to skin diseases among typical Japanese manual workers such as stevedores, octopus fishers, plasterers, carpenters and blacksmiths. Every effort is made by the Institute to maintain close contacts with industry, and its *Journal* is now to be issued bi-monthly instead of quarterly, so that the results of its researches may be available as soon as possible. Recently also the Japanese Association of Industrial Hygiene—an organisation which is closely connected with the Institute—has considerably increased its activities.

#### The Rockefeller Foundation

THE Rockefeller Foundation's report for 1932 is a tale of activities which, in extent, variety and momentum, are probably unmatched by those of any other agency for world betterment. Of the aggregate disbursements during the year, amounting to nearly 14 million dollars, about one fifth was for public health work carried on in almost every country of the globe. The report of the director of the international health division covers some two hundred pages and includes a retrospect of the past ten years. This is followed by reports of the directors for the medical sciences, natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, and in each case the recital of events of the year is elucidated by reference to previous years' achievements. The chapter on the social sciences is of special interest at the present time, showing, as it does, that the framers of President Roosevelt's administration's schemes for national recovery, however handicapped by lack of precedents, were at any rate in a position to draw upon the results of elaborate academic research, to the financing of which the Foundation has for some years made very substantial grants. In addition to grants to various institutions for current expenses, including in 1932 grants amounting to 450,000 dollars to the Social Science Research Council in New York City, the Foundation has recently promoted research in specific fields recognised as of specially vital importance, namely, economic planning and control, international relations, and community organisation. In 1932, substantial grants were made for research in such subjects as industrial hazards, history of prices, unemployment, employment exchanges, the gold standard, cyclical fluctuations and employment stabilisation.

#### Progress of Agricultural Research in Great Britain

THE collected reports on the work done during the year 1931-32 at agricultural research institutes in the United Kingdom which receive State grants has just been published. The volume contains in addition reports on special agricultural investigations for which funds have been allotted. Among these the following may be cited: investigations on improved grassland management at the Welsh Plant Breeding Station, Aberystwyth, and the University of Bristol, seed potato production at the University College of North Wales, Bangor, land reclamation with *Spartina townsendii* (rice grass) by the Essex County Council,

grey squirrel problems at the Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, and the efficacy of chlorates as weed killers at the North of Scotland College of Agriculture. A list of papers published by each research institute or centre and the names and addresses of the directors or persons in charge of the investigations are supplied, so that further information on special points can be obtained if desired. The report can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office or through any bookseller, price 6s. net.

THE Royal Agricultural Society, 16, Bedford Square, W.C.1, has published the eighth of its annual summaries of the research work carried out in the leading branches of agriculture. In previous years the publication has been issued in book form, free on application to members of the Society, and available at a nominal charge to the general public. In the present year, and for the future, "The Farmer's Guide to Agricultural Research" will form part of the Society's *Journal* and will, therefore, automatically be received by every member. A limited number of copies, however, are still being bound separately for distribution to the Press and to agricultural education and research centres. The survey of scientific work which it provides is not limited to research conducted in the British Isles, but also includes references to results obtained in any part of the world which may have a bearing upon the problems of British agriculture. The character of the volume is similar to that of the previous year (1931), except that the section on farm crops which was then omitted has been reintroduced. The other sections, namely, dairy farming, diseases of animals, farm economics, the breeding of livestock, farm implements and machinery, pests and parasites, and soils and manures remain as before. A few copies of previous issues for the years 1925-1931 are stated to be still available.

#### A Natural History Society in Northern England

WHILE interest in museums appears to be growing, many societies devoted to natural history find it difficult to retain the membership of former years. The Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle-upon-Tyne Society is fortunate in having raised its membership, by a small addition, to 613, but even so the cost of running the Hancock Museum is mainly responsible for a raiding of the Maintenance Appeal Fund to the extent of £245, so that the Fund is on the verge of extinction. The Museum does good work, and under the guidance of T. Russell Goddard and many helpers, is alive to the need for interesting the public by wild-flower exhibits, seasonal exhibitions of Lepidoptera, an observation hive, lectures and the like. Unless further support is forthcoming, it would appear from the financial statement that the activities of the Museum run the danger of curtailment.

