

that their names may be registered, and at the same time enclosing a remittance of one guinea, which will cover fifty telephone inquiries.

Association of Women Science Teachers

THE annual meeting of the Association of Women Science Teachers was held at Bedford College, London, on January 4 and 5. At the evening meeting, Prof. Allan Ferguson, lecturing on eighteenth century physics, stressed the value of the research of that century's Gargantuans in science, some interesting points of detail not always being known to present-day teachers. At the morning session, the Joint Standing Committee with the Association of Assistant Mistresses (Science Panel) presented its recent General Science Examination Syllabus, containing the maximum of content and topic for examination in general science after a five-year course to school certificate standard in girls' schools. Copies of this syllabus can be obtained on application to the Hon. General Secretary. A discussion was held on new methods of biology teaching, emphasizing practical problems with living organisms. Both plants and animals were discussed. It appeared there is less need for the keeping of animals in the school, except occasionally, when the biology is taught from the functional view-point and with reference specially to the mammal. Discussion ensued as to whether there may be consequent application or lack of it, in the pupil's mind, to man. The study of the characteristics of living things based upon exact observational work on plants and animals in school appears to present more practical difficulties in the keeping of living creatures in captivity. Opportunities for visiting a glass factory and a precious metals refinery were welcomed by members. It is announced that the Association proposes to devote a whole day's discussion on March 4, in London, to the Science Masters' Association General Science Report and to the Spens Report in its bearing upon science in the curriculum.

Chinese Red Cross and Chinese Universities

MRS. HALDANE, who has recently returned to London after a visit to China, writes as follows: "I paid a visit to the training centre established by the Chinese Red Cross Medical Commission. This Centre is under the direction of Dr. Robert Lim, formerly professor of physiology in the National University of Peiping. Dr. Lim has temporarily given up his scientific work and has taken in charge the reorganization and extension of the Chinese Red Cross. . . . In Kunming, formerly known as Yunnan Fu, I had the pleasure of meeting President Chiang, formerly of the National University of Peiping, and his staff; and also President Mei of Tsing Hua University, Peiping, and his colleagues. . . . Premises have been placed at the disposal of the universities by the Yunnan Provincial Government, but although they still have remnants of their former libraries, there is an almost complete dearth of equipment, scientific instruments and other material. The two Presidents and the professors of pure and

applied engineering and biology informed me that they would be deeply grateful if their colleagues in Europe could send them copies of current periodicals, such as the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, the *Journal of Physiology* and *Biochemical Journal*, physical and engineering journals, etc. If members of the various scientific societies in Great Britain would care to assist either the Chinese Red Cross Society, or Prof. Chiang and Prof. Mei and their staffs, I should be most grateful if they would communicate with me, c/o The China Campaign Committee, Parliament Mansions, Orchard Street, S.W.1. The Committee would be glad to make arrangements to forward either periodicals or money, and to put British scientific or university circles in touch with their Chinese colleagues who at present so badly need their moral encouragement and active assistance."

Earth Tremor at Quetta

ON January 6 at 4h. 43m. (Madras Time), an earth tremor of considerable intensity shook Quetta, in Baluchistan. The shock was of short duration and no damage or casualties are reported. It will be remembered that this district is liable to be visited fairly frequently by earthquakes and that it was visited by a particularly strong one on May 31, 1935, of duration about 30 seconds and having an epicentral tract 68 miles long and 16 miles wide in a direction S. 15° W. from Baleli. The epicentre was stated by Sen and Bakshi to be lat. 30·5 N., long. 66·5° E., and although the intensity was 10 on the Rossi-Forel scale, road and rail communications were not interrupted, nor was the supply of electric current, so that the intensity was not so great as at Assam in 1897, Kangar in 1905, or Bihar in 1934. No fault movement was apparent at the surface, and as the intensity fell off rapidly from the central region, the focal depth was assumed to be shallow. On that occasion, Kalat, Mastung, several villages and Quetta itself were completely destroyed, and Quetta was sealed for a considerable period owing to the extreme difficulty of the rescue work. The death roll was estimated at 15,000–20,000. The buildings of the new Quetta are of reinforced concrete and brick, and some attention has been paid to earthquake-proof design. They have withstood well the shocks of September and October 1937 and the present earthquake.

Roads and Traffic

IN his presidential address on "Roads and Traffic" to the Junior Institution of Engineers on December 9, Sir Charles Bressley raised many interesting questions the answers to which are not easily found out. He says, for example, that deductions from the most careful traffic observations are apt to be stultified, at any rate in a free country like Great Britain, by the essential fluidity and waywardness of traffic. The installation of traffic lights may lead drivers to make use of hitherto unfrequented side roads, so as to avoid the signals. These vagaries vitiate comparisons, and are particularly disconcerting in