

A. A. Allen, of Cornell University, has constructed two life-groups of birds, in which by a combination of sound films and ingeniously contrived electrically driven mechanisms, the birds sing and go through natural, life-like movements. For example, in the group showing a nesting site of ruffed grouse, the turning of a switch causes the male to move his head and utter his characteristic hissing note, while the female moves to her nest and covers her eggs, and at the same time thrushes and song-sparrows in the trees and bushes sing, an owl hoots, a woodpecker calls and dives into its nesting hole, and a wedge of wild-geese honks as it flies away. These exhibits must be a revelation to the person who has not the opportunity or the flair for field observation, and, with Prof. Allen's assistance, the arm-chair naturalist will soon be able to record his impressions of life in the wilds from a museum exhibit.

Honey Research at Rothamsted

THE Agricultural Research Council has recently made a substantial grant to Rothamsted to permit beekeeping researches there to be broadened to include the investigation of various problems connected with honey. The appointment of Dr. C. R. Marshall to undertake this work has been approved, and Dr. Marshall has now taken up his duties. In view of the fact that beekeepers during the past three years have contributed towards the cost of the brood disease investigations, the Government is bearing the whole cost of this new work. The researches on honey will be physico-chemical in nature, and directed towards certain practical problems of quality and processing that affect the honey producer. Such problems are the granulation of honey, rapidity of granulation, texture of grain, 'frosting', etc., and fermentation. Dr. Marshall recently obtained the degree of Ph.D. at the University of Birmingham, where he has been working on chemical problems connected with the structure of mucilages.

International Congress on Testing Materials

THE next International Congress of the International Association for Testing Materials will be held in London on April 19-24, under the presidency of Sir William Bragg (see NATURE of October 24, p. 717). More than two hundred papers are promised from authorities in twenty different countries. The Congress will be divided into the following groups: metals (behaviour of metals as dependent upon temperature, particularly in regard to high temperatures; progress of metallography; light metals and their alloys; wear and machinability); inorganic materials (concrete and reinforced concrete; erosion and corrosion of natural and artificial stone; ceramic materials); organic materials (textiles; wood cellulose; timber preservation; ageing of organic materials; colours and varnishes); subjects of general importance (relation between results of laboratory tests and behaviour in use and service; bearing of recent advances in physics and chemistry on the knowledge of materials; properties of materials for the thermal and acoustic insulation of buildings).

Further information can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary of the Congress, K. Headlam-Morley, 28 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Exhibition of Scientific Instruments

IN connexion with the twenty-seventh annual Exhibition of Scientific Instruments and Apparatus to be held at the Imperial College of Science on January 5-7, the usual well-produced and substantial descriptive catalogue of exhibits has been prepared (Physical Society, 1 Lowther Gardens, Exhibition Road, S.W.7). Trade exhibits are separated from the Research and Educational Section: apparatus and instruments being exhibited for the first time are indicated by an asterisk. Reference is facilitated by the full list of contents and an index to the Trade Section. The Exhibition is open on January 5 (2.30-9), January 6 (2-4 for members only; 4-9) and January 7 (2.30-9); admission is by ticket obtainable from the secretary of the Physical Society. Evening discourses are being given at 7.45 on January 5 by Sir James Swinburne on electrical measurements in the 'eighties, and on January 6 by Dr. Harry Moore on the influence of industrial research on the development of scientific instruments.

Announcements

THE Electrodepositors' Technical Society has decided to sponsor an International Conference on Electrodeposition to be held in London on March 3-4. The provisional programme includes discussions on electrodeposition practice abroad, electrodeposition of base metals, properties of electrodeposits and electrodeposition of precious metals. Further information can be obtained from the Hon. Conference Secretary, Mr. H. Wynne-Williams, 12A Raleigh House, Larkhall Estate, London, S.W.8.

IN connexion with the Electric Illumination Exhibition now being held at the Science Museum (see NATURE of December 19, p. 1046, and December 26, p. 1107), a series of six lectures has been arranged to be given in the lecture theatre of the Museum at 5.30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 12, and thence on Mondays commencing January 18. Admission will be by ticket obtainable from the Secretary, Science Museum, London, S.W.7.

OWING to the conditions in Spain, the eleventh International Congress of Psychology which was to have been held in Madrid (see NATURE of July 4, p. 24) will be held in Paris. So far as possible, the programme will be the same as that previously arranged for the proposed meeting in Madrid. The Paris Congress will be held on July 25-31, under the presidency of Prof. Pierre Janet, formerly professor of psychology in the Collège de France. Further information can be obtained from M. Henri Pieron, Laboratoire de Psychologie de la Sorbonne, Paris 5.

THE announcements of forthcoming appointments will appear in future at the end of each issue (see p. 42).