

amongst men. Prof. Cathcart directed the work, assisted by Messrs. Hughes and Chalmers, and in the analysis of the data by Miss Blair and Miss Werner, and their report has now been issued ("The Physique of Man in Industry". Med. Res. Council. I.H.R.B. Report No. 71. H.M. Stationery Office, 1935. 1s. 3d. net). It records the physical examination of 13,656 male volunteers aged fourteen years and upwards in fifteen areas in England and Scotland. The total includes 10,593 employed men, 1,328 unemployed men and 1,735 students. The data recorded were height, weight, grip (both hands), pull when standing, and distance of middle finger tip from the ground. The student group had the highest average height and weight, but were inferior in strength to those in manual occupations. The unemployed group was slightly inferior in weight, and definitely inferior in strength, to the employed group. No certain index of physical fitness, industrial or other, was discovered. From the average elbow height (43 in.) of the employed, it is deduced that the comfortable height of a working bench for the average man standing should be about 38 in.

Biological Control of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly

THE Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) has, for many years, caused ravages among many kinds of edible fruits in the Hawaiian Islands. The introduction of several species of parasites from Africa and Australia has resulted in a very appreciable reduction in the abundance of the pest in question, but a sufficiently efficient degree of control, from the commercial point of view, has not so far been achieved. We learn from Science Service, Washington, D.C., that a scheme has been put in hand which involves further application of biological control methods. In order to carry out the project, the Hawaiian Planters' Association is sending two of its entomologists, along with others from the Department of Agriculture, to Africa with the object of searching for suitable parasites. Other entomologists are proceeding to Brazil with the same aim in view. The whole project is being administered by the U.S. Bureau of Entomology in conjunction with the leading local organisations concerned in Hawaii. The Hawaiian Islands are famous as being the territory where some of the most successful examples of the biological method of pest control have been achieved. The plan of campaign against the fruit fly is expected, if successful, to lead to great benefits to the small farmers of the territory by increasing the supply of fruits that grow so luxuriously in those islands.

New System for Nature Recording

AFTER much discussion, extending over two quarterly meetings, the council of the British Empire Naturalists' Association has agreed to form a special section to deal with field natural history records. A properly spaced system of observers is to be built up all over Great Britain, and eventually a committee of experts will be formed to decide upon the problems to be tackled, and the methods to be adopted. Plans are at present being made for a conference of

branch secretaries in London next April. For some ten years, the British Empire Naturalists' Association has worked a system of publishing in its quarterly journal, *Country-Side*, bird, plant and insect records of seasonal and statistical interest, grouped in the various counties. Not only was this incomplete, in that records were more quickly forthcoming from southern areas richest in resident naturalists, and other northern areas were neglected, but also in flora especially no complete review could be made owing to the necessity of finding room for other matters in the journal. The new scheme will be welcomed by historians of field natural history, who often have to go through masses of local and national publications for scattered field records of varying value.

A New Natural History Magazine

A NEW German periodical, edited by A. Benninghoff, K. Beurlen, K. Hildebrandt and K. L. Wolf, offering a variety and standard of contributions which ought to commend it to many readers, has recently appeared. The title, *Zeitschrift für die gesamte Naturwissenschaft*, suggests the breadth of its objective, the scope of which is extended by the inclusion of Nature philosophy and the history of Nature knowledge and medicine. The articles of the first issue (April) are not over-long—about fifteen pages—a short summary precedes each, and the matter, while avoiding too technical treatment, makes a serious contribution to the subjects discussed. K. Hildebrandt writes upon "Positivismus und Natur", and other major articles deal with "Morphologie und Erdgeschichte", "Bedeutung und Aufgabe geologischer Forschung", "Subjektbezogenen Nomenklatur in der Biologie", "Warum studieren wir Biologie?", to which the final answer is "Wir studieren Biologie, weil wir müssen". A variety of subjects are discussed in short contributions, and there are seven signed reviews of books.

Use of the Astrolabe

ALTHOUGH the astrolabe has found some support among surveyors, it has not been widely used by British astronomers. An extensive account in English of the practical use of the modern astrolabe has recently been published by Mme. Chandon and M. Gougenheim in the *Hydrographic Review* (12, No. 1). This account contains full details of the working and practical operation of various modifications of the astrolabe, and should be studied by all who are interested in the accurate determination of position. It may be hoped that this paper will stimulate astronomers to devise a means of eliminating personal equation from the astrolabe, so that the instrument may eventually compete with the transit circle in the accurate determination of longitude.

Pathological Investigations at Edinburgh

IN the annual report for 1934 of the Laboratory of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, by the curator, Sir Robert Phillips, an account is given of the research and other activities. Much work has