

and can only be tackled after an adequate idea of the nature of a society has been gained. This is in the first place a task for social science, since science alone has sufficient authority to get its conclusions adopted universally as a basis for action.

Science and University Teaching

AN article by Dr. W. H. George on "Science and University Teaching" in the *New University* of November, emphasizing the value of the widespread use of scientific methods in dealing with the social problems of to-day, points out that an education which includes one or more sciences does not necessarily foster scientific action. Even a knowledge of science up to university degree standard does not necessarily guarantee ability to think or act scientifically within the scope of the sciences studied. While, however, teaching is the best way of promoting the use of the scientific method, Dr. George points out that, in general, science but no scientific method is taught to science students and that scientific method, but no science, is taught to a small proportion of arts students and this teaching is separated from that of the student's main subject of study.

National Forest Park near Snowdon

A COMMITTEE was appointed by the Forestry Commissioners on March 31 last to advise as to the steps which might be taken to form a national forest park on their properties in the vicinity of Snowdonia. It has now issued its report on the "National Forest Park Committee" (H.M. Stationery Office, 1937). The Forestry Commissioners had expressed an intention of designating areas, such as the one here under consideration, 'National Forest Parks'. It is pointed out that this type of park has no affinity with the 'National Park' as described in the report of the National Park Committee. The area here in question is the Gwydyr Forest of about 18,000 acres. The Forest forms a fringe of the wild and open mountain land culminating with the Snowdon range with its large stretches of foothills and rough grass, heather and rock-strewn spaces. The central Snowdon region is mostly in private ownership. The land in Gwydyr Forest which has been, or will be, planted by the Forestry Commissioners comprises about three-quarters of the area and forms the lower slopes on the east and south-east of the Snowdon range, in which group of mountains is included the Glyders and Carnedd mountains. There are numerous roads, tracks and footpaths, many of which afford delightful walks, climbs and views. The district includes some of the finest mountain scenery in North Wales and attracts a very large number of holiday-makers in the summer. The larger part of the Forest is held by the Commissioners on long leases subject to certain reservations. Local hostels exist, and certain other facilities in this respect and camping facilities are recommended, it being suggested that Government be asked to provide funds for the Commissioners' use in these developments. Such funds should surely be obtainable from the region which will benefit by the provision of this national forest park.

Acquisitions at the British Museum (Natural History)

AMONG the specimens presented to the Department of Mineralogy of the British Museum (Natural History) is a collection of about three hundred rock and mineral specimens, made by Mr. H. St. J. B. Philby, between Mecca and Mukalla, during his last journey of exploration through West and South-West Arabia. The collection is not only of academic interest. There is evidence of the presence of oil in the richly bituminous limestones and oil-soaked shales outcropping in the neighbourhood of Shabwa, and farther north, near Jizan, Mr. Philby collected specimens of hæmatite, an important iron-ore. This mineral is also present in several quartz-reefs, of which he brought back samples. By his careful and complete field-records of each occurring type, Mr. Philby has brought to light a number of salient features in the geological structure of a region previously unknown to Europeans, and has made it possible to prepare an approximate geological map of the region through which he travelled.

Vital Statistics in Great Britain

ACCORDING to a return published by the Registrar-General, the birth-rate in England and Wales during the year 1937 is provisionally estimated at 14.9 live births per thousand of the population, and the crude death-rate at 12.4 deaths per thousand of the population. The number of deaths of children under one year, per 1000 live births, was 58. The birth-rate for 1937 is 0.1 above that for 1936, 0.2 above that for 1935 and 0.5 above that for 1933—the lowest on record. The crude death-rate is the highest recorded since 1929 and is 0.3 above that of 1936, an increase which is largely associated with the heavy influenza mortality of the first quarter of the year. The infant mortality is 1 below that of 1936, and only 1 above that of 1935—the lowest recorded.

Rheumatic Fever as a Protozoal Disease

DR. G. ARBOUR STEPHENS, 61 Walter Road, Swansea, referring to a recent Colonial Office Medical Report on the Falkland Islands, states that although the weather there is described as very damp and "permanent October" weather, and although the houses are damp, the soil acid, the food so poor that the school children wear dentures, and septic tonsillitis (due to *Streptococcus*) is so common, nevertheless rheumatic fever does not occur. This, he claims, supports the view that rheumatic fever is due to a protozoon (something like the malarial parasite), for the necessary insect carriers, such as harvest bugs, midges and fleas do not exist on the Islands.

Current Titles

WE have received the first part of a new monthly journal, *Current Titles*, published by Engineering Journals, 928 Broadway, New York, the subscription being 3 dollars yearly (4 dollars outside the United States). The journal gives the tables of contents of a large number of scientific, technical and engineering journals in English. We note that these include

Government publications, and that geology, physics, metallurgy and chemistry are well covered; biology is not dealt with, as there is a similar journal in this field. The new journal will serve a very useful purpose, since it gives at a glance the titles of papers in a wide field. The format is very convenient.

