

to the general welfare. The fellows of the pure chemistry department have completed a number of important investigations on quinine, the cinchona alkaloids, etc., while the Institute has also supported investigations on pneumonia and pulmonary diseases at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital.

Aquarist and Pond Keeper

THE sixth volume of the *Aquarist and Pond Keeper*, which opens with the March-April issue, has a change of cover, a new headpiece and other improvements in printing and illustrations. The magazine keeps up its character in every way, and is full of information for those who are fond of aquaria, vivaria and pond culture. The articles in the present number include the first of a new series by Arthur Denham on the keeping, breeding and rearing of tropical fishes, and aquarium notes by E. G. Boulenger, director of the Zoological Society's aquarium, and by S. W. Weller, curator of the Brighton Aquarium. An angler fish or 'fishing frog' more than three feet in length, said to be the finest specimen of its kind ever exhibited alive, has been acquired for the Brighton Aquarium. It will be interesting to see how long it lives, for this species is notoriously difficult to keep in confinement, especially those of such a large size.

The Merseyside Aquarium Society

ONE of the most extensive collections of British fresh-water aquaria and aquatic and river-side vegetation, in addition to foreign aquaria, has lately been brought together by the Merseyside Aquarium Society at its aquarium at Cliff House, Wallasey, which was opened by the Mayor of Wallasey in March 1932. The collection, which now comprises some sixty tanks, is claimed to be the most extensive of its kind in the North of England, and situated in extensive glass-houses, is largely the result of much hard work by enthusiasts in all classes of life in an effort to establish a really efficient scientific and public aquarium on Merseyside. The Merseyside Aquarium Society was instituted in 1926, largely through the efforts of Mr. F. Jefferies, a past president of the Liverpool Naturalists' Field Club, and incorporated in 1930, and its first president was the late Prof. James Johnstone. The president of the Society is Alderman A. H. Evans of Wallasey, the vice-presidents Prof. J. H. Orton, professor of zoology in the University of Liverpool, W. S. Laverock, lately of the Liverpool Museums, and Alderman D. R. Charlesworth, ex-mayor of Wallasey, and the honorary secretary, Mr. F. Jefferies. By a system of exchange, the Cliff Aquarium has acquired a number of valuable exhibits from the New York Aquarium Society, and it has lately been successful in breeding and rearing the axolotl (*Amblystoma*) to maturity. The present premises have been loaned the Society by the Wallasey Corporation, but the Aquarium is only considered a nucleus for a much larger building which it is hoped to have built as a municipal affair in the future. The Society issues a volume of *Proceedings*, holds six indoor meetings

annually, and affords special help for the amateur aquarists, for the exchange of knowledge and experience amongst experts, and to promote school aquaria and vivaria.

Advances in Oceanographical Research

THE great and growing importance of fundamental research in marine biology and oceanography has recently been emphasised by the launch of two new vessels specially ordered and designed for this work. On September 23, 1933, a new French research vessel, the *Président-Théodore-Tissier*, left the builder's yard. This ship, built to the order of L'Office Scientifique et Technique des Pêches Maritimes de France, is approximately 160 ft. in length, fitted with up-to-date Diesel engines capable of producing a maximum speed of 11 knots, and fully equipped with all the latest apparatus for both oceanographical and biological researches. The *Président-Théodore-Tissier* has now completed her trials and is already in commission. A few months before the launch of the French vessel, the Danish Biological Station, Copenhagen, took over from the builders the new research ship *Biologen* (Report of the Danish Biological Station to the Ministry of Shipping and Fisheries, 38, 1933. Copenhagen: C. A. Reitzel). Though considerably smaller than the *Président-Théodore-Tissier*, the Danish vessel is also fully equipped for carrying out scientific work in both narrow and high seas. In view of the acquisition of these two highly efficient modern research vessels by foreign powers, it is all the more regrettable that H.M.S. *Challenger*, originally destined for similar work by Great Britain, should have had to be given over to other purposes, and the activities of our existing ships seriously curtailed.

A Potato Research Station

THE establishment of such a station in one of the important potato-growing districts is advocated by Sir John Russell in the foreword to the report of the sixteenth Rothamsted Conference, upon "Problems of Potato Growing" (Harpden: Rothamsted Experimental Station, 2s.). Sir John concludes that economical production of potatoes necessitates the use of good seed of the most suitable varieties, appropriate schemes of manuring and cultivation, control of insect and fungus pests and of other agencies causing disease, and methods for dealing with excess produce. All these topics are dealt with by expert contributors in this report. The fields of research developed around this homely plant, notably the virus disease problems, show how technical and specialised are the problems raised by this crop, and though the present research and advisory system deals very effectively with them to a point, Sir John concludes that there is room for such a special research station continuously concerned with investigations into the physiology of the potato and the utilisation of the tuber.

Research Regulations in Germany

THE April number of the *Fight Against Disease*, the quarterly journal of the Research Defence Society,