

### German Institute of Psychological Research

A GERMAN Institute of Psychological Research and Psychotherapy has been founded under the auspices of the German Home Office. The members consist of representatives of the Pan-German Medical Society of Psychotherapy, the German Psychoanalytic Society, the Künkel co-operative group for "Applied Study of Character" and other well-known psychotherapists. The functions of the Institute will be (1) research, (2) educational and teaching activities, and (3) maintenance of a clinic for the indigent. The director is Prof. M. G. Göring, president of the Pan-German Medical Society of General Psychotherapy.

### Public Health Investigation in India

Two Indian institutes have recently issued their reports. That of the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Calcutta, for 1935 reviews the courses of instruction that have been given and summarizes the research work carried out. The last-named includes epidemiological studies on cholera and studies upon the chemical constitution of the cholera vibrios by Dr. Linton, the epidemiology of epidemic dropsy and the ætiology of black-water fever. Diet surveys of certain sections of the population and field studies upon malaria have also been carried out. The second report, that of the Haffkine Institute, summarizes the Institute's work for 1932-35. Plague investigations have been continued, and more than two million doses of plague vaccine were issued in 1933-34; Drs. Sokhey and Maurice have prepared a curative plague serum which experimentally possesses greater potency than any sera previously prepared. Anti-rabic treatment is also provided at the Institute, and 2,274 cases were treated during 1935, with a mortality rate of 0.17 per cent.

### Natural and Artificial Manures

THE Ministry of Agriculture has issued a new and enlarged edition of Bulletin 36, "Manures and Manuring" (H.M. Stationery Office, price 2s.). A number of additions have been made since the last issue, the preliminary section dealing with the principles that govern the manuring of farm crops having been specially expanded. As before, the bulletin is divided into three main sections, namely, organic manures, artificial fertilizers and the purchase and use of artificial manures. The information is essentially practical, and should enable the farmer to make the fullest use of the wide variety of fertilizers now available. In view of the differences in local conditions, complete generalizations are of course impossible, and in the event of uncertainty the farmer is advised to consult the agricultural organizer for the county in which he resides. A pamphlet (Form A. 705/TG.) giving names and addresses of advisory staffs may be obtained free on application to the Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, 10 Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1.

### Broadcasting of Cosmic Data

A REGULAR schedule of broadcasts of cosmic data and scientific news was inaugurated at Boston, U.S.A., on February 1 by the World Wide Broadcasting Foundation's short-wave station in co-operation with the Union Radio Scientifique International and Science Service. The primary purpose of these broadcasts is to make available internationally technical data on observations of sunspots, solar radiation, magnetism, ionized layer heights and other phenomena observed during the same day, and to interest laymen in making observations. The broadcasts will be heard daily from 4.55 to 5.00 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on 25.4 metres and weekly summaries on Monday evenings from 8.30 until 8.45 p.m. on 49.6 metres. The Monday evening broadcasts will be a weekly compilation. The programme inaugurating this service included brief talks by Dr. A. E. Kennelly of Harvard University, the co-discoverer of the Kennelly-Heaviside layer; Dr. Harlow Shapley, director of the Harvard College Observatory, and Watson Davis, director of Science Service, Washington.

### Science Abstracts

THE issue of the two index numbers of vols. 39 of *Science Abstracts* for 1936 enables a comparison to be made with previous volumes. The physics volume includes 5,716 abstracts covering 1,332 pages, with a subject index of nearly 260 and an author index of more than 80 pages. The electrical engineering volume has 3,525 abstracts in 820 pages, with subject index 120 and the author index 55 pages. The former volume is about six per cent larger than last year's and the latter about eleven per cent. The average length of the abstracts is slightly less than last year. The subject index in the physics volume has a key to it which facilitates its use. Each volume of *Science Abstracts* is a valuable time-saving device for those who wish to keep abreast of research or look up past progress in the subject with which it deals.

### Prof. T. C. Hodson: a Correction

PROF. T. C. HODSON writes to point out in reference to the announcement of his impending retirement from the professorship of social anthropology in the University of Cambridge (see NATURE, March 20, p. 497), that he did not take a degree at Queen's College, Oxford, and that during the War, his service with the Indian forces covered a brief period only, when he was transferred to Railways and later to Forestry G.H.Q., where he took over from the late Lord Lovat. It should be added that Prof. Hodson was honorary secretary of the Royal Anthropological Institute in 1912-1914-15.

