

seven species are endemic to Australia and restricted to the genus *Acacia* for their host plants. Gladys Carey continues her study of the embryology of viviparous seeds, examining two of the mangrove species from tropical Queensland. Lilian Fraser has two papers upon the sooty moulds of New South Wales—those curious fungi that are found superficial upon branches and leaves, living upon the honey-dew secreted by scale insects and aphides; she also describes some of the Mycetozoa of the same State. I. V. Newman, in continuation of earlier studies of the Australian acacias, has two papers dealing with the floral organs and their development, fertilisation and embryology in *Acacia Baileyana*, whilst Joyce W. Vickery deals with the vegetative reproduction by underground tubers of two species of *Drosera* common as winter herbs in the Sydney district. The Botanical Department thus bears witness to its active interest in the flora of the Australian dominion.

#### Hydrogen Ion Determination

WE have received a copy of the fourth revised and enlarged edition of the booklet "pH Values", which may be obtained free on application to British Drug Houses, Ltd., Graham Street, City Road, London, N.1. The booklet gives an elementary account of the subject, with particular reference to indicators. It is based entirely on the idea of a concentration of hydrogen ions, and the question arises whether the time has not come to take account of activities and salt effects more adequately than is the case. Further editions of the booklet should be revised so as to bring it more into line with modern practice.

#### Popular Reading of Scientific Books

THE librarian of Middlesbrough Public Libraries has made an interesting experiment in endeavouring to guide his readers towards an intelligent use of works of general science. A pamphlet entitled "How to Understand the Sciences" (pp. 28) offers a very readable commentary upon well-known books dealing with scientific subjects in a popular way, and suggests a graduated course of reading, suitable for the plain man, in physics, chemistry, biology and general science. If Mr. Lillie's comments do not increase the intelligent reading of the scientific works in his libraries by the ordinary citizen, nothing will.

#### Association of American Geographers

THE thirty-second annual meeting of the Association of American Geographers was held on December 30–January 1 at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri. In the three-day session, seventy-two papers were presented, including six in the field of geomorphology, ten in meteorology and climate, twenty-two in regional geography, six in the field of population, and two in cartography. The remainder represented a diversity of subjects. The morning of January 1 was devoted to a symposium of "Land Utilisation". The papers on this subject were presented by Prof. Lester E. Klimm of the University of Pennsylvania, Prof. H. M. Leppard of the University

of Chicago, Prof. Loyal Durand, jun. of the University of Wisconsin, Dr. G. Donald Hudson of the Tennessee Valley Authority and Prof. K. C. McMurray of the University of Michigan. On the evening of December 31, the retiring president, Charles C. Colby of the University of Chicago, addressed the Association and guests on the subject of "Changing Currents of Geographical Thought in America". The following officers were elected for 1936: *President*, Prof. W. H. Hobbs, University of Michigan; *Vice-President*, Dr. John K. Wright, librarian of the American Geographical Society; *Secretary*, Prof. P. E. James, University of Michigan; *Treasurer*, Prof. John E. Orchard, Columbia University; *Members of Council*, Col. Claude E. Birdseye, U.S. Geological Survey (one year), and Prof. R. J. Russell, Louisiana State University (three years).

#### British Medical Association

THE one hundred and fourth annual meeting of the British Medical Association will be held in Oxford on July 17–24. The president-elect is Sir E. Farquhar Buzzard, regius professor of medicine in the University of Oxford. The meeting will be divided into the following sections with the presidents indicated: Medicine (Dr. A. G. Gibson); Surgery (Prof. G. E. Gask); Obstetrics and Gynaecology (Prof. H. B. Whitehouse); Pathology and Bacteriology (Dr. E. W. A. Walker); Diseases of Children (Dr. R. C. Jewesbury); Neurology and Psychological Medicine (T. S. Good); Ophthalmology (Dr. P. E. H. Adams); Orthopaedics (G. R. Girdlestone); Oto-Rhino-Laryngology (L. Gollidge); Pharmacology and Therapeutics with Anaesthetics (Prof. J. A. Gunn); Physical Medicine (Dr. W. J. Turrell); Physiology and Biochemistry (Prof. R. A. Peters); Radiology (R. H. Sankey); Anatomy (Prof. W. E. Le Gros Clark); Dermatology (Dr. S. E. Dore); History of Medicine (Dr. A. Chaplin); Medical Sociology (Sir George Newman); Nutrition (Dr. A. F. Hurst); Public Medicine (Dr. W. M. Willoughby); Tuberculosis (Dr. W. Stobie). Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, B.M.A. Office, The Cottage, Keble Road, Oxford.

