

notes on the various editors. Dr. Cecil Wall and Mr. Walter Spencer discuss the progress of medicine and of surgery, respectively, during the period; an illustrated article on "Some Medical Celebrities of the Victorian Age", as depicted in cartoons of *Vanity Fair*, is contributed by Sir St. Clair Thomson, the cartoons being reproduced together with actual portraits; and a chronological list of medical societies and journals in Great Britain and Ireland is furnished by Mr. Reginald West. Other articles and reviews complete a very interesting number.

#### Art and Psychiatry

UNDER the auspices of the Government Federal Art Project and of the Bellevue Hospital psychiatric department, the Harlem Art Centre in New York City has organized the first exhibition of its kind in the United States, consisting of pictures showing the work of disordered minds. The artists include moronic children, chronic alcoholics, advanced epileptics, manic-depressives and general paralytics. Most of the exhibits indicate mental conflict, being shapeless, lurid and grotesque. The idea underlying the art classes at Bellevue Hospital is to attempt a cure of the mentally sick by encouraging them to express their conflicts and at the same time to give psychiatrists a clearer picture of their patients' emotional life.

#### Earthquake in Ecuador

SEVERAL earthquakes of sufficient intensity to crack buildings shook a considerable area in Ecuador on the night of February 1, 1939. Altogether nine tremors were felt at Vallecillos and four other towns, and five tremors at Quito. Quito was ruined with the loss of 40,000 lives on February 7, 1797, and simultaneously there was volcanic eruption in Guadeloupe. In the present instance, Cotopaxi, the highest volcano in the world, is in eruption. It was in 1768 and 1877 that previous disastrous eruptions of Cotopaxi took place.

#### Announcements

THE council of the Institution of Electrical Engineers has elected Sir Archibald Page, chairman of the Central Electricity Board, and a former president of the Institution, to be an honorary member.

M. EMMANUEL DE MARGERIE has been elected a member of the Section of Mineralogy of the Paris Academy of Sciences in succession to the late L. de Launay.

THE Goethe Medal for Art and Science has been awarded by the German Chancellor to Dr. Theodor Kitt, professor of veterinary pathology in the University of Munich.

RESEARCH CORPORATION, of 405 Lexington Avenue, New York, from time to time makes awards to universities for the work of men of science. The Corporation has now made grants to Columbia University, New York, of 2,500 dollars each and Research Corporation plaques, to be made the basis

of awards to (1) Dr. H. S. Taylor, of Princeton University, "for his work in the field of catalysis, wherein he has advanced the theory of catalytic action and the art of using catalysts in industrial operations in this field"; (2) Dr. V. Bush, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, for his work "in the development of powerful and rapid methods of computation and the solution of equations through the invention of automatic apparatus".

ON December 22, the French Minister of Public Health inaugurated the new laboratories of the Pasteur Institute at Garches near Paris where Pasteur made his studies on rabies in 1884.

THE King has commanded that the recently founded British College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists shall be known as the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

THE Royal Sanitary Institute will hold its Annual Congress at Scarborough on July 3-8 under the presidency of the Earl of Harewood. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of the Institute, 90 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1.

THE sixth Biennial Congress of the International Hospitals Association will be held at Toronto next September. Further information can be obtained from the Secretaries of the Association, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1.

THE Mary Putnam Jacobi fellowship of 1000 dollars is offered to a woman graduate of an approved medical school for post-graduate work in the medical sciences. If the appointed fellow is not resident in the United States, she should preferably undertake work there. Applications should be sent to the Secretary of the Fellowship Committee, Dr. Phebe L.-DuBois, 150 East 73rd Street, New York City, before April 1.

THE German Society for Balneology and Climatology will hold its annual meeting at Vienna on March 23-26, when the following subjects, among others, will be discussed: meteorological and physical report; medical report, importance of high mountain climate in treatment of tuberculosis and asthma; physiology of sport in high mountains; drinking wells and artificial salts; natural and artificial mud baths; and artificial climate. Further information can be obtained from Die Reichsanstalt für das deutsche Bädewesen, Fürstenstrasse 124, Breslau 16.

THE annual mortality from malaria in India averages 2,000,000, an exceedingly high figure even in a population of more than 300,000,000, 30 per cent of whom suffer from the disease. Two thirds of the malaria-stricken in India have no quinine.

ERRATUM.—In NATURE of January 7, p. 23, "A Rapid Visual Test for Vitamin A Deficiency", para. 4, last sentence, for "hæmeralopia" read "hemeralopia".