

secretary, Medical Council of India; Dr. C. W. B. Normand, director-general of observatories, Government of India; Khan Bahadur Shapurji Nasarvanji Jamshedji Ratnagar, lately conservator of forests, Southern Circle, Bombay. *C.B.E.*: Mr. J. B. Beresford, secretary of the University Grants Committee and also of the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries; Mr. J. Dewar, surveyor-general, Federated Malay States and Straits Settlements; Mr. H. J. G. Griffin, secretary of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England; Mr. A. L. Hetherington, assistant secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; Dr. J. W. Mellor, lately director of the British Refractories Research Association; Dr. E. C. Snow, joint honorary secretary of the Royal Statistical Society; Dr. A. H. Thompson, professor of history in the University of Leeds, and member of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England).

*O.B.E.*: Captain T. W. Barnard, director of the Barnard Institute of Radiology, Madras; Mr. T. R. Charlton, commissioner of lands, Crown surveyor, and chairman, Mining Board, Fiji; Mr. R. A. Farquharson, geologist in charge, Water-Boring Scheme, Somaliland Protectorate; Dr. R. S. G. Knight, manager and deputy superintendent, Royal Naval Cordite Factory, Holton Heath; Mr. F. Leney, lately curator, Norwich Castle Museum and Art Gallery; Mr. H. M. O. Lester, deputy director, Sleeping Sickness Service, Nigeria; Mr. W. B. Rimmer, acting director of the Solar Observatory at Mount Stromlo, Commonwealth of Australia; Ram Chandra Srivastava, director of the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology, Cawnpore, United Provinces, India; Dr. V. E. Wilkins, principal, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. *M.B.E.*: Mr. J. Coutts, lately curator, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; Mr. W. A. Fyffe, public analyst for the Isle of Man; Mr. W. B. Mercer, agricultural organizer for Cheshire and principal of the Reaseheath Farm Institute; Mr. A. E. Spencer, computer, Land and Survey Department, Uganda. *Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal*: Dr. R. R. Stewart, principal of Gordon College, Rawalpindi, Punjab.

#### Indian Science Congress Association at Calcutta

THE twenty-fifth annual meeting of the Indian Science Congress Association, to which the British Association has sent a large delegation, opened at Calcutta on January 3 under the presidency of Sir James Jeans. Lord Rutherford was to have been president, and that portion of the address which he had prepared, representing his final word on what he used to describe as "the new alchemy", is printed on pp. 58-61 of this issue of NATURE. Sir James Jeans made his address brief, so that he might read to the assembled Congress a portion of that prepared by Lord Rutherford. In the first part of his address, Sir James paid eloquent tribute to the man whose place he was filling—"one of the greatest scientists of all time". He spoke of his greatness, his simplicity and sincerity, and remarked on his genius for friendship and good comradeship, an aspect of Rutherford's

character which has also been demonstrated in the tributes to his memory we have been privileged to publish. In spite of the honours showered upon him, he was always "unassuming and ready to listen patiently to even the youngest and most inexperienced of his pupils or fellow-workers". Speaking of the work he accomplished, Sir James said that, "in his flair for the right line of approach to a problem, as well as in the simple directness of his methods of attack, he often reminds us of Faraday, but he had two great advantages which Faraday did not possess—first, exuberant bodily health and energy, and second, the opportunity and capacity to direct a band of enthusiastic co-workers. Great though Faraday's output of work was, it seems to me that to match Rutherford's work in quantity as well as in quality, we must go back to Newton".

#### Progress of Science in India

In the second part of his address, Sir James Jeans referred to the progress of science during the quarter of a century since the Congress was founded, and to the contributions of Indian workers. Restricting himself to the field of mathematics and physics, he mentioned the remarkable discoveries made in pure mathematics by Ramanujan in his short life; the work of Sir Venkata Raman in sound and the theory of music, and his discovery of the spectral effect now known everywhere by his name; the investigations of Prof. M. Saha in astrophysics, "which gave us our first clear understanding of the meaning of stellar spectra, and so unlocked the road to vast new fields of astronomical knowledge"; and also the work of many Indians, especially Chandrasekhar and Kothari, on conditions in the interiors of stars. Many, other than mathematicians and physicists, would also be thinking of the great experimental skill of the late Sir Jagadis Chandra Bose. In 1911, Sir James said, there were no Indian-born fellows of the Royal Society; now there are four. In 1911, the Royal Society published no papers by Indians; in 1936, the Society published ten. The past twenty-five years have been one of the greatest periods in the history of science, a period of unprecedented progress in which India has taken its part and which has seen the remarkable growth of India as a scientific nation.

