

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

description, are provided by Waldo Maitland. Some very striking effects, produced by flood-lighting trees, are shown. "Roof-gardens, the Lungs of the Future" are given adequate treatment in an article by Lady Allen of Hurtwood, who introduces many practical suggestions. One might advance the suggestion that the 'extremely small spaces' such as are included with the majority of present-day houses might receive adequate treatment in future numbers, though the editor seems to be alive to this need. A study of the development of the 'garden city' is promised for the next number (July).

Research on Oranges and Related Crops

THE British South Africa Co. has issued a report on the activities of the Mazoe Citrus Experimental Station up to the end of 1932 (Oxford Univ. Press, 192 pp.). The Director, Dr. W. J. Hall, and Mr. W. K. Ford are engaged in a study of the citrus insects of Southern Rhodesia, and publish detailed descriptions of a considerable number of pests. Soils of the Mazoe Estate are under investigation by Dr. A. A. Morris, who contributes a paper on the relation between soils and field practices. Special attention has been devoted to irrigation, cover crops and manures. Problems of artificial coloration, maturity and transport wastage of oranges have engaged the attention of Mr. G. R. Bates. The work of the Station is comparatively recent, but the various problems are being studied with a detail which should ensure the production of valuable results.

Electrical and Magnetic Units

BULLETIN No. 93 of the National Research Council, Washington, reproduces the papers on units presented before the American Section of the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics at Chicago in June last. After discussion it was recommended:—that in view of the long use of the classical centimetre-gram-second units, no change should be made at present, but that the Gaussian system should be considered in future; that the practical units—ohm, volt, ampere, coulomb, farad, henry, joule and watt—might be extended into a complete absolute system either through the metre-kilogram-second or the centimetre- 10^7 gm.-second, the former by preference. These proposals will in due course be considered by the Committee on Symbols, Units and Nomenclature established by the International Union.

Health of the British Army during 1932

LIEUT.-GEN. H. B. FAWCUS, director-general of the Army Medical Services, states that the health of all ranks throughout 1932 was satisfactory ("Report on the Health of the Army for the Year, 1932". London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1934. 2s. 6d. net). The admission rate to hospital, 412.5 per 1,000 of the strength, was the lowest on record, and the invaliding and constantly sick rates were also the lowest recorded since the War. All the more important diseases have shared in the decline, namely, malaria, dysentery, influenza, tonsillitis, venereal diseases and

others. In consequence of the high incidence of tonsillitis over many years, a Joint Medical Services Committee has studied the subject, but without reaching any very definite conclusion as to causation or prevention. A summary of research work is given in the report.

German Exhibition of Chemical Plant

"ACHEMA" is the *Ausstellung für chemisches Apparatewesen*, the seventh of which is to be held at Cologne on May 18–27 under the auspices of "Dechema", the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für chemisches Apparatewesen*. In anticipation of this exhibition the *Achema-Jahrbuch 1931/1934*, a report of some 230 pages on the position and development of the study and construction of chemical plant, has recently been published by Dechema at Seelze bei Hannover. Those who are interested in the exhibition and apply before May 10 can obtain a copy of the *Jahrbuch*, which is priced at 10 m., on sending only 0.40 m. to cover the cost of postage. The "Wissenschaftlicher Teil" includes articles on the development of technique and plant construction, on standards in apparatus, on welding in the building of chemical plant, on instruments for the measurement of therapeutically active ultra-violet light emission, and on the Drawinol process for dehydrating ethyl alcohol. The "Technisch-industrieller Teil" contains information concerning constructional materials, laboratory apparatus, technical apparatus, plant and machinery. The book serves also as a guide to the exhibits. We are reminded that in describing the sixth exhibition held at Frankfurt-am-Main in 1930 we said that there could never have been a more comprehensive show of aids to chemical manipulation; at Cologne 300 firms will exhibit more than 2,000 types of apparatus and plant, so that the forthcoming exhibition is unlikely to be less valuable and impressive.

Congress of History of Medicine

THE International Society of the History of Medicine has received an official invitation from the Spanish Government to hold its tenth congress at Madrid in the second fortnight of September 1935. The following subjects, of which the executive committee has to select two, have been suggested for discussion: Spanish colonial medicine; Pre-Columbian medicine; the history of syphilis; medical folk-lore, and the introduction of biological ideas into the domain of history, a subject proposed by Prof. E. Jeanselme of Paris. This Congress of 1935 must not be confused with that organised by the International Academy of the History of Sciences, which will be held this year at Barcelona, Madrid, Toledo, Coimbra and Lisbon, on September 19–October 2.

Television Inquiry

THE Postmaster-General stated in the House of Commons on April 30 that he hoped to announce shortly the composition of a committee which will advise on the conditions under which any public