

### Civil List Pensions

THE following pensions, among others, were granted during the year ended March 31, 1938, and are payable under the provisions of the Civil List Act, 1937, whereby the total amount has been increased from £1,200 to £2,500: Miss Alice Mary Buckton, in recognition of her services to literature and of the services rendered by her father, the late Mr. George B. Buckton, F.R.S., to entomology (£50 additional to the previous pension of £60); Mrs. Agnes Maud Carey, in recognition of the inventions of her husband, the late Mr. Robert Falkland Carey, in connexion with the discharge of aeroplanes from ships (£25 additional to the previous pension of £75); Miss Evelyn Marie Jeanette Dupré, in recognition of the public and scientific services rendered by her father, the late Dr. A. Dupré, F.R.S. (£75); Dr. Frank Elgee, in recognition of his services to archaeology and geology (£130); Miss Alice Everett, in recognition of her own and her father's services to physics and other branches of science (£100); Miss Rachel Mary Fleming, in recognition of her services to anthropology and geography (£20 additional to the previous pension of £80); Prof. James John Guest, in recognition of his services to science (£100); Sir James Marchant, in recognition of his public and social services (£30 additional to the previous pension of £75); Mr. James Reid Moir, in recognition of his services to prehistoric archaeology (£110); John A. J. Starkey, Marjorie M. J. Starkey, Jane R. Starkey (during the minority of any one of them), in recognition of the services rendered by their father, the late Mr. James Leslie Starkey, to archaeology (£210 in trust).

### Announcements

THE Linnean Gold Medal for 1938 of the Linnean Society of London has been awarded to Sir D'Arcy Thompson, professor of natural history in the University of St. Andrews.

SIR DAVID PRAIN has been appointed president for life of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture. Sir David, who celebrated his eightieth birthday on July 11 last (see NATURE, July 17, 1937, p. 98), was director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, from 1905 until 1922. He was a member of the Tropical Agricultural College Committee appointed by Lord Milner in 1919 and had been vice-chairman of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture from its foundation in 1921 until last year, when he retired. His appointment as life-president of the College is a particularly fitting honour which, it will be the general wish of all scientific workers, he may enjoy for some years.

SIR MERRIK BURRELL has been awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Agricultural Society for distinguished services to agriculture. Sir Merrik was president of the Royal Agricultural Society and chairman of the Council of Agriculture for England in 1936, and for many years was chairman of the Society's committee which founded and administered the London Quarantine Station before it passed into the control of the Ministry of Agriculture.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. J. E. Marsh, F.R.S., demonstrator in the University Museum, Oxford, from 1886 until 1930, on April 13, aged seventy-seven years.

ON April 17, a new British record for gliding was made by Mr. C. Nicholson, who flew in his Rhönsperber sailplane from Huish (Wilts) to East Bigbury, near Plymouth, a distance of 122 miles. The previous record was held by Mr. P. A. Wills, who flew 104 miles from Dunstable to Pakefield on July 5, 1936 (see p. 714). On April 18, Mr. J. S. Fox broke Mr. Nicholson's record by flying in his Rhönadler sailplane from Huish to Fowey, Cornwall—a distance of 144 miles.

THE British Association announces that Charles Darwin's home, Down House, Downe, Kent, and the gardens and grounds, are open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily until September 30, including Sundays. Admission is free.

THE annual Congress of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom will be held at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, W.1, on April 28–30, under the presidency of Dr. Gordon Holmes. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, 7 Queen Street, W.1.

THE sixteenth International Congress of Physiology will be held at Zurich on August 14–18 under the presidency of Prof. W. R. Hess and will consist of six sections devoted respectively to general and comparative physiology; biophysics; biochemistry; applied physiology (sport, aviation); psychophysiology; pharmacology. Further information can be obtained from Prof. Rottler, Sonnenweg 6, Basle, Switzerland.

AN earthquake of moderate intensity was recorded at Kew Observatory on April 13. The first movement reached Kew at 2 hr. 49 min. 23 sec. G.M.T. and the records indicated that the epicentre was 1080 miles away, probably in southern Italy.

A UNIT for clinical research in surgery has been established at Edinburgh by the Medical Research Council, acting jointly with the Royal Infirmary, the University, and the Royal Hospital for Sick Children. The unit will be located in the Infirmary, with facilities also in the University Department of Surgery and at the Hospital. The director is Mr. W. C. Wilson, who has for this purpose been appointed to the whole-time staff of the Council. The arrangement has at present been made for a period of five years, as from April 1, 1938. The establishment of 'units' or departments of this kind in selected hospitals forms part of a policy adopted by the Medical Research Council for the promotion of research work in clinical science, as opposed to the laboratory branches of medicine.

ERRATUM. In the letter entitled "Occurrence of the Freshwater Medusa, *Craspedacusta sowerbii*, in Eastern Canada" by the late Prof. H. B. Fantham and Dr. Annie Porter in NATURE of March 19, on p. 515, col. 2, line 26, for 1938 read 1937, and on p. 516, line 37, for 32·03 read 32·30.