### Comet Whipple (1937b)

USING observations made at Harvard on February 4, at Norwood on February 26 by Steavenson, and on March 11 and 12 by Hay at Hendon and Steavenson at Norwood, respectively, the Rev. Dr. M. Davidson has computed the following orbit:  $T$ , 1937

June 19.96971 U.T.;  $\omega$ ,  $107^{\circ} 25' 56.0''$ ;  $\Omega$ ,  $127^{\circ} 57' 11.0''$ ;  $i$ ,  $41^{\circ} 43' 31.7''$ ;  $e$ , 1.009143;  $g$ , 1.739393. The orbit fits in with a number of other observations, but in many cases there are residuals of the order  $1^s$  in right ascension. The object must be difficult to observe accurately as even on the same night discrepancies of about  $1^s$  arise between different observers. Generally speaking, the residuals in declination are small.

#### Announcements

SIR THOMAS HOLLAND will deliver the Huxley Memorial Lecture in the Huxley Building of the Imperial College of Science and Technology, South Kensington, on May 4, at 5.30. The subject of Sir Thomas's lecture will be "The Permanence of Oceanic Depressions and Continental Elevations".

THE George Darwin Lecture of the Royal Astronomical Society will be delivered by Prof. N. E. Nörlund at the ordinary meeting of the Society on May 14. His subject will be "Astronomical Longitude and Azimuth Determinations".

DR. SIMON FLEXNER, director of laboratories of the Rockefeller Institute, New York, has been elected a foreign associate of the Paris Academy of Sciences in succession to the late E. P. di Sessa.

PROF. JULIUS WAGNER-JAUREGG, professor of psychiatry and neurology at the University of Vienna and pioneer in the malarial treatment of general paralysis, celebrated his eightieth birthday on March 7.

A CORRESPONDENT, writing with reference to the article in NATURE of March 27 on the work of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, informs us the fundamental research on the setting of keratin (p. 535) in the manner used in 'permanent waving' is due to Dr. J. B. Speakman, of the Textile Department of the University of Leeds, and not to the Woollen Industries Research Association. In the first paragraph of the leading article of the same issue, the reference to Mr. D. R. H. Wilkins should have read Mr. D. R. H. Williams.

THE Central Executive Committee of the U.S.S.R. has conferred the Order of Lenin on Prof. A. N. Bach, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his scientific activity, and for his outstanding services in the field of biochemistry. Prof. Bach celebrated his eightieth birthday on March 17. During his half-century of scientific research, he has published about 120 works, mostly dealing with problems of biochemistry. The three fundamental problems to which he devoted his energies were the chemistry of photosynthesis, respiration and enzyme action.

THE National Trust announces that through the generosity of Mrs. Pollard, honorary secretary of the Cornwall branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, the beautiful cliff lands extending for three quarters of a mile from Mullion Cliffs at

Porth Pyg about a mile and a quarter south of Mullion to the north end of Prodannack Head have been preserved by means of covenants in connexion with which part of the land will pass into the actual ownership of the Trust. The Tehidy Minerals Co., Ltd., has generously co-operated in regard to the mineral rights which it owned. The Trust will now be protecting eighteen coastal properties in Cornwall.

THE forty-second Annual Congress of the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies will be held at Hastings on June 8-12, under the presidency of Prof. F. E. Weiss. The title of Prof. Weiss's address will be: "Competition and Co-operation in Nature." Further information can be obtained from the honorary general secretary, Mr. W. C. Fishlock, 19 South View Avenue, Reading.

UNDER the terms of the Thomas Gray Memorial Trust, the Royal Society of Arts is offering a prize of £75 to any person for an invention, publication, diagram, etc., which is considered to be an advancement in the science or practice of navigation; and a prize of £25 for an essay on "The Stability of Ships". Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Royal Society of Arts, John Street, Adelphi, W.C.2.

A SPECIAL Summer School and Conferences on Strength of Materials will be held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for four weeks beginning on June 21. The following subjects will be considered: creep (Dr. A. Naddi and Mr. C. R. Soderberg); fatigue (Dr. H. J. Gough); strength of materials (members of the Institute staff). Further particulars may be had by communicating with Prof. John M. Lessells, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who is director of this Summer School.

ON April 30, a joint meeting of the Institute of Radio Engineers and the International Scientific Radio Union (American Section) will be held in Washington. A group of papers on the more fundamental scientific aspects of radio communication, including radio measurements, radio circuit theory, radio transmission phenomena including ionosphere phenomena will be presented. The meeting is open to the public. Further information can be obtained from R. C. Ould, 3747 Huntington Street, Washington, D.C.

THE sixth Italian Congress of Microbiology will be held at the Milan Institute of Serotherapy on April 21-24. Further information can be obtained from Segretaria del Congresso, via Darwin 20, Milano 124.

THE twenty-eighth Congress of the German Röntgen Society will be held in Breslau under the presidency of Prof. Pleikart Stumpf of Munich on April 12-14, when an exhibition of X-ray apparatus will also be held. Further information can be obtained from Fachgruppe Elektromedizin, Corneliusstrasse 1, Berlin W.15.