

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,

shows that it is still active and growing in membership ("The Men of the Trees." Ninth Year's Report and Review of the Tree Year 1933. Pp. 36+4 plates. London: Hon. Secretary, 32 Warwick Road, S.W.5. 6d.). Whilst the death duties cause the break up of many old well-wooded estates and realisation upon their timber, the Forestry Commission still suffers under a cut of £400,000, so that its planting programme is inevitably cut down. Under these conditions, there is ample room for the activities of this society, which in its ninth annual report gives an extensive account of an important statement upon the position of forestry in the Empire made at the annual meeting of the society by Prof. Troup, of the Imperial Forestry Institute, Oxford.

Works on Astrology and Alchemy

AN interesting catalogue of second-hand books on astronomy, astrology, alchemy and the occult sciences has recently been published by Émile Offenbacher, 10 Rue Pasquier, Paris, 8^e. Among the more attractive items may be noted the first Italian edition of Euclid, with a commentary by Tartaglia (1543), a first edition of Galileo's "Istoria e dimostrazione intorno alle macchie solari" (1613), a second edition of Reisch's "Margarita philosophica" (1504), a copy of Thomas Radini's "Sideralis abyssus" (1511), and the first edition of Kertzenmacher's "Alchimia" (1538). A score of books on the Rosy Cross are included, and all the items appear to be very moderately priced. Bibliographical notes are given in sufficient detail, a feature which, with the numerous illustrations, will make the catalogue a useful book of reference even when the books it describes have found scattered homes in the libraries of collectors. We hope that M. Offenbacher will give us further catalogues of the same kind, for they represent a real contribution to the history of science.

Announcements

THE Albert Medal of the Royal Society of Arts for 1934 has been awarded to Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins, president of the Royal Society, for his researches in biochemistry and the constituents of foods. The medal is awarded annually "for distinguished merit in promoting arts, manufactures, or commerce".

PROF. A. C. SEWARD, professor of botany in the University of Cambridge, has been elected a foreign member of the Botany Class of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

SIR FREDERICK GOWLAND HOPKINS will unveil a plaque to William Hyde Wollaston at 14 Buckingham Street, W.1, on Wednesday, July 4, at 3.30 p.m.

PROF. P. L. MERCANTON, professor of meteorology and geophysics in the University of Lausanne, has been appointed director of the Central Meteorological Station of the Commission federale suisse de Meteorologie, in succession to Dr. J. Maurer, who has recently retired.

THE following appointments in the Colonial agricultural service have been made by the Secretary

of State for the Colonies: Mr. A. K. Briant, to be agricultural superintendent, St. Vincent; Mr. M. Halcrow, to be agricultural officer, Kenya; Mr. N. M. Wight, to be district agricultural officer, Tanganyika; Mr. H. W. Jack (economic botanist, Federated Malay States), to be director of agriculture, Fiji; Mr. F. L. Squibbs (assistant agricultural officer, Dominica), to be director of agriculture, Seychelles.

IT is announced in the *Times* of June 9 that the Belgian National Scientific Research Fund has made a grant of 750,000 francs (more than £7,100) for the erection in Brussels of the Albert Library in memory of the late King of the Belgians. The Société Financière Mutuelle Solvay has subscribed 500,000 francs.

ADVISORY leaflets on matters of interest to farmers, recently issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, include one on the use of seaweed as manure, pointing out its special value for crops which require a large amount of potash and are benefited by salt. Other leaflets deal with birds of agricultural significance (more or less); they include the kestrel, landrail and nightjar. Another describes the activities, life-history and control of the turnip gall weevil.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:—A principal of the Municipal Technical College, Halifax—The Education Officer, Education Offices, West House, Halifax (June 18). An assistant master to teach surveying and general science at the Pontardawe Mining and Technical Institute—The Director of Education, County Hall, Cardiff (June 18). A teacher of botany and chemistry at the Ashford and Folkestone Technical Institutes—The Principal, Technical Institute, Ashford (June 22). A lecturer in chemistry at Chesterfield Technical College—The Clerk to the Governors, Technical College, Infirmary Road, Chesterfield (June 23). A City electrical engineer for Plymouth—The Town Clerk, Municipal Buildings, Plymouth (June 25). A mining instructor at the County Secondary School and Cumberland Technical College, Workington—The Principal (June 23). A teacher of general chemistry at the Northern Polytechnic, Holloway, London, N.7—The Clerk (June 27). A veterinary officer to the County Borough of Wallasey—The Town Clerk, Town Hall, Wallasey (June 28). A junior lecturer in electrical engineering at the Military College of Science, Red Barracks, Woolwich, S.E.18—The Commandant (June 30). A district agricultural organiser for the East Anglian Institute of Agriculture, Chelmsford—The Clerk of the Council, County Hall, Chelmsford (July 2). An assistant lecturer in anatomy and an assistant lecturer in physiology at the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, Cardiff—The Registrar (July 7). A teacher of domestic science at the Princess Mary's Village Homes (Home Office 'Approved' School), Addlestone, Surrey—The Secretary. An assistant lecturer in mathematics at University College, Hull—The Registrar. A second assistant port engineer to the Basrah Port Directorate, Iraq—The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, London, S.W.1.