Royal Loan to British Museum

AMONG recent additions to the collections of the British Museum (Bloomsbury), it is announced, are three ancient gold ornaments which have been placed on permanent loan by the King. Not only are these of great archæological value, but also they have the added interest that they came into the possession of the Crown during the nineteenth century under the law of Treasure Trove. The oldest of the three, dating from about 1400 B.C., is a gold beaker with handle, standing about 3¼ inches high, which was found in 1837, together with a bronze dagger and other objects, in a barrow at Rillaton Manor, Linkinhorne, Cornwall. Coming next in age is a gold torc of about the first century B.C., which is made of twisted strands of gold. It was found in Needwood Forest in 1848. The third exhibit is a pectoral cross and chain, known as the Clare reliquary, which was dug up at the site of Clare Castle, Suffolk, in 1866. It is of English workmanship of about A.D. 1400. It has a pearl in each angle, and is stippled with a representation of the crucifixion in front and a floral pattern behind. It still contains pieces of the True Cross and the Rock of Calvary.

Iranian Studies

OWING in great measure to the exhibitions of Persian and Chinese art, which have been held at the Royal Academy, interest in Asiatic art, once exclusively confined to scholars and connoisseurs, is steadily spreading to a wider circle of the public. Not merely does it take the form of purely æsthetic appreciation ; it is rather an avenue to understanding of the culture and outlook of peoples hitherto regarded as far removed in more than merely a geographical sense. In this movement, the acquisition for the nation of the Eumorfopoulos collection of Chinese and Far Eastern art, of which the exhibition at South Kensington is proving markedly successful, has been an added stimulus. While London awaits its museum of Asiatic art, any addition to the facilities for study of the cultural achievement of the East is deserving of every encouragement. On this ground at least, students and others will welcome the announcement that friends of Iran have founded a society for the study of Iranian art on the lines of the Société des Études Iraniennes of Paris. Among those who are taking an active part are Lord Lamington, Sir Denison Ross, Mr. Laurence Binyon, Mr. Leigh Ashton and Prof. D. Talbot Rice. Those who are interested in the work of the society may communicate with the secretaries, Mr. Basil Gray and Mr. S. F. Shademan, at 10 Prince's Gate, S.W.7.

Applied Physics

THE March issue of the *Review of Scientific Instruments* devotes eleven pages to a report of the meeting of the Advisory Council on Applied Physics of the American Institute of Physics held in Pittsburgh in November. The Council recommended that in the American Physical Society a Division of Applied Physics be formed under a special chairman and committee to arrange for papers on applied physics to be read and discussed and to direct the journal *Physics*. In the discussion on the training of physicists for industrial posts, it was pointed out that at most of the American universities the average graduate in physics "lacks practical sense and initiative" as compared with the chemist or engineer, and "is inclined to overemphasise theory, quantum physics and atom splitting". A demand was made that "the applied physics student should be required to study more chemistry" in order that the present belief "that it is easier to train a chemist in the physics he needs than it is to train a physicist in the chemistry he needs" may be eradicated. Like the engineer, the chemist and the metallurgist, he should have courses in the practical application of his knowledge. The Council further resolved that meetings be held to discuss the outstanding problems of each industry and that the desirability of preparing a book "Physics in Overalls" be considered.

Lancashire and Cheshire Fauna

THE twenty-first annual report of the Lancashire and Cheshire Fauna Committee deals chiefly with 1934 records, and in addition to adding 146 new records to their faunal lists and 44 to one county, there are species new to Britain and to science. Of the Micro-Lepidoptera, a species bred by F. N. Pierce and W. Mansbridge from alpaca wool and wrongly considered *Tinea merdella*, Staint, is now found to be new to science and is named *Tinea lanella*, Pierce and Metcalfe. *Scythris fallacella* is a small moth new to Britain from the north Lancashire limestone. The small pearl-bordered fritillary butterfly has reappeared in the Delamere Forest area of Cheshire after fifty years absence. Of Coleoptera, *Anthicus tobias*, Mars., previously recorded from India, Arabia, Mesopotamia and Turkey, and said to have been from rotten sacking in Kent previously, was found breeding in some numbers by Mr. H. Britten on the Manchester Corporation refuse dump. Fifteen new records of Mallophaga for the counties are added from studies of wild and domestic birds. Efforts are being made to find the Cooke collection of sawflies compiled in the area last century, in order to examine the material in the light of the committee's present knowledge of the Hymenoptera-Symphyta. Request is also made for shrews and bats for parasite study at the University of Manchester. The ornithological report for Lancashire and Cheshire includes little of wide interest compared to former years.

Mining Research at Birmingham

WE have received from the University of Birmingham the report on the work of the Mining Research Laboratory during the fifteen months to March 1935. The introduction explains how it is that the report ends with work done in March. The report especially discusses silicosis, pneumonoconiosis, etc., to which six pages out of twenty are devoted. Attention may be directed to the excellent article by Bax in Glückauf, page 1241, upon the methods used in combating silicosis in the Ruhr district. The report before us shows, like Mr. Bax's paper, that nothing definite is