

Plant Hormone Investigations

A STUDY meeting on the subject of "Phytohormones" was held at the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation on October 1 and 2. This meeting, which was organized by the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation and the International Union of Biological Sciences, was the first of a series that will be held in the course of the coming months and which will discuss a variety of questions such as "The New Vitamins", "Nomenclature of Genetics", "The Double Electric Layer", etc., included in the plan of work of the International Council of Scientific Unions, which acts as a committee of scientific advisers to the Intellectual Co-operation Organization. The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Prof. P. Boysen Jensen and reports were discussed on various aspects of the study of phytohormones, prepared by the following: Prof. F. Kögl, Utrecht; Prof. Niels Nielsen; Prof. N. J. Koningsberger, Utrecht; Prof. G. S. Avery, Connecticut; Prof. R. Bouillenne, Liège; Prof. C. Zollikofer, Zurich; Prof. K. Dostal, Brno; and nomenclature of phytohormones, by Dr. Janot, Paris. The question of the nomenclature of phytohormones gave rise to an exhaustive discussion and positive results have been reached. The reports and the discussions to which they gave rise will be published under the auspices of the International Institute of Intellectual Co-operation and the International Union of Biological Sciences. This publication will be revised by Prof. Boysen Jensen before being issued. The second meeting of this character will be held at Copenhagen at the end of September 1939. Profs. Boysen Jensen, Laibach and Koningsberger have been invited to organize this meeting from the technical point of view, in collaboration with the International Union of Biological Sciences.

Archæological Investigations in Ireland

ARCHÆOLOGICAL excavations continue to be carried on with vigour in Ireland through the scheme for the relief of unemployment under the direction of the Office of Public Works and the National Museum. Among the more important of recent discoveries are the antiquities brought to light in the excavation of the large ring fort at Garranes, near Templetown, Co. Cork, which throw a valuable light on the industries and culture of the little-known period of the sixth century of our era. The excavations are being conducted by Prof. Sean P. O'Riordain, professor of archæology in University College, Cork. The site is identified with Rath Raithleann. The fort has triple ramparts, with an external diameter of about three hundred feet. The entrance proved on excavation, according to a report in *The Times* of October 18, to be of a complex character, with several gates, of which the fourth and last in the approach to the interior was formed by rows of posts, small tree trunks of six inches in diameter, set in two palisade trenches terminating the middle bank at each side of the opening.

IN the inner bank of the fort under masses of stone, which had been used to strengthen it, was a deposit showing that here had been the workshop of the metal-workers, who had been under the patronage of the ruler. Clay crucibles were found here in greater number than had previously been found in the whole of Ireland. Some still contained the bronze they had been used to melt, while others, of a type previously known from Scotland, but not hitherto found in Ireland, had been used to melt enamel. A discovery of extreme interest consisted of pieces of *millefiori* glass, made by fusing different coloured pieces of glass together, which leave no room for doubt that the *millefiori* glass of Irish ornament was a native product. Another important discovery was a quantity of pottery fragments, of which some are Roman, while others are copies. Such pottery has hitherto been lacking from Irish fifth and sixth century sites.

The Battersea Power Station

THE annual report of the Electricity Commissioners (London: H.M. Stationery Office) giving the returns of fuel consumption and electric units generated in Great Britain shows that the total quantity of electricity generated during 1936 was 14 per cent more than during the preceding year. The annual fuel consumption was 1.57 lb. per electric unit distributed. The steam station with the highest thermal efficiency, 27.63 per cent, is Battersea (London Power Company) and the station with the highest load, 208,000 kilowatts, is Barking A (County of London). The London Power Co. is extending its station at a cost of £1,500,000. The work constitutes the beginning of the second half of the station and includes the extension of the building to double its present size and the installation of 100,000 kw. of generating plant. This is the first instalment of the plant to be provided in the new building. It is expected that this, together with the 243,000 kw. plant already working, will meet the probable demands for electricity up to the winter 1939-40. Eventually the generating capacity is to be raised to 500,000 kw. The new plant comprises a high-pressure set, a low-pressure set and a house set. The high-pressure set generates 16,000 kw., the low-pressure set 78,000 kw. and the house set 6,000 kw. The new plant also includes one boiler of 550,000 lb. evaporative capacity. Londoners will watch the development of this huge power station with interest. Practice has justified the policy of fostering the efficient stations in Great Britain. The returns show that whilst there were 458 generating stations in 1935, there were only 442 in 1936.

Loris: a Journal of Ceylon Wild Life

IN many respects the fauna of Ceylon is of unusual interest, and like many another island fauna it runs the risk of gradual encroachments at the hands of 'civilized' man. In order to further the preservation of the native animals and to stimulate a greater interest in them and their habits, the Ceylon Game and Fauna Protection Society has undertaken the