

articles published elsewhere by Havelock Ellis, Julian Huxley, Norman Himes and others, and includes several pages of abstracts and reviews of books. In the second number there is an excellent article by Norman Himes on contraceptive technique in Islam and Europe in the Middle Ages. The articles so far published indicate the scope of the journal and the quality of its contributors. It promises well, and should receive a welcome from all who are interested in those problems which arise from the relation of male to female and of parent to offspring. The price of a volume is 18s., and the address of the managing editor is Kodak House, Hornby Road, Bombay. Surely it is a matter of profound significance that such a journal should have had its origin in India, particularly when it is learned that, associated with the journal, there is a eugenic clinic. It would seem that this journal intends to deal frankly and scientifically with a number of topics that are not usually encountered in the ordinary medical journals.

#### Recent Acquisitions at the British Museum (Natural History)

THE Zoological Department has received, as a donation from His Excellency the Governor of Sierra Leone, the skull and tusks of a young specimen of the forest elephant, from the Gola Forest, Sierra Leone. This specimen is of exceptional importance as it is accompanied by two complete tusks which are in every way similar to the tusks hitherto accepted as belonging to the so-called 'dwarf' elephant. The skull and teeth of this specimen prove it to be quite a young individual and therefore it is reasonable to conclude that the so-called 'dwarf' elephant ivory is merely the ivory of young elephants. 135 mammals, 144 birds, 9 reptiles, and 500 fishes from Ashanti have been collected for the Museum by Mr. Willoughby P. Lowe and Miss Waldron, and about 200 birds collected in southern Asia Minor by Mr. Charles Bird have been purchased. The important collection of British Lepidoptera formed by the late Robert Adkin, who died at Eastbourne on May 21, has been bequeathed to the Department of Entomology. This collection consists, at an estimate, of about 50,000 specimens, and embraces the microlepidoptera as well as the larger kinds to which most collections are confined. The Trustees approved the purchase for the Department of Geology of an important collection of some two thousand Australian fossils, including fishes, representatives of most of the invertebrate groups, and plants. It is particularly valuable on account of the large number of Permian and Triassic insects, including more than 100 types, which it contains. An interesting and valuable gold nugget from Morro Velho, Minas Geraes, Brazil has been bequeathed to the Department of Mineralogy, by the late Mrs. M. A. Bushman, of Kew. The nugget, which weighs 119.3 grams, or nearly 4 ounces troy, consists entirely of native gold, all the original quartz having been removed, leaving a cellular structure. Among the purchases may be mentioned: a splendid scissor-cut yellow scapolite, weighing 12.3 carats. The rough stone was from Serra da Chibita, Minas

Geraes, Brazil. Scapolite of gem quality is not common, and this specimen is larger and of better colour than any other in the National Collection.

#### A Disease-Resistant Red Currant

A SHORT note issued by Science Service of Washington, D.C., announces the discovery by Dr. G. G. Hahn of a new variety of red currant resistant to the uredo- and teleuto-spore stages of *Cronartium ribicola*, the white pine blister rust fungus. This organism is heteroecious, spending its life-history on two distinct host plants. Currants and gooseberries are the summer hosts, whilst the aecidial stage is spent upon white pine (*Pinus strobus*) in the winter. Many districts in America regard the white pine as their principal source of wealth, and so both wild and cultivated currants and gooseberries were eradicated completely. This caused much grief and expense to gardeners, but removed the necessary summer hosts of the fungus, and effectively controlled the disease on white pine. The new disease-resistant red currant is known as 'Viking'; it provides fruit of good quality, and promises to withstand drought as well as to resist disease.

#### Centralisation of Scientific Publication

IN an address on "The Dissemination of Science" before the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Minneapolis on June 26, Mr. Watson Davis, director of Science Service, reiterated a plea for the co-operative centralisation of some scientific publication functions in a Scientific Information Institute. It was suggested that manuscripts which could not be published promptly or in full should be sent to the Institute and prepared by typing or otherwise for photographic publication. The existence of the paper or monograph would be made known through the publication of the abstract in the scientific journal, and the paper could be obtained on request, each copy being made to order. The same system could be utilised for supplying to members the scientific papers delivered at a meeting. The photographic procedure might also be utilised for loans between libraries. In regard to bibliography, Mr. Davis suggested the operation by the Scientific Information Institute of a bibliographical file and production service to absorb existing bibliographical schemes in all branches of science and provide bibliographical material in fields of science which are at present not easily accessible. A fund of approximately 20,000 dollars would enable these projects to be initiated.

