

Botanical Acquisitions at the British Museum

THE Department of Botany of the British Museum (Natural History) has received 430 plants collected by Miss Nancy Lindsay and Mrs. A. Fullerton in Iran, principally from the Elburz Mountains, an area which has been little worked. The collection is accompanied by useful notes and by a number of excellent water-colour paintings of the more attractive plants by Miss Lindsay. The Biological Department of the Medical College, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, has presented its botanical herbarium. It is in twelve volumes and contains about eight hundred well-mounted sheets. The collection was apparently got together between 1823 and 1844; the majority were collected by T. R. Tuck, although a large number bear the names of the Rev. Prof. J. S. Henslow and C. C. Babington. The Hon. Mrs. de Beaumont has presented the botanical press of A. L. de Jussieu. This interesting historical relic is strongly constructed of mahogany, and resembles a copying press. It takes only a small sheet, such as those of the herbarium of de Jussieu in Paris.

Research in Tropical Medicine

A TROPICAL Medical Research Committee has been appointed by the Medical Research Council in consultation with the Colonial Office. The new committee will advise and assist in the direction of such investigations as the Council may be able to promote, whether at home or abroad, into problems of health and disease in tropical climates, and make suggestions generally as to research in this field. The Committee is to be a purely scientific body. It will include representatives of the Colonial Office and of the Liverpool and London Schools of Tropical Medicine, with other members appointed as individual experts in tropical medicine or in different branches of medical science. The following will serve in the first instance: Prof. J. C. G. Ledingham (*Chairman*), Prof. A. J. Clark, Dr. N. Hamilton Fairley, Prof. W. W. Jameson, Dr. Edward Mellanby, Dr. Muriel Robertson, Sir Leonard Rogers, Dr. H. Harold Scott, Sir Thomas Stanton, Dr. C. M. Wenyon, Prof. Warrington Yorke, and Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson (*Secretary*).

University of Heidelberg

WRITING with reference to the letter "Heidelberg, Spinoza and Academic Freedom" in *NATURE* of February 29, p. 364, a correspondent states that the solemn presentation of the charter to the Elector Palatine took place on June 24, 1386, and suggests that this date is an appropriate one to have in mind in connexion with the celebrations to be held in the University of Heidelberg in June next. October 19, 1936, would appear to be the opening of the 551st academic year, not the 550th, as stated in Miss Gardiner's letter. It is now stated (*The Times*, March 3) that the Rector of the University of Heidelberg has sent a letter to universities and academies in Great Britain (with the exception of Cambridge) which have received invitations to participate in the celebrations, withdrawing the invitations. In the

course of his letter, the Rector says: "a number of English personalities have to our great regret confused before the public at large their own political opinions with the academic character of the invitation of the University of Heidelberg to its 550th anniversary celebrations and thus deprived the latter of its true meaning. By such action it appears to me that public opinion has been influenced in such a manner as to make it difficult for an Englishman to accept an invitation which has been sent in a friendly spirit".

New Fellows of the Royal Society of Edinburgh

AT the ordinary meeting of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, held on March 2, the following ordinary fellows were elected: Prof. Thomas Alty, Applied Physics Department, University of Glasgow; Dr. L. E. Bayliss, lecturer in biophysics, University of Edinburgh; Dr. John Berry, research officer, Avon Biological Research, University College, Southampton; Prof. Duncan McC. Blair, Department of Anatomy, University of Glasgow; Mr. A. J. Brown, lecturer in metallurgy and demonstrator in radiology, Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School; Sir Robert Bruce, editor of the *Glasgow Herald*; Dr. William Bryden, lecturer in biology, Technical College, Christchurch, New Zealand; Dr. A. M. Cockburn, assistant, Geological Department, University of Edinburgh; the Right Hon. Thomas Mackay Cooper, His Majesty's Advocate for Scotland; Mr. R. C. Cowan, paper manufacturer, Penicuik; Mr. C. J. T. Cronshaw, managing director, Dyestuffs Group, Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., Manchester; Mr. J. F. Fairweather, fiscal of the Society of Writers to the Signet, Edinburgh; Dr. S. G. Gibbons, naturalist, Fishery Board, Aberdeen; Dr. W. J. Hamilton, lecturer in anatomy and deputy-director, Anatomy Department, St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, London; Prof. D. K. Henderson, Department of Psychiatry, University of Edinburgh; Mr. Thomas Henderson, secretary to the Educational Institute of Scotland, Edinburgh; Dr. A. Fergus Hewat, secretary, Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh; Mr. Donald E. Innes, reader in geology, University of St. Andrews; Dr. John McQ. Johnston, pharmacologist, Department of Health for Scotland, Glasgow; Mr. C. H. Kembell, dental surgeon, lecturer on orthodontics, Edinburgh Dental Hospital and School; Dr. P. L. M'Kinlay, medical officer (statistics), Department of Health for Scotland, Clydebank; Dr. John M'Michael, lecturer in physiology, University of Edinburgh; Dr. William McRae, (lately agricultural adviser to the Government of India and director, Agricultural Research Institute, Pusa, India), Edinburgh; the Very Rev. J. Harry Miller, principal, St. Mary's College, University of St. Andrews; Mr. Francis More, chartered accountant, Edinburgh; Dr. D. Owen Morgan, lecturer in helminthology, Department of Zoology, University of Edinburgh; Principal W. G. R. Paterson, West of Scotland College of Agriculture, Glasgow; Dr. D. S. Raitt, naturalist, Fishery Board for Scotland, Aberdeen; Prof. L. P. W. Renouf, Department of Zoology,

