

certain districts were also discussed. It was agreed that a letter be addressed to the Ministry of Health protesting against the continuation of nuisance arising from burning colliery spoilbanks and urging that action be taken to end it. It was also agreed by the representatives to ask the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to consider and report on the possibility of research being undertaken to develop remedial measures to prevent nuisance caused by zinc oxide fumes in certain stages of the manufacture of brass.

Chronica Botanica

FROM February 1938, *Chronica Botanica* will be issued bi-monthly and no longer as a yearbook. The annual subscription will be reduced from 15 to 7 guilders. The new periodical will continue to give all the essential information which was given in the old yearbook and will include some important new sections. Results of research will be published only in the first two sections. The world list of plant science institutions and societies will appear as an annual supplement. The reorganized *Chronica* will contain short preliminary notes on the results of recent research or announcing new discoveries; discussions, announcements, letters to the Editor; detailed programmes, short reports, decisions, resolutions of international congresses; quotations from recent articles of general and timely interest; personal notes and queries; short reviews of new botany books, etc. The address is P.O. Box 8, Leyden.

Anti-Gas Training and Defence

THE Home Office has published a memorandum summarizing in convenient form the more important information that has already been issued in various circulars of the Air Raid Precautions Department (Air Raid Precautions, Memorandum No. 5. London: H.M. Stationery Office. 4d. net). It outlines the suggested organization and arrangements for local anti-gas training. For districts where no gas chamber is available for the training, the Home Office has provided a fleet of 40 motor 'gas vans', by means of which instruction is given in the use of the respirator in an atmosphere of tear gas. In a report, just issued, describing experiments conducted by the Chemical Defence Committee with the object of testing the recommendations made by the Air Raid Precautions Department, it is concluded that sealing a room in the manner suggested, and the use of a gas-mask of the pattern which is being prepared, will give a high standard of protection against aerial gas attack.

Announcements

MR. C. FORSTER COOPER, F.R.S., director of the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge, and reader in vertebrate zoology in the University, has been appointed director of the British Museum (Natural History) in succession to Dr. C. Tate Regan, F.R.S., who retires on February 2, 1938. Mr. Forster Cooper's zoological work has been concerned mainly with the vertebrates, both recent and fossil.

THE Medal of the Institution of Mining Engineers has been awarded to Dr. Carl Beyling, director of the Experimental Station at Dortmund-Derne, in recognition of his services in the application of scientific knowledge and research to safety and health problems in coal-mining, and to Dr. R. V. Wheeler, professor of fuel technology in the University of Sheffield and director of the Safety in Mines Research Board Experimental Stations at Sheffield and Buxton, in recognition of his services in the application of scientific knowledge and research to problems of safety and health in coal-mining, and of the utilization of coal.

MR. D. P. Costello, of Trinity College, Cambridge, has been awarded the Royal Asiatic Society's Universities Essay Prize for 1936-1937. The subject of his essay was "The Relations of the Greeks with the East". The other essays submitted were of such a high standard that the Council of the Society is also awarding a special second prize to Mr. John Bowman, of the University of Glasgow, for his essay on the alternative subject "Tamerlane".

PROF. A. S. EVE has undertaken the preparation of the authorized life of Lord Rutherford of Nelson, and it is to be published when completed by the Cambridge University Press. It is earnestly requested that any correspondents who have letters, written by Lord Rutherford, which throw light on his life and work, will forward them as soon as possible to Prof. Eve, 26 Willow Road, Hampstead, N.W.3. Original letters will be promptly returned if requested.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the David Anderson-Berry Gold Medal, together with a sum of money amounting to about £100, which will be awarded in July 1938 by the Royal Society of Edinburgh to the person who, in the opinion of the Council, has recently produced the best work on the nature of X-rays in their therapeutical effect on human diseases. A similar award will be made every three years. Further information can be obtained from the General Secretary, Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22 George Street, Edinburgh, 2.

THE following have been elected officers for 1937-38 of the University of Durham Philosophical Society: *President*: The Very Rev. C. A. Alington; *Hon. General Secretary*: Dr. W. A. Clark; *Hon. Treasurer*: Mr. J. W. Bullerwell; *Editor*: Prof. G. W. Todd; *Assistant Editor*: Mr. J. F. Wood; *Hon. Librarian*: Mr. E. Patterson.

THE annual meeting of the Science Masters Association will be held in the Chemistry Department of the Imperial College of Science and Technology on January 4-7. Sir Cyril Ashford will deliver his presidential address entitled "Past and Future Aims of School Science" on January 4. Further information can be obtained from Mr. R. E. Williams, 15 Norham Gardens, Oxford.