#### The National Central Library

THE nineteenth annual report of the National Central Library, Malet Place, London, W.C.1, directs attention to the difficult financial problems which at present confront the Committee. These are due partly to the inadequacy of its income to meet the growing demands made upon the Library and partly to the termination of the annual grants received from the Carnegie Trustees, from whom a final grant of £4,000 has now been received. The annual grant

of £3,000 from the Treasury has again been reduced by 10 per cent, and it has only been possible to spend £2,337 on books, the smallest expenditure for seven years. The financial difficulties are the more unfortunate when the work of the Library in tracing out-of-the-way books and acting as a clearing-house for the entire library system of Great Britain and a chief source of all bibliographical information is becoming more widely known and appreciated. The report contains references to the 'outlier libraries'—which now number 149, including those of a number of research associations, the regional library systems, the university libraries, and the foreign libraries—which will probably surprise the average scientific worker in the extent to which they reveal the co-ordination of effort in this field. Moreover, as the regional system grows, the work represented by each book issued by the Central Library continues to increase, as although the number of books issued may decrease the percentage of books difficult to trace and obtain becomes higher. Of particular interest is work on Union Catalogues, and the Union List of Periodicals in the University Libraries has been of the greatest service in locating periodicals. The report also refers to a Union List of Scientific, Technical and Commercial Periodicals in the Public, the University and all the Technical Libraries in Sheffield. A total of 61,187 books was issued by the National Central Libraries and 11,231 by the outlier libraries, which contain 5,846,000 volumes; 2,409 books were lent to university libraries, 1,233 of which were supplied from the Library's own stock.

#### Thermo-couple Standardisation

THE use of thermocouples for the measurement of temperature has become so customary in industry that the issue by the Bureau of Standards of the United States of a pamphlet of 36 pages by Messrs. W. F. Roeser and H. T. Wensel on the methods of testing them and the materials of which they are constructed will be welcomed by many workers in industry. It is Research Paper 768 of the Bureau, and is issued at the low price of 5 cents. It deals with the best materials to use for a given range of temperature, how to secure that they are pure and how to standardise the couples when constructed. On the whole, the authors prefer a freezing point rather than a boiling point for a standard temperature when each is available, but instructions are given for carrying out standardisations in each way and also for comparisons with working standards of the thermo-couple type. The best methods of interpolating for temperatures between the standard temperatures are also dealt with. Some idea of the accuracy to be expected from observations with various types of thermo-couples over different ranges of temperature is also given.

#### The World Power Conference

At the annual meeting of the International Executive Council of the World Power Conference, held at the Royal Netherlands Institute of Engineers, The Hague, Sir Harold Hartley, chairman of the British National Committee, was elected by the

Council as its chairman, in succession to the late Mr. D. N. Dunlop, who died on May 30. The choice of Sir Harold is peculiarly appropriate, since as a vice-president of the London Midland and Scottish Railway Company, and director of research of that great transport system, he is in close touch with industrial problems, while as chairman of the Fuel Research Board and a research fellow of Balliol College, Oxford, he is also conversant with the more academic aspects of scientific progress. The Conference owes to Mr. Dunlop, its founder, a happy combination of the practical with the ideal. Under Sir Harold Hartley's guidance it should continue to progress and to play an increasingly influential rôle throughout the world.

#### Dovedale

MR. ROBERT McDUGALL, of Manchester, has presented to the National Trust further sections of Dovedale. The dale lies partly in Derbyshire and partly in Staffordshire, and it was recently announced in Parliament that steps were being taken by the local authorities concerned for the planning of the whole area. This announcement was warmly welcomed by the National Trust. Now Mr. McDougall has added to his previous gifts 52 acres in Biggin Dale which joins Wolfscote Dale—as the upper part of the Dove valley is called—on the Derbyshire side some way above the land recently given by Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. Biggin Dale is a dry limestone gorge of great beauty. The new property, on its north-western side, consists of steep grass slopes with picturesque scree and some timber and hawthorn bushes, and from it there are arresting views down the Dove valley. There are also fine views across to the Staffordshire side of the Dove valley where the Peasland Rocks stand out boldly. Above the property is Wolfscote Hill (1,272 ft.) which, with its long ridge, is a great landmark in the neighbourhood.

#### Italian Council of Research

THE recent activities of the Italian National Council of Research, which is directed by the Marchese Marconi, are described in an official publication dealing with investigations which the Council has handed over to the universities, higher teaching centres and experimental stations in Italy. During the years 1933 and 1934, researches were carried out in the problems of nutrition in the laboratories and institutes of physiology and biochemistry at Naples, Padua, Genoa and Rome, as well as investigations on the etiology, epidemiology and prophylaxis of typhoid fever in the institutes of hygiene at Bologna and Genoa.

#### Toxicity of Industrial Solvents

At the request of the Home Office, the Medical Research Council has undertaken to promote investigation into the question whether various volatile substances might injure the health of workers using them under industrial conditions. The Council has appointed the following special committee to assist and advise in this matter: Sir Joseph Barcroft