

Ross, Ltd. also exhibit on their stand a wide range of their binoculars, including those of extra wide angle and those of great light-gathering power. They show also a large number of types of their photographic lenses, fitted to various makes of camera, and exhibit several types of telescopes. Perhaps their most striking exhibit is a recent product, a massive epidiascope capable of projecting the image of an object 13 in. square. The illumination is derived from four 1,000-watt lamps, and a cooling fan, electrically driven, is incorporated.

Among the exhibits of R. and J. Beck, Ltd. are to be noticed many types of their microscopes, from the microscope for school use to that used for advanced research. They include the angular microscope (an entirely new design), a combined binocular and monocular microscope, and the Wrighton metalurgical outfit, made to a specification prepared in the Research Department, Woolwich. Attention should also be directed to the projectograph exhibited by this firm, which has been designed to give a well-illuminated picture either by the shadowgraph method, showing the outline of an object, or by the opaque method, giving a view of the actual surface.

W. Watson and Sons, Ltd. exhibit, besides the usual range of their microscopes, several new products, including a machine for polishing metal specimens and useful for petrological work, and a profile-projecting apparatus. They show also a new camera, the Sayce-Watson camera, which depends fundamentally upon the use of standard 35 mm. cinematograph film. It is designed to replace a variety of photographic equipment by one apparatus, in which the objects sought have been primarily economy, compactness and simplicity. Mention should also be made of the Watson-McArthur microscope, a portable microscope having the minimum of movable parts, which was described in the *Journal of the Royal Microscopical Society*, January, 1934.

Tintometer, Ltd. show some new models of comparators for the testing of various media by means of colour matching, and new colorimeters are shown by Bellingham and Stanley, Ltd. W. F. Stanley and Co., Ltd. exhibit some interesting examples of planimeters, which are the first and only British-made planimeters, this type of instrument having been previously obtainable only from abroad. Two main types are shown, the sliding bar pattern and the radial pattern.

We have space only for brief mention of the chemical exhibits at Olympia. The theme of the main stand of the Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. is the technical service offered to their customers. They show a working exhibit of the water-treatment service and another concerning dyestuffs and dry-cleaning. The first of the 'Solacet' colours is shown. These have only just been introduced, and are the culmination of prolonged research on the problem of producing the perfect dyes for the direct dyeing of acetate silk. Monastral Fast Blue *BS* is shown on the stand of the Association of British Chemical Manufacturers, and is claimed to be the chemical achievement of the year. It is the first blue pigment to have been discovered since ultramarine in 1826. A simplified model of the Bellingham coal-oil plant will arouse much interest and so will the sheets of the new plastic product, 'Perspex', shown on the stand of Mouldrite Limited, a subsidiary of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. Among the other numerous and impressive chemical exhibits, mention may be made of the stands of Hopkin and Williams, Ltd. and

the British Drug Houses, Ltd. The former exhibit phenyl-di-iodarsine, the optical properties of which were found by Anderson and Payne (*NATURE*, 133, 66; 1934) to render it a very valuable medium in the examination of precious stones by refractivity methods.

Lastly, bare mention may be made of the 'Vitan' lamp (a fused quartz mercury vapour lamp), of the highly refractory re-crystallised alumina ware, and of the fused silica and vitreous ware to be seen on the stand of the Thermal Syndicate, Ltd.

Taken altogether, science shows up well at this Fair, and in particular do the exhibits make manifest the truth of the slogan printed over the combined exhibit of scientific instruments: "Science aids Industry".

Educational Topics and Events

CAMBRIDGE.—Dr. P. W. Richards, fellow of Trinity College, will deliver two lectures in the Department of Botany on March 6 and 13 at 5 p.m. on "The Tropical Rain Forest". The lectures will be based on Dr. Richards's work in Borneo, British Guiana and Southern Nigeria.

Sir William Pope and Prof. H. C. Gutteridge have been appointed delegates of the University to the tercentenary of the University of Utrecht to be held on June 22-24.

OXFORD.—Dr. Edwin P. Hubble, astronomer at the Mount Wilson Observatory, has been appointed to deliver the Rhodes Memorial Lectures for the year 1936-37.

THE Le Play Society has arranged the following programme of visits to various European countries: Morocco, with Mr. W. Fogg (also a botanical group); a survey from north to south of Portugal, including Lisbon, with Dr. L. Dudley Stamp; Holland and its galleries, with Dr. G. Furlong; Glendalough, Co. Wicklow, a regional study, with Dr. D. K. Smee and Mr. T. W. Freeman; and the Cotswolds, a training course in field studies, with Miss C. A. Simpson. All these visits are open to lecturers, teachers, students and others who are interested in the studies undertaken. Further information can be obtained from Miss Margaret Tatton, The Le Play Society, 58 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.

In an address to the American Association for the Advancement of Science at its recent meeting in St. Louis, Dr. Oscar Riddle, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, discussed the position of biology in American Schools. He stated that great numbers of high school and college students complete their school-days with their education incomplete in that it includes little or nothing of information about biological subjects. Apart from the danger, due to biological ignorance, of unintelligent pressure for retrograde points of view (as seen in the anti-evolution laws), there is the greater danger that scientific research may advance so rapidly in relation to the biological knowledge of the people in general, as to become quite out of touch with their daily life. It would be the greatest misfortune to science as well as to the populace were neglect of instruction in biological subjects in the schools to make scientific progress a sealed book to all but a few other than professional scientific workers.