#### Policy and the Aborigines in Australia

It is to be hoped that no apparent difference of opinion among anthropologists as to the ultimate fate of the Australian aborigines will be allowed to obscure the plain present duty of the Commonwealth Government in the matter of reform of policy and methods of administration. The report of Dr. Donald F. F. Thomson, research fellow of the University of Melbourne, to the Commonwealth Government on his observations as a special patrol officer for a period of fifteen months among the natives of Arnhem Land in the Northern Territories is uncompromising in its directness. He recommends, according to a dispatch of the Canberra correspondent of *The Times* in the issue of December 30, that the remains of the tribalized natives of the Northern Territories, who come under the control of the Commonwealth Govern-

ment, should be segregated in an inviolable reserve ; and that legislation similar to that in force in New Guinea for the protection of natives should be imposed in their interest. Watering depots for pearlsh on the coast of Arnhem Land should be abolished. The policy of administering native justice should be revised ; the police should not be allowed to act as protectors ; and special courts for the aborigines should be established. It is recommended further that the Commonwealth Government should set up a Department of Native Affairs under a trained protector and staffed by men trained to apply anthropological methods ; while eventually the administration of native affairs throughout Australia should be brought under one control. The Arnhem Land natives should not be permitted to leave the reserve, and missions should be requested to remove their stations to the outskirts of the reserve to prevent the entry of outside influence.

SETTING aside the larger question of the unification of control of aboriginal affairs throughout Australia, for which much is to be said, Dr. Thomson's recommendations represent the absolute minimum of immediate and urgent reform essential for the preservation of the aborigines of the Northern Territories. Mr. McEwen, Commonwealth Minister of the Interior, is reported to have expressed the view that, as it is inevitable that sooner or later the aborigines must come into contact with civilization, they should be prepared for it. Apparently he accepts an opinion attributed to "some anthropologists" that the segregation of tribalized natives "is undesirable and impracticable". Without a more precise statement of its authority, such an opinion carries little conviction ; and it is contrary to the views of anthropologists most competent to speak. How far segregation is practicable and likely to be beneficial depends upon the will of the Australian people to ensure that full effect shall be given to that policy, which past experience shows alone to be capable of affording the aboriginal an opportunity to survive. Segregation does not necessarily entail a state of stagnation in which the aboriginal tribe is a museum piece. When once conditions favourable, and indeed essential, to the continued existence of the aborigines have been secured, it will be possible to plan their future and guide development along lines consistent with their character and tradition.

### Segregation in Polish Universities

NEARLY one thousand outstanding scholars in leading universities in the United States have signed an open letter to their colleagues in some of the universities of Poland, where Jewish students are now segregated from their fellows, and repeated acts of violence are reported against them and Jewish professors. It is realized that the university authorities are faced with great difficulties on account of religious and racial differences, but to bring these conditions of strife into the classrooms and laboratories by adoption of a policy of segregation violates the principle of intellectual freedom upon which university life must be based. "Such discrimination",

the signatories protest, "seems to us alien to the spirit of academic freedom and of the free co-operation in the pursuit of knowledge that is so essential to the world of scholarship". The distinguished members of the faculties of Polish institutions of higher learning who have raised their voices against this discrimination will, it is hoped, be encouraged by this support of their American colleagues to continue their efforts to maintain the high tradition of such institutions in the free republic of scholarship. Sympathy with suffering, and sensitiveness to injustice, are attributes which distinguish man from all his fellow creatures ; and any deliberate action which evokes them cannot be other than a reversion to primitive instincts. In this twentieth century it is depressing to see the law of the jungle being accepted and applied to secure racial and national domination, when such great powers and opportunities exist for the progressive evolution of man's higher nature. Those of us who believe in a nobler destiny for the human race than has yet been reached find a certain amount of comfort in the dismay expressed by American scholars at the extension to Poland of a spirit of intolerance foreign to every principle for which a university should stand.

### Institute of Economic and Social Research

ANNOUNCEMENT is made of the formation of a new Institute of Economic and Social Research. Sir Josiah Stamp is to be the first president of the Institute, and Prof. N. F. Hall, professor of political economy in the University of London (University College), is to be director. Among the functions of the Institute are the carrying out of research, either by its own staff or by others temporarily associated with it, into the facts and problems of contemporary human society, and the publication of the results of researches, subject to adequate safeguards for the impartial and scientific character of these publications. Financial support for the Institute is being provided by the Sir Halley Stewart Trust, the trustees of the late Lord Leverhulme, the Pilgrim Trust and the Rockefeller Foundation. An annual income has been guaranteed of £10,000 for five years, and £5,000 for two years after. The offices of the Institute will be at 32 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1.

### Physical Society's Exhibition

THE Catalogue of the Physical Society's Exhibition, held in the Imperial College of Science and Technology on January 4, 5 and 6, covers 226 pages, has many illustrations and is well arranged. The paging is on the bottom edge of the page, the number of the stall on the top outer corner and the name of firm exhibiting on the top inner corner. It is divided into two sections, Trade (177 pages) and Research (36 pages), and an alphabetical list of exhibitors in each section is provided which gives also the number of the stall. A four-page index of the instruments exhibited with indication of the pages on which they are described is also provided. Reference to the catalogue is therefore easy and quick. New exhibits are indicated in the catalogue by an asterisk and on