

associated with the University for more than forty years. He is well known for his contributions to the knowledge of the taxonomy, morphology and life-histories of marine algæ, the majority of these being written in German and English. As befits a successor of Linnæus in so old a University as Uppsala, he has written on the history of botany. His writings on the taxonomy and morphology of various flowering plants include studies on *Juncus*, *Gentianaceæ* and the so-called sea grasses. He has travelled extensively in pursuit of his special interests in geographical distribution, algæ and cytology. He is treasurer of the Swedish Linnæan Society. Dr. Richard Woltreck, for many years professor of zoology in the University of Leipzig, and until recently director of the Zoological Institute, Ankara, Turkey. Prof. Woltreck has a world-wide reputation as a limnologist. He organized and was the first director of the Fresh-water Biological Station at Lunz in Austria, and by his editorship of the *Internationale Revue der Gesamtes Hydrobiologie und Hydrographie* since its commencement in 1908, has rendered invaluable service to all students of aquatic biology.

Royal Astronomical Society: New Associates

THE recent election of Dr. B. Lyot and Profs. J. H. Oort and Shajn as associates of the Royal Astronomical Society is significant not only as a recognition of their contributions to astronomy, but also as emphasizing the modern tendency of the Society to give this honour for research rather than for official position alone. Ever since Lockyer's and Janssen's successful detection of prominences without an eclipse, the possibility of the daylight photography of the solar corona has exercised astronomers. It has, however, been left to the young French astronomer Lyot, one of the new associates, working with exquisitely designed though inexpensive apparatus, to detect the corona on the Pic du Midi by its polarized light, then afterwards to photograph the inner bright part, and finally to obtain high dispersion spectra in the visible and infra-red of its characteristic emission lines of unknown origin. Fully as distinguished in another field is Prof. Oort of Leyden. In addition to his numerous contributions to stellar statistics, he is especially known for his quantitative formulation of Lindblad's hypothesis of galactic rotation, a formulation which in Oort's hands has greatly clarified our ideas on stellar motions and our knowledge of the structure of the galactic system. Prof. Shajn is a representative of the growing school of young Russian astronomers. His work has been characterized especially by its versatility; he has made contributions of outstanding merit in fields so wide apart as the disturbing action of the earth on meteoric orbits and the study of complex multiplets in stellar spectra.

Museums of India

THE report on the museums and art galleries of India issued by the Museums Association, of which an account appears in another column of this issue of NATURE (see p. 934) will stand in the eyes of

future generations as a grave indictment of an administration which has failed to appreciate the cultural needs of the population at large, outside a narrow view of educational and social policy, and at the same time has neglected its opportunity, not to say its duty, to preserve permanently a fully representative record of the material culture of the past and present civilizations of India. To say this is not to ignore either the many difficulties, financial and other, which have confronted past administrators as obstacles in the way of formulating a coherent and comprehensive policy for the provision of museums, or the efforts towards more adequate provision, such as were made under Lord Curzon, or the valuable system of local museums instituted recently in connexion with the work of the Archaeological Survey; but these, except in the instance of the last-named, are matters of past history.

IT is the absence of any sign of a progressive attitude towards the provision and utilization of the museum as an instrument in raising the general cultural level, admittedly low, of the population of India that constitutes the gravest element implicit in the indictment. The lack of adequate financial support, as well as of systematic allocation of the funds available, the inadequacy, in every sense, of staff, and the failure to formulate any general policy, which would conduce to efficiency of management within, and consultation and co-operation outside the four walls of the individual museum, grave defects as they may be, are no more than symptoms of apathy, no doubt an unconscious apathy, in the higher authorities responsible for direction and control. Now that attention has been directed forcibly to this far-reaching lapse in the public policy of India, it will be the duty—and a test—of the new regime to set about its remedy with all dispatch.

Antiquities from Essex at the British Museum

AN exhibition of exceptional interest of antiquities from Essex is now on view in the Prehistoric Gallery of the British Museum (Bloomsbury). The objects were found on a site between Rainham and Upminster, about fourteen miles from London Bridge, and are lent by Mr. G. T. Carter with the permission of the Newbury Park Gravel Pit Co., from the excavation works of which they were derived. In part, the great interest of the discovery lies in the fact that all periods of prehistoric and early historic culture in Britain are represented from palæolithic to Saxon times. The finds include palæolithic hand-axes, polished neolithic axes of a type common in the Thames area, pottery of the Early Bronze Age, the most noteworthy example being a small beaker, of reddish ware, decorated with bands of lines and dots, and pottery of the Late Bronze Age, the Early Iron Age and the period of Roman occupation. This succession in evidence of occupation on one and the same site on the estuary of the Thames is of peculiar interest to the archaeologist; but the remarkable feature of the discovery is the occurrence of Saxon relics, and more especially of a cemetery, at this