

Cancer Research

IN March 1933 the International Cancer Research Foundation, established by Mr. William H. Donner of Philadelphia, awarded a sum of £1,000 per annum for a period of two years to the Research Institute of the Cancer Hospital (Free), London, in support of investigations into factors which underlie the origin of malignant growths. This grant has provided two research scholarships which are held by G. A. D. Haslewood, who is working with Dr. J. W. Cook in the Research Institute, and by Miss Edna Roe, who is studying the molecular structure of carcinogenic compounds by physical methods, under Dr. Mayneord in the Physics Section of the Radiological Department of the Cancer Hospital. The grant has also defrayed a part of the cost of this work. Under the direction of Dr. Cook, Haslewood has recently prepared a very active cancer-producing compound, methylcholanthrene, from another compound, deoxycholic acid, which is known to occur in the human body. To assist in further developments of this work, the Trustees of the International Cancer Research Foundation have now decided that this grant shall be continued for an additional three years, until June 1, 1938.

Ross Institute Industrial Advisory Committee

DETAILS of the activities of this Committee in promoting health in the tropics are given in the report of a meeting held on March 27, with Mr. G. H. Masefield in the chair. As a result of health measures introduced in the copper mines of Northern Rhodesia, at Zambezi Bridge, and in the tea gardens in Assam, sickness due to malaria has been much reduced. Dr. McCombie described an experiment in a tea garden with the drugs atabrin and plasmoquin as preventives of malaria, with a saving of 1,941 sick-days among the coolies, but the treatment is too costly to be a business proposition (11 annas per head). On the same estate anti-mosquito-larval measures proved much cheaper (2.6 annas per head), and resulted in a saving of 7,068 sick-days. Reference was made to the 'eye-fly pest' in India and Ceylon, caused by numbers of a small fly (*Microneurum funicola*) which settle upon the eye, and by the bacteria which they carry induce ophthalmia. The breeding habits of this fly have still to be discovered, but by providing infected cases with wire gauze spectacles, these epidemics may be controlled in large measure by preventing carriage of infection.

Official Chemical Appointments

THE Institute of Chemistry has recently issued the eighth edition of the "List of Official Chemical Appointments" (Institute of Chemistry, 30 Russell Square, London, W.C.1. 1934. Price 5s.). Since the seventh edition was published three years ago, much revision has been necessary; but the list is now a useful, up-to-date compendium of official appointments. It consists of a list of official appointments in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State; a list of appointments in the British Dominions, Colonies, Protectorates, Egypt

and the Sudan Provinces; information concerning societies and institutions devoted to chemical interests; and statutes, orders, etc., which affect official chemical appointments. Names of university professors, lecturers and demonstrators, and public and secondary school masters are also included. There are indexes of names and places respectively. A full contents, classified, and with each group arranged alphabetically, renders a general index unnecessary. This is a useful list, well arranged, so that reference is an easy matter.

Pollen Carried by Dust Storm

MR. O. C. DURHAM, chief botanist of the Abbott Laboratories in North Chicago, exposed collecting slides through the period of the remarkable dust storm recently experienced in the United States. His collections, as a result of the examination of these slides, indicate a fall of some 34.7 tons of dust per square mile, of which no less than 3.4 tons would be represented by oak pollen. This percentage of pollen certainly seems a striking phenomenon and has its interest in connexion with the use made of pollen distribution in strata of vegetable remains, as an indication of the vegetation in these areas at the period when the remains were deposited. Mr. Durham's observations are reported by Science Service, Washington, D.C., under date May 14.

Micrometer Scales on Photomicrographs

IN the May issue of *Watson's Microscope Record*, J. A. Lord pleads for the inclusion of a scale of measurement on each published photomicrograph, so that a visual estimate of the size of the objects represented is readily possible. He also points out the desirability of including such a scale of measurement on lantern slides made from photomicrographs so that, irrespective of initial or final magnifications, the dimensions of the objects can be estimated as seen on the screen. Appended to his article is a convenient form of scale by the aid of which a micrometric scale, correct for each given magnification, can quickly be marked upon a photograph or a lantern slide.

Greenland Whale at the Natural History Museum

THE skeleton of a Greenland whale, which has been presented by the president and council of the Royal College of Surgeons to the trustees of the British Museum, has been removed from the College and will shortly be erected in the new Whale Hall at the Natural History Museum. The specimen was originally purchased by the College in 1864 from Prof. Reinhardt, of Copenhagen. Although the Greenland whale is commonly used as a textbook example of the Cetacea, complete skeletons of this species are very rare in museums, and in Great Britain there appears to be a record of only one other, a young one, which is in the Anatomical Museum of the University of Edinburgh.

The Men of the Trees

THE ninth annual report of this voluntary society, which attempts to bring together those interested in trees, their planting, cultivation and protection,