

with matters for which they are intended, yet might be quite meaningless when applied outside their legitimate limits. Thus it is possible, and indeed probable, that many of the questions propounded might be really quite meaningless; and therefore it is unlikely that any sensible answers can be found for them. It was here that Mr. Carington urged the more extensive use of a mathematical type of language in which the symbols employed do not suggest any relationships other than those deliberately assigned to them. In conclusion, Mr. Carington briefly referred to his recent studies of trance personalities, where, through statistical methods, a clearer understanding is being achieved and light is being thrown on the problem as to how these secondary or multiple personalities differ or not from other communicating personalities, which operate through the so-called mediumistic trance.

Air Mask to Protect Workers

AN air mask which will provide the rock driller, painter or chemical worker with fresh air and protect him from poisonous gases, smoke and dust is described in a recent report by Science Service, of Washington, D.C. The mask is literally a film or curtain of air completely covering the user's face but leaving the eyes, nose and mouth free. When it is intended for use as the conventional gas mask, the new mask is a shield similar to an eye shade and worn on the forehead. The visor of the shield contains an air chamber, provided with numerous outwardly slanting openings at its lower edge. When air under pressure is forced into the chamber, streams of air issue outwardly and downwards from the openings, and form a transparent air screen or curtain completely covering the face but at some distance from it. With this air film for protection, the user could pass through dust, smoke, gas or paint fumes without any of them coming in contact with his face. The inventor also claims that there would be no trouble in breathing, the air curtain furnishing a continual supply of fresh air.

The New Guinea Agricultural Gazette

THE editors of the *New Guinea Agricultural Gazette* are to be congratulated on the first number (1, No. 1, October 1935. Pp. 50. Rabaul: Department of Agriculture) containing articles on the cultivation or marketing of five crops of economic importance to New Guinea, besides others on entomology and meteorology. The appearance of the journal is another indication of the indispensability of at least a little science to every planter or agriculturist. Many of the most isolated countries in the world now issue semi-scientific agricultural periodicals which, since they can scarcely be financially profitable, must be produced in response to a demand for knowledge. The *Agricultural Gazette* shows that the New Guinea planters and Agricultural Department are fully alive to the fact that science is as necessary to the prosperity of a small colony as of a highly developed country.

Fruit Tree Pests

THE classification of insects by the damage they cause is not, perhaps, scientific, but is of great practical use to the gardener. Mr. G. Fox Wilson outlines such a classification of fruit tree pests (*J. Roy. Hort. Soc.*, December 1935). Feeding habits of different types of fruit tree pests are discussed, and the structure of the mouth parts is considered in relation to their effects on the plant. The work of Nierenstein on gall formation is passed under review, and the effects of 'honeydew' are discussed. Very little new knowledge is contained in the paper; its main value lies in the convenience of its outlook from a horticultural point of view.

News Value of Science

IN an address to the Georgia Press Institute and the Henry W. Grady School of Journalism, University of Georgia, on February 19, Mr. Watson Davis, director of Science Service, discussing the news value of science, suggested that though we have largely left the stage in which the man of science was regarded as a mysterious being or magician, possessed of powers for good or ill, and regarded him as a person who could provide us with many of the wonders of our daily life, we have yet to reach the stage in which science is regarded as a guide for personal conduct and political affairs. That will come as fast as education in the scientific habit of thinking, particularly through the Press, allows it to come. Great improvements have been witnessed in the fifteen years since Science Service was first formed for the reporting and interpretation of science, and the co-operation established in this way between journalists and men of science in the United States has already had very valuable results. Science is receiving much more serious attention from the daily Press, and already a number of science editors are on the staffs of American newspapers. The combination of journalistic ability and scientific attainment which is essential in a good interpreter is, however, not easy to find, and Mr. Davis also emphasised the danger which the very popularisation of science may offer to the maintenance of scientific standards. Inaccuracy must not be the price of more effective distribution of scientific knowledge to the public.

Freezing of Niagara Falls

FROM the office of the High Commissioner for Canada a special bulletin has been received dealing with the freezing of Niagara Falls. This was prepared by Mr. G. H. Wood, assistant engineer, Dominion Water Power and Hydrometric Bureau, Department of the Interior, Ottawa, and states that the American falls became completely frozen over on January 25 this year and remained so at least up to the date of the bulletin (February 20), a length of time never previously recorded. Freezing was rare in the early days before the diversion of much of the water for power purposes and the present low cycle of discharge from Lake Erie, and did not occur once between the earliest recorded occasion in 1848 and the next occasion on February 14, 1909. It appears that there