

it will be impossible to gauge the acreage that should be sown down this spring in order to meet the seed requirements of the succeeding year. At the end of the leaflet some account is given of the Association of Farmers for the Growing and Marketing of Seed Oats in Wales.

#### Recent Acquisitions at the Natural History Museum

IMPORTANT collections, mostly of large ungulate mammals, have been received as donations from Major P. H. G. and Mrs. Powell-Cotton and their daughters, collected by them in Tunisia, Italian Somaliland and Zululand. A collection of forty-six mammals from Uganda has been received as a gift from Captain C. R. S. Pitman, and the skin of a lion from British Somaliland has been presented by Mr. F. J. E. Manners Smith. Seventy-four photographs of mammals have been presented by exhibitors at the recent *Country Life* Exhibition of Nature Photography which was held in the Museum. Mr. F. N. Ashcroft has enriched the mineral collection by a further selection from his collection of Swiss minerals. The gift comprises 651 specimens from ninety-seven localities, and the minerals represented include datolite, rutile, sphene, apatite, smoky-quartz, rock-crystal and adularia. The Director of the Geological Survey of Uganda has presented a series of the ores and associated rocks from the Kilembe mine, Toro, Uganda. The Department has received by exchange two pieces and fragments, with the combined weight of 1,372 gm. (about 3 lb.), of the meteoric stone which was seen to fall in 1929 at Taug, 25 miles south of Kirkuk, Irak. The collection of precious stones has been strengthened by the purchase of cut specimens of rubellite, euclase, fluorite, amazonite, and rhodonite, with in some instances the corresponding rough material. A small suite of newly discovered minerals from Montana also has been purchased.

#### The New Commonwealth Society

THE annual report of the New Commonwealth Society for the year ended September 30, 1935, refers to the progress of the international section of the Society leading to the establishment of national sections in the British Empire, France and Germany, while groups are being formed in Holland, Hungary and Spain. The effective membership is now 1,659, drawn from 42 countries. Plans are being prepared for an intensive appeal campaign spread over three years to place the activities of the Society on a self-supporting basis. The research activities of the Society have now been taken over by the New Commonwealth Institute, with Prof. Ernst Jäckh as director. The Advisory Research Committee has been further strengthened during the year, and as a result of the response to a research memorandum which was circulated, three series of monographs have been issued, dealing, respectively, with principles of international relations, questions of international justice, law and equity and with problems of international security. Several issues of the *New Commonwealth Quarterly* have also been published

covering the whole field of research undertaken by the Institute, and the Institute participated in a study conference on "Collective Security" organised by the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation.

#### Work of the Central Midwives' Board

THE recently issued Report on the Work of the Central Midwives' Board in Great Britain for the year ended March 31, 1935 (H.M. Stationery Office, 3d. net) is of general interest now that so much attention is being directed to the subject of maternal mortality, in view of the midwives' work for the safety and well-being of mothers. The Midwives' Roll contained the names of 58,964 women, of whom, however, only 15,434 are practising. Of 3,922 new candidates examined, 2,936 passed. Only 18 midwives were dealt with by the Board on account of malpractice, negligence or misconduct, a tribute to the general efficiency of the service. The Report contains replies to various questions submitted to the Board for adjudication, and revisions of certain of the rules. Attention is directed to the scarcity of midwifery cases for the training of medical students, and this important matter is now the subject of consideration in conjunction with the General Medical Council.

#### Tropical Medicine at Puerto Rico

THE Report of the Director, Dr. George Bachman, of the School of Tropical Medicine of the University of Puerto Rico, gives a summary of the teaching and research carried out in the School during the year ended June, 1935. Researches include important work on vitamins, tuberculosis, and parasitic diseases; a bibliography of published papers is attached. Reference is made to the regretted death of Prof. Bailey Ashford, professor of tropical medicine and mycology, best known, perhaps, for his work on sprue. The School works in collaboration with Columbia University, and full details of administration are given.

#### The Pan American Medical Association

HONORARY associate membership has been conferred by the Pan American Medical Association upon the following well-known non-medical men of science: Dr. William David Coolidge, director of the research laboratories of the General Electric Co. at Schenectady, N.Y.; Mr. Myron Weiss, associate editor of *Time Newsmagazine*, New York, N.Y. Dr. Coolidge, physical chemist, was recommended for his perfection of X-ray tubes. Coolidge tubes enable X-ray specialists to make positive diagnoses of many diseases of the internal organs musculature and skeleton of the human body. Coolidge tubes are also used to destroy certain kinds of cancer. Mr. Weiss, journalist, was recommended in recognition of his outstanding services in disseminating medical and scientific information to the lay public and of his diligent promotion of goodwill among the nations whose medical men compose the Pan American Medical Association.