

C. V. B. Marquand or with F. Ballard), J. M. Cowan (thirteen species), A. B. Rendle (five species), and others including J. Anthony, G. Taylor, W. B. Turrill and T. A. Sprague. The volume is edited by Dr. J. Ramsbottom and does credit to editor and contributors. The price may appear to be high, but the illustrations alone make it good value and a real acquisition to any botanical library.

Biological Effects of Ultra-Sound Waves

A SECTION of Messrs. Hermann's "Actualités Scientifiques et Industrielles" series of publications is being devoted to investigations of the effects of radiation on living organisms; it is under the charge of Prof. N. Marinesco, director of research in the Institute of Physico-chemical Biology, Paris. Two parts dealing with ultra-sound waves and their properties have already appeared: (1) "Propriétés piézo-chimiques, physiques et biophysiques des Ultra-sons. Technique des ondes élastique de haute fréquence", and (2) "Propriétés des Ultra-sons. Destruction des micro-organismes. Préparation des colloïdes à basses températures. Réactions explosives. Reactions photochimiques". Both are written by Prof. Marinesco. The first 56 pages and 5 plates (15 francs) describes the electro-elastic properties of quartz, the production of stationary waves in liquids, the intensity of the radiation, the pressure it exerts and the absorption it undergoes. The second, of 68 pages and 7 plates (18 francs), describes the effects of ultra-sound waves in sterilizing water and milk, in producing emulsions, in detonating explosives and in accelerating chemical reactions with special reference to those in photography. Many of the plates are reproductions of photographs taken by the author. Bibliographies are provided.

International Union against Cancer

THE Third International Cancer Congress under the auspices of the International Union against Cancer will be held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, on September 11-16, 1939. The president of the Congress is Prof. Francis Carter Wood, director of the Institute of Cancer Research of Columbia University; Dr. Donald S. Childs of Syracuse, New York, is the secretary-treasurer; and Dr. A. L. Loomis Bell of Long Island College Hospital, Brooklyn, New York, is in charge of transportation and exhibits. The proposed sections are as follows: general research; biophysics; genetics; general pathology of cancer; surgery of cancer; radiological diagnosis of cancer; radiotherapy of cancer; statistics; and education. Details concerning section chairmen, committees and other data will be announced later. Further information can be obtained from the Institute of Cancer Research, 1145 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, N.Y.

A Regional Survey Field Service Pocket-book

THE Le Play Society's well-known "Discovery" chart has been revised and enlarged and its subject-matter has been put into pocket-book form with blank leaves for maps and notes. In this form it is published under the title "Exploration" at 4d.,

postage *id.* It directs attention to some hundreds of possible fields of local exploration grouped under the major headings: geology, rivers and water-supply, weather and climate, vegetation and open spaces, agriculture, zoology, archæology, history, communications, occupations, folk-lore, place-names, modern and changing conditions, camping and rambling. It is calculated to stimulate youthful zest for exploration and arouse and develop scientific curiosity. An ethical aim is provided by the following passage, appearing on the front page, reminiscent of the teaching of Patrick Geddes and Victor Branford: "If you learn to know your own place well, and in so doing learn to love it more, it will help you to understand and appreciate other places, and to sympathise with their problems". It should prove serviceable to scout-masters and girl-guides as well as to others engaged in the teaching of local history, local geography and civics and in training for citizenship.

Colonial Service Appointments

THE following appointments and promotions have recently been made in the Colonial Service: R. O. Roberts, field geologist, Uganda; W. L. Stapleton, inspector of mines, Malaya; F. G. Bridges, inspector of plants and produce, Nigeria; M. J. Douglass, agricultural officer, Sierra Leone; J. Ford, entomologist, Tsetse Research Department, Tanganyika Territory; K. S. Hocking, secretary, Tsetse Research Department, Tanganyika Territory; A. R. Jones, meteorological assistant, Sierra Leone; A. G. Robertson, field officer, Tsetse Research Department, Tanganyika Territory; F. L. Vanderplank, field officer, Tsetse Research Department, Tanganyika Territory; E. F. Whiteside, field assistant, Tsetse Research Department, Tanganyika Territory; T. W. Brown (agricultural officer), botanist, Research Branch, Department of Agriculture, Malaya; B. G. A. Low (botanist, Research Branch, Department of Agriculture), agricultural officer, Field Branch, Malaya; F. B. Higgins (senior inspector of mines, Nigeria), senior inspector of mines, Gold Coast; H. H. Cobon (assistant superintendent of surveys), superintendent of surveys, Malaya; F. W. Abbott (laboratory assistant, Medical Department), laboratory assistant, Grade I, Medical Department, Gold Coast; P. A. Clearkin (formerly deputy director of Laboratory Service, Tanganyika Territory), bacteriologist and pathologist, British Guiana (temporary appointment); C. K. Robinson (agricultural assistant), agricultural superintendent, Saint Vincent; G. C. Stevenson (assistant botanist, British West Indies Central Sugar Cane Breeding Station, Barbados), botanist, Sugar Cane Research Station, Mauritius.

