

been presented, namely, lusakite, a new mineral composed of cobalt and aluminium silicate, from 120 miles east of Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia, by Mr. A. C. Skerl, and bismuth tungstate, from Cornwall, by Mr. E. H. Davison.

THE Department of Botany has received the plants from Capt. Kingdon-Ward's recent expedition to Tibet. The bulk of the collection is from north of Rima, north and south of the great snow range which runs approximately north-west to south-east. In Zayul, south of the range, the mountains are well wooded with deciduous and evergreen forest whereas in Nagong, north of the range, there is no forest. It was possible to recognise three floral regions in Tibet, and the discovery that the snow range is an eastern extension is of considerable phytogeographical importance. About 750 items were obtained and these include some new and interesting plants; and add to our knowledge of the distribution of many others. The Department has received by exchange 536 San Thomé and Principe plants from Coimbra. Many of them are duplicates of the types of a number of species not previously represented in the Museum collections. From Edinburgh, 1,423 specimens of *Rhododendron* have been received. The majority of the species represented are new to the Museum collections, and in many instances are portions of type collections.

#### Palaeontographical Society

THE eighty-seventh annual meeting of the Palaeontographical Society was held in the Geological Society's rooms at Burlington House on April 27, Prof. W. W. Watts in the chair. The Council's report recorded with regret the death of the president, Dr. F. A. Bather, and of one of the vice-presidents, Dr. F. L. Kitchin. Since the last annual meeting, some arrears of publication have been overtaken by the issue of two volumes of monographs. Installments of the monographs of Corallian Lamellibranchia, Gault Ammonites, Cambrian Trilobites and Dendroid Graptolites are included. Another installment of the monograph of Pleistocene Mammalia deals with the red deer, reindeer and roe. Sir Arthur Smith Woodward was elected president, and Mr. Henry Woods was elected vice-president; Mr. Robert S. Herries and Dr. C. J. Stubblefield were elected treasurer and secretary respectively. The new members of Council are Mr. A. J. Bull, Prof. W. T. Gordon, Dr. J. Pringle and Mr. W. P. D. Stebbing.

#### Natural Conditions of Soil Formation in India

AT the last meeting of the International Society of Soil Science it was decided to prepare a soil map of Asia, and the work of compiling the available materials was entrusted to a sub-commission headed by several of the leading Russian workers. This sub-commission has already published a number of contributions dealing with the soils of Japan, Manchuria and certain portions of China. A contribution by Dr. Z. J. Schokalsky, published by the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., Leningrad (1932),

covers, in a similar way, the conditions in India. The materials which have been in the hands of the author are so carefully worked out that it is hard to believe that the map has been made by one who has never visited India. If it is open to criticism in certain directions, this is only because the materials placed before Dr. Schokalsky have been unsatisfactory and imperfect. It must, however, be recognised that the references cited in the present contribution are far from complete and in a number of cases do not include the best materials available. Thus, for example, in connexion with the soils of north-east India, the whole of the admirable work done by the experts of the Indian Tea Association is omitted, though their studies are probably the best that have been done over a large area of Assam and Bengal. Again, probably the best information about actual soil conditions and their distribution in peninsular India will be found in the various survey and settlement reports, much of which is summarised in the "Gazetteers" issued more than a generation ago, and these do not appear to have been consulted. A very large area in the north-east of the Peninsula, which forms perhaps the largest forest tract still existing in the country, is marked on the map as consisting of steppe soils. Even with regard to the black cotton soil, or *regur*, the account given takes no account of the radically different types of the soil in the northern and the southern parts of the black soil area. Before the present map is finally issued as an authoritative account of Indian soils, it will have to be subjected to very careful constructive criticism.

#### Landscape Gardening

THE Institute of Landscape Architects is to be congratulated upon the appearance of *Landscape and Garden*, a new quarterly journal devoted to garden design and landscape architecture (vol. 1, No. 1, 1934, pp. 74. 2s. 6d.). The volume is edited by Mr. Richard Sudell. The Garden Theatre at the Herrenhausen, Hanover, is described briefly by G. A. Jellicoe, who shows by means of plans and photographs the lay-out of this very artistic piece of garden architecture. R. V. Giffard Woolley contributes a helpful study on "The Management of Small Spaces". Various considerations for the production of vistas, and the incorporation of stone-paving and ornament, are given. A park to link Karlsruhe with the Rhine is described by P. Morton Shand, and particulars of an interesting bird sanctuary are included. Capt. R. C. H. Jenkinson writes about "New Shrubs for Old", and in addition to describing several of the more recently introduced shrubs, discusses possibilities for their artistic grouping. "Birdseye" is a series of aerial photographs showing forms of community housing in England through the last five hundred years. A. J. Cobb writes on "Tree Surgery", outlining methods for the lengthening of life, or the complete repair, of damaged trees. The use of focal points in design is very ably treated by Hervey Bennett, in an article entitled "Where Shall I Look?" A series of photographs showing the illumination of gardens, together with a short