#### Second International Congress for Microbiology

THE second International Congress for Microbiology will be held in London on July 25–August 1 under the presidency of Prof. J. C. G. Ledingham. The headquarters of the Congress will be at University College, Gower Street, W.C.1, but additional accommodation, if required, will be available in the adjacent buildings of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the Wellcome Research Institution. During the Congress week, official receptions will be given by His Majesty's Government, by the Royal Society and other official bodies. Excursions have been arranged by the Ladies' Committee for the ladies and any members of Congress desiring to take part in them. Also the Sectional Committees are arranging visits to laboratories and institutes concerned with the scientific business of the sections. Extended excursions are being arranged for the

two week-ends over which the Congress extends. The scientific business of the Congress will be conducted in the following eight sections: General Biology of Micro-organisms; Viruses and Virus Diseases in Animals and Plants; Bacteria and Fungi in Relation to Disease in Man, Animals and Plants; Economic Bacteriology—Soil, Dairying and Industrial Microbiology; Medical, Veterinary and Agricultural Zoology and Parasitology; Serology and Immunochemistry; Microbiological Chemistry; Specific Immunisation in the Control of Human and Animal Disease. A comprehensive programme of discussions within these sections has been prepared, full particulars of which are given in the preliminary programme of the Congress which has recently been published and distributed. Copies of this programme are available from the Hon. General Secretary, Dr. R. St. John-Brooks, Lister Institute, Chelsea Bridge Road, London, S.W.1.

#### Announcements

THE Council of the Institution of Chemical Engineers has awarded the Moulton Gold Medal for 1935 to R. W. Powell and Dr. Ezer Griffiths for their paper on "The Evaporation of Water from Plane and Cylindrical Surfaces".

DR. A. D. IMMS, reader in entomology in the University of Cambridge, has been elected president of the Royal Entomological Society of London for 1936-37.

SIR ARTHUR KEITH, lately Hunterian professor of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; Dr. R. R. Marett, University reader in social anthropology, Oxford; Prof. David Waterston, Bute professor of anatomy, University of St. Andrews; and Prof. Herman Geijer, director of the Archive for Dialects and Folklore, Uppsala, Sweden, have been elected fellows of the Scottish Anthropological Society in recognition of their distinguished services to anthropological science.

DR. JUNGEN WILHELM HARMS, professor of zoology at Tübingen, has been appointed to the corresponding chair at Jena.

M. LAPIQUE has been elected president of the French Society of Biological Chemistry and M. Perpère president of the Society of Hydrology for 1936.

THE Imperial Leopold Caroline German Academy of Natural Philosophers in Halle has elected as honorary member Dr. Kurt Poppe, professor of medicine at Rostock, in recognition of his work in the investigation of infectious diseases.

PROF. RICHARD OTTO, departmental director of the Robert Koch Institute for Infectious Diseases at Berlin, has been nominated director of the State

Institute of Experimental Therapy and Georg Speyer House at Frankfort-on-Main.

IN No. 11 of the *Bulletin de la Classe des Sciences* of the Royal Academy of Belgium it is announced that the Academy has awarded prizes for the year 1935 as follows: to Prof. B. Segre, of the University of Bologna, for a memoir entitled, "Quelques resultats nouveaux dans la géométrie sur une  $V_3$  algébrique"; jointly to M. J. Van Mieghem and M. F. Bureau, for their memoirs on the theory of Huygens' principle; to M. P. Manil, for his memoir entitled "Contribution à l'étude de l'immunité chez les Végétaux".

AT a meeting of the Royal Microscopical Society held on January 15, the following officers were elected: *President*, Dr. R. S. Clay; *Vice-Presidents*, Prof. W. A. F. Balfour-Browne, J. E. Barnard, Conrad Beck, and Dr. J. A. Murray; *Hon. Treasurer*, C. F. Hill; *Hon. Secretaries*, Prof. R. T. Hewlett and J. Smiles; *New Members of Council*, F. Martin Duncan, N. I. Hendey, Andrew More, A. S. Newman; *Hon. Editor*, Dr. G. M. Findlay; *Hon. Librarian*, Dr. Clarence Tierney; *Hon. Curator of Instruments*, W. E. Watson Baker; *Hon. Curator of Slides*, N. I. Hendey.

A SERIES of special lectures on "Work and Play in the British Empire" is being given at the Imperial Institute, South Kensington, S.W.7, on Thursdays from February 6 until April 2, at 2.30. Admission is free. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the Institute.

MESSRS. H. K. LEWIS AND Co., LTD., are issuing guides to lectures of medical and scientific interest, most of which are open to the public. The list for February is comprehensive for lectures delivered in London. Copies of the guide can be obtained free on application to the Compiler, Messrs. H. K. Lewis and Co., Ltd., 136 Gower Street, W.C.1.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments, on or before the dates mentioned:

An official fellow in mathematics in Queen's College, Oxford—The Provost (Feb. 15).

A principal of the West Ham Technical College—The Town Clerk, Education Offices, 95, The Grove, Stratford (Feb. 19).

A head of the Engineering Department of the Cardiff Technical College—The Director of Education, City Hall, Cardiff (Feb. 22).

A professor of physiology in the University of Leeds—The Registrar (Feb. 29).

A Sir Jesse Boot professor of chemistry in University College, Nottingham—The Registrar (March 2).

A professor of animal husbandry and a professor of plant husbandry in the Canterbury Agricultural College (University of New Zealand)—The High Commissioner for New Zealand, 415 Strand, London, W.C.2 (March 31).