

report on the Administration of the Meteorological Department of the Government of India in 1935-36 (Delhi: Manager of Publications, 1936) describes how various economies have been devised in order that the demands of aviation and other interests may be met so far as is possible. By taking full advantage of aeronautical wireless stations for the exchange of weather telegrams between aerodromes, and aided by cheaper telegrams, a saving of more than half a lakh of rupees annually has resulted. Economy was not made any easier by the disastrous earthquake of May 31, 1935, at Quetta, which demolished the Meteorological Office there, as well as the observers' quarters. This led to the pilot balloon station at Quetta being moved to Dera Ismail Khan for a time, and to the setting up of a temporary surface observatory at Quetta when the situation there was well enough in hand again. Research work did not slacken. Dr. T. Royds, director of the Kodaikanal Observatory, joined the expedition organized by the Royal Society and the Royal Astronomical Society to observe the solar eclipse of June 19, 1936. He took with him what is described as "perhaps the most powerful spectrograph ever used at an eclipse". The discovery of oxygen in the sun's chromosphere was announced from Kodaikanal in 1936 (see NATURE of April 11, 1936). Several pieces of research were carried out in the office at Poona with the voluntary aid of students guided by the official meteorologists. These included the development of a spectrograph for the study of ozone in the earth's atmosphere.

#### Activities of the Rockefeller Foundation

A REVIEW by its president, Mr. Raymond Fosdick, surveys the work of the Rockefeller Foundation during 1936. The expenditure totalled 11,300,000 dollars in connexion with its programme "to promote the well-being of mankind throughout the world". The agencies assisted included institutions, research work in medicine, biology and other sciences, and the humanities. Investigations on the jungle form of yellow fever and other health problems have been promoted, displaced German scholars have been helped, and appropriations have been made for trial work in the development of radio-programmes of cultural and educational value. A grant was given to the Orthological Institute in China for the preparation of a series of books for Chinese readers in 'basic' English.

#### Encke's Comet

A TELEGRAM from Copenhagen announces that Dr. Jeffers, Lick Observatory, has observed Encke's Comet. The position on Sept. 3.38542<sup>d</sup> U.T. was R.A. 2<sup>h</sup> 19<sup>m</sup> 4.9<sup>s</sup>, N. Decl. 27° 10' 20". The magnitude is given as 18. In the "Handbook of the British Astronomical Association" for 1937, Dr. A. C. D. Crommelin gives an ephemeris based on an orbit in which perturbations of Jupiter and Saturn are taken into account. The observed position corresponds closely with that predicted by Dr. Crommelin.

#### Discovery of a Super-Nova in *Canes Venatici*

PROF. H. SHAPLEY has announced the discovery of a super-nova by Zwicky, and Humason found that it had a typical super-nova spectrum. Stobbe, at Kiel, gives its position as R.A. 13<sup>h</sup> 2<sup>m</sup> 57.56<sup>s</sup>, N. Decl. 37° 57' 19.2", equinox 1937.0, and magnitude 8.7.

#### Announcements

A DEPARTMENT for psychology under the direction of Prof. E. R. Jaensch, director of the Institute of Psychological Anthropology at Marburg, has recently been added to the Imperial Leopoldine Caroline German Academy of Natural Science.

THE following awards have been announced by the North East Coast Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders: The Institution Engineering Gold Medal to Harry Hunter, vice-president of the Institution, for a paper on "Singing Propellers"; M. C. James Medal to Mr. H. E. Lance Martin, head of the Civil Engineering Department at King's College (formerly Armstrong College), Newcastle-upon-Tyne, for a paper on "The Determination of the Residual Strains and Stresses in Arc-Welded Plates"; The Institution Scholarship, value £100, to R. A. Lyall, an apprentice of the Central Marine Engine Works, West Hartlepool.

THE board of Rolls-Royce, Ltd., has decided to found, in memory of Sir Henry Royce, a travelling research fellowship to be known as the Henry Royce fellowship. The Fellowship will not exceed £450 a year and will be tenable for one year, by a graduate of a British university or holder of the higher national certificate or other equivalent qualification. Research is to be concerned with the construction, design, materials, or methods of production of automobile transport, including applications to aircraft and modern engineering.

AN International Conference on Physics, Chemistry and Biology will be held in connexion with the Paris International Exhibition in the Palace of Discovery on September 30-October 9. The president will be Prof. Jean Perrin. Further information can be obtained from the General Secretary, L. W. Tomarkin, 11 Rue Pierre Curie, Paris, 5<sup>e</sup>.

THE ninth Annual Conference of the National Smoke Abatement Society will be held at the Philosophical Hall, Leeds, on September 30-October 2. The programme includes discussions on town planning and smoke abatement, and education and smoke abatement. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Chandos House, 64 Buckingham Gate, London, S.W.1.

DURING the forthcoming winter, Mr. H. V. Garner, the guide demonstrator of Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts, and other members of the staff are available for giving lectures to interested institutions on the Rothamsted experiments. All communications regarding lectures should be addressed to the Secretary, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts.