

disturbed days. The volume includes a brief seismological report for 1931. An account of the instrumental equipment of the Observatory in the introduction would have added to the convenience of users. Though the director's introduction is written in the first person, his name (Mr. H. F. Skey), by a curious oversight, seems to occur nowhere in the volume.

#### The Rockefeller Foundation

ACCORDING to the annual report for 1935, the Rockefeller Foundation expended 12,725,439 dollars. Of this sum 692,524 dollars was for medical education, including 460,850 dollars to the China Medical Board, 2,217,425 dollars on research programmes at universities and similar institutions, and 669,214 dollars on research programmes at research institutions and organizations. The report gives a brief description of the work of the International Health Division, the budget of which is 2,200,000 dollars; this Division covered yellow fever studies in Brazil, research on yellow fever, malaria and other diseases at the Institute's laboratories, field research on malaria in various countries, surveys to determine the status of hookworm disease in North Carolina, studies on tuberculosis, yaws and mental hygiene, as well as research on typhoid fever, smallpox vaccine and the common cold. Work in China has placed emphasis on organized efforts at rural reconstruction by assisting concrete studies and training personnel, particularly graduates, to participate in such reconstruction work.

In the field of natural science, the Rockefeller Foundation has devoted its appropriations chiefly to research involving the application of the technique of the exact sciences to biological problems, particularly studies which contribute directly to, or form the necessary basis for, an understanding of behaviour. Grants have also been made for research on plant genetics, vitamins and hormones, physiology of reproduction and respiration, nerve physiology, etc. With regard to the social sciences, the Foundation is using its resources to develop specific areas of activity which promise to assist the solution of pressing social problems. The three areas of study thus far undertaken are social security, international relations and public administration, and the 3,807,500 dollars expended on social sciences in 1935 includes grants for research on problems of the business cycle, study of the relief situation in New York State, the Institute of Pacific Relations, agricultural economics, research on international relations and training projects in public administration.

#### Science in Poznan

AMONG the contributions to vol. 21 (1936) of *Nauka Polska* is a long account (pp. 70) by Prof. Z. Lizowski of the present position of science at Poznan. This ancient centre of culture in western Poland has become the most intensely Polish of all the university cities in the country, partly because 95 per cent of its inhabitants are Poles and partly because of the

impetus given to its development since the liberation of the country in 1918. From the time of the partition of the ancient kingdom of Poland until the end of the Great War, Poznań was nominally a German city, and although the pursuit of scientific investigations was possible it was hampered by cultural restrictions, including the suppression of the Polish language. Since 1919, a definite revival has occurred in all branches of pure and applied natural science and the university has attracted students, lecturers and distinguished visitors from other countries.

THE international character of science has also been promoted by the lectures delivered by Poznan professors in Germany, France, the United States, Czechoslovakia and elsewhere. This issue of *Nauka Polska* also contains particulars of prizes and awards distributed to men of science and to various scientific institutions throughout Poland during the past academic year. No complete figures are given, but it seems that many thousands of pounds have been distributed. Aerodynamics, investigations on the oxides of nitrogen, Grignard's reactions, rubber research and plant physiology are among the many investigations that are being encouraged with financial assistance. In the 'foreign notes' the attention of Polish readers is directed to the Oxford conference on 'academic freedom', whilst several works by British authors are included among the books reviewed.

#### Rabbits in Britain

ATTENTION has been directed once again, by articles and correspondence in contemporary journals, to the damage caused by the superabundance of wild rabbits in Britain. An introduced animal, the rabbit, encouraged by conditions of soil, climate and food, has bred and spread, so that for the past century its activities have become increasingly harmful to agriculture and forestry. So long as two opposed views regarding its presence are strongly held, one emphasizing its destructiveness and the other its value as food and as an object of sport, it is unlikely that common action against the rabbit will be taken without legal compulsion. But the necessity for control in other countries and the methods employed for control are of general interest, and knowledge of them may become of great importance in Britain also, so that useful service is performed by Guy Dollman's article on "The Rabbit Menace" in the *Natural History Magazine* (5, No. 39, July 1936, p. 297), where a summary of recently developed means of limiting or eradicating the pest is given.

#### Research in Plant Breeding

SUPPLEMENT 2 of *Plant Breeding Abstracts*, which has been issued by the Imperial Bureau of Plant Genetics, Cambridge (price 5s.), gives a concise account of work carried on during 1932-35 on crop plants in the British Empire. It shows the great variety of plants grown and the large amount of work in progress on such crops as wheat, cotton, rice, sorghum, coco-nut, apples, etc., gleaned from more than four hundred reports in various parts of