#### First Aid in the Laboratory

WE have received a copy of a pamphlet entitled "Safeguards in the Laboratory", together with a notice suitable for exhibition in the laboratory, both of which are obtainable, price 6d. post free, from



Canon Kirkland, The King's School, Ely. The pamphlet contains a number of very useful hints for first aid in the laboratory, which have been compiled by the Science Masters' Association and the Association of Women Science Teachers, and it should be very useful in the school laboratory. It should be noted, however, that the administration of an emetic, particularly salt solution, as stated, is not advisable in the case of mercuric chloride without first giving immediately white of egg: the section on poisons is not sufficiently detailed to be of much real value. The statement that "the naphtha used for storing sodium should be of the native rock-oil variety" is rather obscure.

#### Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases

REPORTS of the annual general and extraordinary general meetings of the Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases, held on November 27, have now been released for circulation. At the eighth ordinary general meeting, the chairman, Sir Charles McLeod, surveyed the work of the Institute during the year, and the Council and Executive Committee were re-elected. At the extraordinary meeting, it was resolved to approve and confirm two agreements made between the Ross Institute, of the one part, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Seamen's Hospital Society, respectively, of the other part, whereby the Ross Institute is amalgamated with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Ross Hospital is incorporated in the Seamen's Hospital Society by the establishment of a "Ross Ward" in their Hospital for Tropical Diseases. The Court and Senate of the University of London have expressed their satisfaction respecting the arrangement with the School of Hygiene. The Ross Institute thus comes to an end, but the name of Ross will still be perpetuated in the new amalgamations.

#### Gift to British Association

THE Committee formed in Leicester in connexion with the meeting of the British Association there in 1933 had a surplus of £1,000 in hand after meeting all the local expenses of the meeting. This sum has been handed over to the Association, to form the "Leicester and Leicestershire Fund, 1933" for the assistance of a student or students working for the advancement of science. The fund will be administered by the Council of the Association, and, when possible, assistance will be given preferably to a Leicester or Leicestershire student or worker. The Council, in accepting the gift, has expressed its appreciation of the action of the Committee "in thus confirming, in a manner without precedent in the history of the Association, their interest in the advancement of science".

#### Continuation of Empire Marketing Board Research Work

MR. G. GLEDHILL, in the House of Commons on February 6, asked Mr. J. H. Thomas, Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, if any arrangements have

been made for carrying on the research work previously undertaken by the Empire Marketing Board. In a written answer, Mr. Thomas stated that such arrangements are being made. It is estimated that the cost of such research work in the financial year 1934-35 will reach £200,000, of which some £85,000 will be borne by other Governments of the Empire or by the institutions or industries concerned.

#### Announcements

PROF. P. M. S. BLACKETT will give a course of three lectures on "Cosmic Radiation" at Birkbeck College, Bream's Buildings, E.C.4, on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. commencing on February 20. Admission to the lectures will be free without ticket.

THE following appointments in the Colonial Agricultural Service have recently been made: C. A. North-Coombes, to be agronomist, Department of Agriculture, Mauritius; C. J. Lewin, chief agriculturist, to be director of agriculture, Northern Rhodesia; Capt. J. P. A. Morris, deputy director of animal health, to be director of animal health, Northern Rhodesia.

At the annual general meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society, held on February 9, the following officers were elected: *President*, Prof. F. J. M. Stratton; *Vice-Presidents*, Sir Arthur S. Eddington, Mr. John Evershed, Dr. H. Spencer Jones and Dr. W. J. S. Lockyer; *Treasurer*, Mr. J. H. Reynolds; *Secretaries*, Mr. W. M. H. Greaves and Dr. W. M. Smart; *Foreign Secretary*, Prof. Alfred Fowler; *New Members of Council*, Prof. H. Dingle, Sir Frank W. Dyson, Prof. H. F. Newall, Mr. W. H. Steavenson.

IN NATURE of December 23, 1933, p. 963, under the title "Study of Canadian Coals", a note appeared referring to a report by R. E. Gilmore and R. A. Strong in the *Canadian Mining and Metallurgical Bulletin* (p. 317, 1933), published by the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy. The journal was incorrectly quoted as the *Journal of Canadian Mining and Metallurgy*.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—A lecturer in mathematics at Darlington Training College—The Principal (Feb. 21). A museum assistant (male) at the Leicester Museum and Art Gallery—The Director (Feb. 28). Staff tutors in psychology, political science, etc., at the University of London—The Joint Hon. Secretaries (Tutorial Classes), University of London, South Kensington, S.W.7 (March 1). A Wakefield lecturer in aeronautics at University College, Hull—The Registrar (March 7). A probationary assistant engineer in the Post Office Engineering Department—The Secretary, Civil Service Commission, Burlington Gardens, London, W.1 (March 8). A Kennedy professor of engineering at University College, London—The Academic Registrar, University of London, S.W.7 (April 11).