Shower of Bright Meteors

A REMARKABLE shower of fireballs is reported to have been seen in southern Sweden on May 27 between 18^h 20^m and 20^h 12^m U.T. About 18^h 40^m, two specially bright fireballs, visible in full sunshine, appeared over Bornholm Island. The general direction was from west to east. Further details of these and other fireballs are requested by A. Corlin,

Lund Observatory. It is hoped that sufficient data will be available later to enable the paths to be computed.

Curious Fading of Comet Gale

As announced in NATURE recently, Comet Gale was found on May 1 by Mr. L. E. Cunningham at Harvard, its magnitude being 10. An orbit and ephemeris were computed, and, knowing the distances of the object from the earth and sun, its magnitude on various dates was estimated. The remarkable thing is that its magnitude is considerably less than that predicted, as the following figures will show :

Date	Predicted Magnitude	Observed Magnitude
May 9	9.5	11
28	8.5	11
31	8.4	13

It is probable that some rapid internal changes, on which one can only speculate at the moment, are taking place in the comet.

Announcements

THE Albert Medal for 1938 of the Royal Society of Arts has been awarded to H.M. Queen Mary "in recognition of her Majesty's unremitting interest in arts and manufactures to the great benefit of British industry and commerce". Queen Mary has intimated her acceptance of the medal.

DR. F. W. HAYWOOD has been appointed chief metallurgist to Wild-Barfield Electric Furnaces, Ltd., to take charge of the new research department nearing completion. Dr. Haywood, who is at present engaged with Messrs. I.C.I. (Fertilizer and Synthetic Products), Ltd., at Billingham, will be commencing his duties later in the year.

GEH. REG. RAT HEINRICH KAYSER, emeritus professor of physics at Bonn, and Dr. Hans Horst Meyer, emeritus professor of pharmacology, pathology and biology at Vienna, celebrated their eighty-fifth birthday on March 16 and 17 respectively.

PROF. PAUL FOURMARIER, professor of physical geography in the University of Liège, has been elected a foreign correspondent of the Geological Society of London.

PROF. M. T. BOGERT, professor of organic chemistry in Columbia University, has been awarded the Priestley Gold Medal of the American Chemical Society. The medal, the highest American honour in chemistry, is granted once in three years. It was established in honour of Joseph Priestley. Priestley lived most of his life in England but went to America late in life to escape hostility to his views as a non-conformist preacher. He lived in Philadelphia and Northumberland, Pa. Alone, and in collaboration with his many students, Prof. Bogert is the author of more than four hundred papers in synthetic organic chemistry.

MR. J. REID MOIR will give the next Huxley Lecture of the Imperial College of Science and

Technology on May 4, 1939, at 5.30 p.m. The subject of his lecture will be "The Earliest Men".

THE tenth International Medical Congress for Psychiatry will be held at Oxford on July 29–August 2. A detailed programme will be published later. Further information can be obtained from Dr. E. B. Strauss, 81 Harley Street, London, W.1.

A NATIONAL conference on Maternity and Child Welfare will be held in the Great Hall, University of Bristol, on July 5–7, under the presidency of Mr. R. H. Bernays, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Health. Further information can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Dr. Minett, Carnegie House, 47 Piccadilly, W.1.

THE next meeting of the French Association for the Advancement of Science will be held at Arcachon on September 22–27 under the presidency of M. Guilliermond, member of the Institut de France and professor in the Paris Faculty of Sciences. The subjects for discussion are : (1) the oyster (palæontology, zoology, biology, hygiene, fishing and cultivation); (2) the marine pine and its derivatives; (3) the pigments of living beings (chemical composition and psychological role) (4) biology and protection of fresh water. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the Association, 28 rue Serpente, Paris.

THE fifth International Locust Conference will be held in Brussels on August 25–September 1, under the patronage of His Majesty the King of the Belgians. The programme includes discussions on the standardization of studies on phase transformation in locusts; on methods of studying locust migrations; on general principles of anti-locust research, etc. The greater part of the programme is devoted to problems of organization of preventive control of locusts and grasshoppers in different natural regions of the world. Information on the Conference can be obtained from the Secretariat, 7 Place Royale, Brussels; and from the Imperial Institute of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History), London, S.W.7.

WE have received the April issue of *Sands, Clays and Minerals*, a journal edited and produced by A. L. Curtis, Chatteris, which contains a number of interesting papers. One of these deals with the modern uses of tantalum and niobium, another with the reparation of historical buildings, and a third (by A. Barclay, of the Science Museum) is on early technical balances and is profusely illustrated. The journal is of a high standard and contains much information of scientific and economic interest.

ERRATUM. Prof. J. H. Orton writes that in his letter entitled "Life-History of the Salmon (*Salmo salar* L.)" in NATURE of June 4, p. 1017, the word "mature" in the bottom line of column 1 was inadvertently written for the word "immature".