

is 45.4 per cent higher than that recorded for 1934, which was previously the largest total. "The increase in tonnage and in value is due largely to the extraordinary rise in the production of iron ore, which has been the predominant contributor to the total during recent years." This is scarcely surprising since the value of the iron ore raised in 1934 is 84 per cent of the total value of mineral production, the output showing an increase of 50 per cent; most other minerals showed increases, the output of gold being 6.7 per cent greater than that of 1934. These statements are fairly well borne out by the reports of the Chief Inspector of Mines and the reports of the Inspector of Mines and Quarries attached as usual to this volume.

#### Scientific Study of Suicide

A COMMITTEE for the study of suicide consisting of ten members including Dr. Henry E. Sigerist, professor of the history of medicine at Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. Edward Sapir, professor of anthropology at Yale University, has recently been incorporated to make a comprehensive study of suicide as a social and psychological phenomenon. The following general outline has been adopted by the Committee: (1) intramural studies of individuals inclined to suicide in selected hospitals for mental diseases; (2) extramural studies of ambulatory cases with suicidal trends or with obsessional wishes for their own death; (3) social studies of suicide; (4) ethnological studies, that is, comprehensive investigation of suicide among primitive races; (5) historical studies.

#### Ministry of Agriculture Leaflets

FOUR advisory leaflets have recently been rewritten for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. No. 267, which replaces the former Leaflet No. 296, deals with "Potato Growing in Allotments and Gardens". The section on autumn preparation of soil directs attention to the importance of taking precautions against wireworms and leather jackets. It is not now recommended that seed be saved from a previous crop grown in the same district, owing to the depredations of virus disease, and the account of manuring is also brought into line with modern research. Advisory Leaflets No. 180, on "The Cultivation of Raspberries", and No. 268, on "Plums and Damsons", are revised mainly in the sections dealing with soils, diseases and manuring. The fourth Leaflet, No. 113, portrays, briefly, but with business-like adequacy, modern methods of chicken rearing. The descriptions of sanitary considerations reflect modern research findings upon avian disease, the merits of the various systems of hovers and battery brooders are discussed, and the very considerable advances recently made in our knowledge of the food requirements of poultry are very evident in the section on feeding.

#### World Power Conference

IN accordance with the constitution of the World Power Conference, which states that the country in

which a plenary meeting is held shall appoint the president, Mr. William F. Durand, chairman of the Third World Power Conference, has been appointed to serve until the next plenary meeting. Sir Harold Hartley has been re-elected chairman of the International Executive Council to hold office until the next plenary meeting, and the following have been elected vice-chairmen, to hold office for three years: *First Vice-Chairman*: Mr. O. C. Merrill (U.S.A.), director of the Third World Power Conference; *Second Vice-Chairman*: Mr. G. J. T. Bakker, president of the Royal Netherlands Institute of Engineers; *Third Vice-Chairman*: Dr. M. Kamo, professor in the Faculty of Engineering, Tokyo Imperial University. The Second Chemical Engineering Congress will be held in Berlin in 1940, by invitation of the German National Committee.

#### Books on Zoology

SEVERAL catalogues of books and periodicals dealing with aspects of biological science have recently appeared. Bernard Quaritch's general catalogue (No. 521) lists all classes of zoological works, to the number of 965. The most complete section is that dealing with entomology, in which is included a selection of books from the library of the late Robert Adkin. Another of Quaritch's catalogues (No. 524) contains two sections of books on early medicine and surgery, and on early science, in all 83 volumes, most of them belonging to the sixteenth, seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Messrs. Wheldon and Wesley's catalogue of books on ornithology (N.S. No. 43) is a useful bibliography of birds, listing 1,289 items, the majority of which are arranged geographically.

#### The Night Sky in October

BETWEEN October 1 and 31, the days shorten by 1<sup>h</sup> 48<sup>m</sup> in the southernmost part of the British Isles and by 2<sup>h</sup> 47<sup>m</sup> in the northernmost part. British Summer Time ends on Oct. 4<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>h</sup> U.T. The moon is new on Oct. 15<sup>d</sup> 10.3<sup>h</sup>, and full (the Hunter's Moon) on Oct. 30<sup>d</sup> 6.0<sup>h</sup>. Of the lunar occultations visible from Greenwich, the following may be noted:  $\nu$  Tauri (mag. 4.4) on Oct. 4<sup>d</sup> 20<sup>h</sup> 43.7<sup>m</sup> as a re-appearance;  $\tau$  Tauri (mag. 4.3) on Oct. 5<sup>d</sup> 3<sup>h</sup> 2.8<sup>m</sup> as a disappearance and its subsequent re-appearance at 3<sup>h</sup> 44<sup>m</sup>; A Tauri (mag. 4.5) on Oct. 31<sup>d</sup> 21<sup>h</sup> 56.9<sup>m</sup> as a disappearance and at 22<sup>h</sup> 55.7<sup>m</sup> as a reappearance of the star. The planets visible during October are as follows: Mercury as a morning star at greatest west elongation on October 16; Venus as an evening star in gibbous phase; Jupiter as an evening star. Saturn is visible throughout the night; its ring system appears nearly closed, the minor axis being about 2". The apparent paths of Uranus (stellar magnitude at opposition 6.0) and Neptune (mag. 7.7) are given in graphical form in the "Handbook" of the British Astronomical Association for 1936. On October 31, Uranus is in opposition, when its distance from the earth will be about 1,745 millions of miles. Mars is in conjunction with Neptune on October 25, when the former planet will be only