

February 20 by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia to Dr. Francis W. Pennell, curator of botany in the Academy, for his work and study on the snapdragon family (*Scrophulariaceæ*) of eastern North America. In presenting the 250 dollars honorarium at the annual meeting, the president announced that this fund also will permit publication of Dr. Pennell's book on the subject. The George W. Carpenter fund is a bequest from the late Mrs. Ellen D. C. Bennett, in memory of her father, one of the Academy's earliest members, who served as treasurer from 1826 until his death in 1860. Dr. Pennell was appointed curator of botany at the Academy in 1921, and under his direction this Department has become one of the largest of its kind in the United States, containing at the present time more than 600,000 specimens of plants and flowers from all parts of the world. Among these are some of the oldest and most valuable of American collections.

Ray Society

At the annual general meeting of the Ray Society held on March 13, the following officers were re-elected: *President*, Sir Sidney Harmer; *Treasurer*, Sir David Prain; *Secretary*, Dr. W. T. Calman. Mr. J. M. Offord was elected a vice-president in succession to the late Canon G. R. Bullock-Webster, and Mr. R. S. W. Sears, Mr. M. A. C. Hinton and Mr. A. G. Lowndes were elected new members of Council. The Council's report directed attention to the decline in the receipts from all the regular sources of the Society's income, and stated that unless further support for the Society is obtained, a regrettable curtailment of publications may soon become necessary. It was stated that the plates for the second volume of Prof. T. A. Stephenson's "British Sea Anemones" are being engraved, and it is hoped that the volume will soon be in the press. The Council reported with gratitude the receipt of a donation of £30 towards the cost of this volume from Miss Teresa Gosse, the grand-daughter of Philip Henry Gosse, author of the "Actinologia Britannica" (1860).

Soviet Stamps in Commemoration of Mendeléeff

THE Soviet postal authorities have issued a series of new postage stamps to commemorate the centenary this year of the birth of Mendeléeff. The new issues are of five, ten, fifteen and twenty kopek denominations. The five and the twenty kopek denominations bear a design of the Mendeléeff monument against a background of his table of the periodic system of elements; the ten and fifteen kopek denominations bear a portrait of Mendeléeff, also against a background of the table of the periodic system of elements. All the stamps bear the commemoration date 1834-1934.

Vital Statistics for the Year 1933

THE Registrar-General has issued a provisional statement of the figures for birth-rate, death-rate and infant mortality in Great Britain during the year 1933. For England and Wales, the live births and the deaths were respectively 14.4 and 12.3 per 1,000

resident population, and the deaths of infants less than 1 year old, 64 per 1,000 registered live births. For the fifth year in succession the birth rate was the lowest on record, being 0.9 per thousand below that of 1932, and 1.4 below that of 1931. The death rate was 0.3 above that for 1932 and is the same as that for 1931. The infant mortality rate was 1 per 1,000 below that for 1932, and with the exception of the year 1930 (60) is the lowest on record.

Announcements

At the annual general meeting of the Physical Society, held on March 16, the following officers were elected: *President*, The Right Hon. Lord Rayleigh; *Vice-President*, Dr. D. Owen; *Secretaries*, Dr. Allan Ferguson (Papers), Dr. Ezer Griffiths (Business); *Foreign Secretary*, Prof. O. W. Richardson; *Treasurer*, Mr. R. S. Whipple; *Librarian*, Dr. J. H. Brinkworth; *New Members of Council*, Mr. H. H. Emsley; Prof. H. R. Robinson.

THE Institute of Physics has put forward a scheme for the training and certificating of laboratory and technical assistants in physics, and proposes in due course to set up an appointments register. Candidates for the Institute's certificates must attend approved courses of instruction and pass examinations in accordance with the regulations issued. It is understood that evening class courses for the Institute's certificates will be commenced in September next in London.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—*Engineers at the Fuel Research Station, East Greenwich—Establishment Officer, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, 16 Old Queen Street, S.W.1 (March 26)* An assistant in the Admiralty Technical Pool for duty at the Admiralty Compass Department—*Secretary of the Admiralty (C. E. Branch), London, S.W.1 (March 28)*. A veterinary officer under the Devon County Council—*County Medical Officer, 4 Barnfield Crescent, Exeter (March 29)*. Two junior assistant engineers on the Manchester Corporation—*City Engineer (March 30)*. Engineer and manager of the Weymouth Waterworks Company—*Chairman (April 3)*. Water engineer and manager and gas examiner to the County Borough of Swansea—*Town Clerk, Guildhall, Swansea (April 7)*. Principal of the County Technical College and School of Art, Newark—*Clerk to the Governors (April 10)*. A demonstrator in zoology at University College, Nottingham—*Registrar (April 11)*. A demonstrator in the Department of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry at Bedford College for Women, Regent's Park, N.W.1—*The Secretary (April 21)*. Two technical assistants (A. 587/8) and a draughtsman (A. 589) at the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, Hants—*Chief Superintendent, quoting reference number above*. Two resident staff tutors for adult education, University of Birmingham—*Director of Extra-Mural Studies (April 23)*. University professor of anatomy at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, London—*Academic Registrar, University of London, S.W.7 (May 16)*.