Fifth Glass Convention

THE fifth Glass Convention will be held at the Norbury House Hotel, Droitwich, on May 18-21 under the presidency of Mr. H. S. Williams-Thomas. This year will be an important one in the history of the British glass industry because in London the Society of Glass Technology has just concluded its twenty-first anniversary celebrations, and in April the *Daily Mail* Ideal Home Exhibition at Olympia will have glass as its outstanding motive. A subject which is engaging the attention of industrialists at the moment is the trade cycle, on which Mr. Harold Macmillan, M.P., will speak during one of the business sessions. Mr. Ronald Cartland, M.P., will give an address on "Recent Industrial Legislation". The presidential address will be entitled "Craftsmanship in Industry". Prof. W. E. S. Turner will lead the discussion on the presidential address. Of no less interest are the technical sessions arranged by the Society of Glass Technology, the subjects being "Glass Finishing Processes" and "Plastics and their Relation to the Glass Industry".

Announcements

SIR JOHN SNELL, chairman of the Electricity Commission, has been awarded the Faraday Medal of the Institution of Electrical Engineers. The Medal is awarded once a year either for notable scientific or industrial achievement in electrical engineering or for conspicuous service rendered to the advancement of electrical science, without restriction as regards nationality, country of residence, or membership of the institution. Mr. Frank Gill, past president of the Institution, has been elected an honorary member of the Council of the Institution.

THE Messel Medal of the Society of Chemical Industry has been awarded to Prof. L. H. Baekeland, honorary professor of chemical engineering in Columbia University. Prof. L. H. Baekeland is the founder of the plastics industry and his own name is perpetuated in the well-known commodity 'Bakelite'. He was also responsible for the 'Velox' patents used in modern photographic industry. The Messel Medal is awarded every two years for meritorious distinction in science and its application to industry.

DR. E. W. RUSSELL has been appointed Goldsmiths' Company's soil physicist at the Rothamsted Experimental Station in succession to Dr. G. W. Scott Blair, who has been appointed head of the Dairy Chemistry Department at the National Institute for Research in Dairying, Shinfield, Reading. Dr. Russell studied soil science at Zurich under Prof. Wiegner and in Russia under Prof. Polynov; for the

past few years he has been assistant in the Soil Physics Department, Rothamsted, and has published various papers on soil texture.

AT the annual general meeting of the Royal Meteorological Society on January 19, Dr. B. A. Keen, assistant director, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, was elected president in succession to Dr. F. J. W. Whipple. Other officers elected include: *Secretaries*, H. W. L. Absalom, W. Dunbar, E. L. Hawke; *Treasurer*, W. M. Witchell; *New Members of Council*, C. E. Britton, Dr. R. F. Fox, Major H. C. Gunton, R. S. Read, Gerald Seligman and Dr. R. C. Sutcliffe.

THE following have been elected officers of the Royal Microscopical Society for the present year: *President*: J. E. Barnard; *Hon. Treasurer*: C. F. Hill; *Hon. Secretaries*: Prof. R. T. Hewlett and J. Smiles; *New Members of Council*: Dr. J. A. Murray, J. H. Pledge, T. E. Wallis and S. R. Wycherley; *Hon. Editor*: Dr. G. M. Findlay; *Hon. Librarian*: Dr. C. Tierney; *Hon. Curator of Instruments*: M. T. Denne; *Hon. Curator of Slides*: N. Ingram Hendey.

THE forty-first Bedson Lecture will be delivered by Prof. J. Kenner, professor of technological chemistry, University of Manchester, at King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on Friday, February 4. Prof. Kenner will take as his subject "Aliphatic Diazo Compounds".

PROF. BERNARD NOCHT of Hamburg has been awarded the shield of nobility of the German Reich.

PROF. RICHARD KUHN, director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Medical Research at Heidelberg, and Dr. Ernst Späth, professor of chemistry at Vienna, have been elected honorary members of the Société de Chimie Industrielle of Paris.

PROF. MAX EUGLING, who is well known for his climatic and hydrological researches, has succeeded Prof. Grassberger as chief of the Institute of Hygiene of the University of Vienna, where he has been assistant for the last thirty years.

THE second Darling prize of the League of Nations for original work on malaria published during the previous five years has been awarded to Prof. N. H. Swellengrebel, professor of tropical parasitology at Amsterdam, and will be awarded to him during the Third International Congress on Malariology in September 1938.

THE Association for Education in Citizenship has arranged a secondary school conference on methods of training for the responsibilities of citizenship, to be held at Morley College, Westminster Bridge Road, London, S.E.1, on March 4-6. Applications to attend the conference, accompanied by a fee of 5s., should reach the secretary of the Association, 10 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, not later than February 5.