

### Artificial Lakes in Africa

A REMARKABLE proposal for the formation of several great lakes in the interior of Africa in order to create cultivable land and stores of hydro-electric power is outlined in a report issued by Science Service, of Washington, D.C. The project emanates from H. Soergel, of Munich. A great dam two and a half miles long about 500 miles from the mouth of the Congo would turn the basin into an inland sea with an area of about 350,000 sq. miles. An outlet by the lower Congo would provide abundant water power or, alternatively, an outlet could be arranged to the north to create a second inland sea centring around Lake Chad, which would drain through existing wadis to the west, north-east and east by a "second Nile" to the Gulf of Gabes in the Mediterranean. This new river would provide irrigation water for vast areas in the French and Italian Sahara. A further suggestion is for a dam on the Zambezi River above Victoria Falls in order to create an inland sea over much of the Kalahari desert. Herr Soergel does not discuss the effect of evaporation on the projected Chad and Victoria Seas, both of which would lie in almost rainless regions.

### Bee Control in Czechoslovakia

WE learn from the *Bee World* that Czechoslovakia is taking drastic steps in dealing with Acarine disease. The new law insists on treatment with the recognized British or Frow remedy of all colonies within 10 km. of an infested hive. Stocks found to be weak in mid-August are to be destroyed. The use of methyl salicylate is ordered during the spring up to honey flow, in all stocks discovered to be infested after overwintering.

### Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science

INDIAN physics, under the leadership of Sir C. V. Raman and Prof. M. N. Saha, has an established position; and it is interesting to read, in its report for 1935, a history of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, an institution which has played a large, if not the dominant, part in bringing about this result. The Association was founded in 1870, and the laboratory, built in 1890, later became an active centre of research under the stimulating guidance of Raman, who was succeeded as Mahendralal Sircar professor by Dr. K. S. Krishnan. The financial and administrative arrangements have lately been re-organized and a material annual grant obtained from the Government of India, which accordingly has a voice in the management. The work of the past year covers a fairly wide range and includes studies of molecular structure, of magnetic effects and of optical phenomena. There is, therefore, every ground for anticipating the maintenance of full activity.

### Anti-Rabic Treatment at Kasauli

In the annual report of the Pasteur Institute of India, Kasauli, for 1934, the Director states that 1,471 Europeans and 15,380 Asiatics were treated

at Kasauli and associated centres, a total increase of 913 compared with 1933. Of the treated cases, one death was reported among Europeans, and 90 among Asiatics, a mortality among the latter of 0.53 per cent, the lowest death-rate recorded during the last ten years. In addition, 671 courses of vaccine for the prophylactic treatment of animals were issued during the year. The vaccine employed is a carbolyzed 5 per cent Paris sheep vaccine.

### Tuberculosis and Cattle

A FURTHER issue of the Register of Herds attested under the Tuberculosis (Attested Herds) Schemes, England and Wales and Scotland, has been published jointly by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10 Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1, and the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, Queen Street, Edinburgh, 2. It contains particulars of 117 herds in England and Wales and 144 herds in Scotland which had been attested up to July 31, 1936. Since the previous issue of the Register on March 31, 1936, 36 herds have been added in England and Wales and 56 in Scotland.

### Parliamentary Science Committee

LAST April the Parliamentary Science Committee received the adhesion of the Association of British Zoologists. Recently it has had the gratification of the accession of another body devoted to biology, the Association of Applied Biologists. The Committee is already strong in support from bodies devoted to applied and mechanical science, and the strengthening of the biological support was much desired. The aggregate membership of the Committee's constituent bodies is now upwards of 100,000.

### International Association for Testing Materials

THE Congress of the International Association for Testing Materials is to be held in London in April next. The subjects to be discussed are divided into four groups, A (Metals), B (Inorganic Materials), C (Organic Materials), and D (Subjects of General Importance), each of which is presided over by a distinguished worker from overseas. The last Congress for Testing Materials was held in 1931, and every effort is being made to ensure that the knowledge in this most important field will be brought completely up to date. The papers will be presented in the form of summaries, so that a vast amount of information will be made available in easily accessible form. Particulars of the Congress can be obtained from the honorary secretary, Mr. K. Headlam-Morley, at the offices of the British Committee, International Association for Testing Materials, 28 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

### Announcements

THE Right Hon. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, and Prof. John Mellanby, Waynflete professor of physiology in the University of Oxford, have been appointed members of the Medical Research Council, in succession to the Most Hon. the Marquess of