

were found in a cave. If the bones in question have in fact been worked by man, this is the first evidence of palaeolithic man to be found in Japan.

#### Acute Poliomyelitis

THE Ministry of Health has issued a memorandum upon acute poliomyelitis, an infectious disease commonly known under the name of infantile paralysis, though it may occur in adults (Memo. 166/Med. London: H.M. Stationery Office. 2d. net). The epidemiology, clinical characters and after-effects of the disease are described and discussed, and the special diagnostic features are considered, together with a description of the changes in the cerebro-spinal fluid which serve to differentiate acute poliomyelitis from the normal and from other nervous diseases with which it may be confused.

#### Ray Society

AT the annual meeting of the Ray Society on March 12, Prof. F. E. Weiss was elected treasurer in succession to Sir David Prain. Sir David Prain and Mr. A. W. Sheppard were elected vice-presidents, and Mr. Chas. Oldham, Mr. H. R. Darlington and Prof. F. Balfour-Browne were elected new members of Council. The Council's report stated that a translation of Linnæus's "Critica botanica" by the late Sir Arthur Hort, with an introduction by Sir Arthur Hill, would form part of the issue for 1937, which would be completed later by Mr. P. Ullyott's "British Freshwater Planarians". Others works in preparation are "British Tunicata" by Dr. John Berrill and "British Freshwater Beetles" by Prof. F. Balfour-Browne. Inquiries regarding membership of the Society should be addressed to the secretary, Dr. W. T. Calman, c/o British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W.7.

#### Royal Academy of Sciences, Turin

THE *Atti* of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Turin (72, Part 1, 1937) announces the opening of the one hundred and fifty-fourth year of the Academy's existence. It contains the address of the president, Prof. Vittorio Cian, relating the progress of the Academy during the year 1936. As in the case of other learned societies in Italy, new statutory regulations, approved by the Fascist Government, have come into operation. This publication also includes papers submitted to the Academy in the branches of mathematical, physical and natural sciences. It is intimated that the twenty-ninth Bressa Prize will be awarded during 1937 to a scientific worker of any nationality who shall have, in the opinion of the Academy, made during the period 1933-36 "the most noteworthy and useful discovery or produced the most celebrated work in the physical and experimental sciences, natural history, pure and applied mathematics, chemistry, physiology and pathology, not excluding geology, history, geography and statistics". The prize is valued at 9,000 lire, and candidates who wish to have their work considered by the Academy are invited to submit printed copies to the Secretary (3 Via Maria Vittoria, Turin) not later than March 31, 1937.

#### Comets

A TELEGRAM from the U.A.I. Bureau, Copenhagen, announces the discovery of a new comet, 1937 *d* (Kozawa), on March 9 in R.A. 11<sup>h</sup> 17.3<sup>m</sup>, N. Decl. 6° 19', magnitude 10. The object is diffuse with central condensation, and a tail less than 1° in length. The telegram has the remark "Unconfirmed", and further details are awaited. The Rev. Dr. M. Davidson, using observations on February 4 at Harvard, February 15 at Lick, and February 26 by Steavenson at Norwood, finds that Comet 1937 *b* (Whipple) is moving in an elliptical orbit, the period being about 250 years. More recent observations have been sent in by Hay and Kellaway, and Dr. Davidson is re-computing the elements with the longer time-intervals to determine the exact period. The date of perihelion passage was previously given as January, owing to an error in the telegram; it should have been June.

#### Announcements

THE Right Hon. W. G. A. Ormsby-Gore, Secretary of State for the Colonies, and Sir Henry Tizard, rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, have been elected to the Board of Trustees of the British Museum, in succession to Mr. H. A. L. Fisher and Sir David Prain, who have resigned.

PROF. S. A. WAKSMAN, professor of soil microbiology in the Rutgers University, New Brunswick, U.S.A., has been elected *correspondant* of the Section of Rural Economy of the Paris Academy of Sciences, in succession to the late Sir Arnold Theiler.

AT the annual general meeting of the Institution of Petroleum Technologists held on March 9, the Redwood Medal was presented to Mr. Harry Ricardo, in recognition of his contributions to the advancement of the science and technology of petroleum. Colonel S. J. M. Auld, chief technologist of the Vacuum Oil Co., Ltd., was inducted as president of the Institution at the same meeting in succession to Sir John Cadman.

AT the annual general meeting of the Microchemical Club, held on March 13, the following officers were elected: *Hon. Treasurer*, Dr. L. H. N. Cooper; *Hon. Secretary*, J. R. O'Brien; *Hon. Librarian*, Miss I. Hadfield; *Members of the Committee*: Prof. H. V. A. Briscoe, Dr. J. Matthew and Dr. S. J. Folley.

THE British Drug Houses, Ltd., have issued a guide in eleven pages to the Addendum (1936) to the British Pharmacopoeia 1932. This guide, which should be very useful to those who have not made a detailed study of the Addendum, will be sent free of cost to members of the medical profession.

ERRATUM.—The name of the new secretary of the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature (see NATURE, March 13, p. 442) is Mr. Francis Hemming.