University College, Cork, and director of the Biological Station; Dr. James Robb, secretary to the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, Edinburgh; Lieut.-Colonel A. D. Stewart, superintendent, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; the Very Rev. C. L. Warr, Dean of the Thistle and of the Chapel Royal in Scotland, Chaplain to H.M. The King; Andrew Whyte, chartered accountant, Darlington.

Announcements

THE following have been elected members of the Athenæum Club under the provisions of Rule II, which empowers the annual election by the Committee of a certain number of persons of distinguished eminence in science, literature, the arts, or for public service: Prof. N. H. Baynes, professor of Byzantine history, University of London; Sir Patrick Laidlaw, member of the scientific staff of the National Institute for Medical Research; Sir Stephen George Tallents, controller of the Public Relations and Publications Departments, British Broadcasting Corporation.

MR. FREDERICK CHAPMAN, of the National Museum, Melbourne, has recently retired from the post of Commonwealth palæontologist. Mr. Chapman, who is an associate of the Linnean Society of London, is an authority on the Foraminifera and also on Australian fossils. He has recently been searching for oil in Australia, and hopes to carry on this work in a private capacity. He is being succeeded in the office of Commonwealth palæontologist by Miss I. Crespin.

PROF. PETER H. BUCK, Bishop Museum professor of anthropology in Yale University, has been appointed director of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum at Honolulu and professor of anthropology in Yale. He will thus succeed Prof. Herbert E. Gregory, professor of geology in Yale University, as director of the Museum. The Museum is affiliated to the University for the study of the anthropology and natural history of the Pacific islands.

MR. F. Le Gros Clark, secretary of the Committee against Malnutrition, will deliver a lecture on "Men, Medicine and Food in the U.S.S.R." (under the auspices of the Society for Cultural Relations) in the rooms of the Royal Society of Arts, 18 John Street, Adelphi, Strand, W.C.2, on March 12 at 8 p.m. The chair will be taken by Prof. Julian Huxley. This meeting follows the discussion in recent League of Nations publications of the public food service in the Soviet Union, and the subsequent visit to that country of associates of the Committee against Malnutrition. A special bulletin will be on sale, price 1d. Tickets at 1s. and 6d. can be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Committee against Malnutrition, 19c Eagle Street, Holborn, W.C.1.

THE new laboratories of the Research Department of the Institution of Automobile Engineers, which is one of the co-operative research organisations supported by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, will be opened on March 18 by Lord Rutherford.

FOLLOWING a meeting on December 13 of interested bodies, the Society of Engineers has decided to form an Agricultural Engineering Section. This Section has been formed for the reading and discussion of papers, the publication of transactions and the formation of a library. Its work, therefore, will not overlap that of the Agricultural Engineers' Association, which deals with the commercial side of agricultural engineering. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Society of Engineers, 17 Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

THE Albert Brachet prize of 15,000 francs for the triennium January 1, 1935–December 31, 1937, is offered for the best work on embryology published during this period in French, Dutch, English, German or Italian. Further information can be obtained from the Perpetual Secretary of the Royal Academy of Sciences, Literature and Fine Arts, Palais des Académies, Brussels.

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

A junior research assistant for investigations on blast furnace reactions at Imperial College, London—The Secretary, Iron and Steel Industrial Research Council, Caxton House, Tothill Street, S.W.1 (March 7).

A research assistant and advisory officer in plant husbandry, a research assistant in chemistry and a research assistant in zoology in the West of Scotland Agricultural College—The Secretary, 6 Blythswood Square, Glasgow (March 11).

A district forest officer (male) in H.M. Forestry Commission—The Secretary, Forestry Commission, 9 Saville Row, London, W.1 (March 12).

Heads of the Departments of Engineering and Science in the South-East Essex Technical College, Dagenham—The Director of Education, County Offices, Chelmsford (March 14).

A lecturer in civil engineering in the Portsmouth Municipal College—The Registrar (March 21).

Ten temporary civilian engineers for the Military Engineer Services, India—The Under-Secretary of State, Military Department, India Office (March 28).

An assistant in ethnology in the Colombo Museum, Ceylon—The Director of Recruitment (Colonial Service), 2 Richmond Terrace, Whitehall, S.W.1 (March 31).

A University professor of biochemistry in St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College (March 31) and a University reader in anatomy in the London Hospital Medical College (April 15)—The Academic Registrar, University of London, S.W.7.

A lecturer in anthropology, with experience of India and a knowledge of Indian peoples, in the University of Cambridge—Prof. E. H. Minns, Pembroke College, Cambridge (May 31).

Architectural and civil engineering assistants in the drawing offices at the Admiralty and H.M. Dockyards—The Civil Engineer-in-Chief, Whitehall, S.W.1.