

England-Cape Town Flight

MR. ALEX HENSHAW had made a new record for the round flight between Gravesend and Cape Town when he returned to Gravesend at 1.51 p.m. on February 9. The total journey of nearly 12,000 miles was made in 4 days 10 hours 16 minutes, thus improving by 1 day 6 hours 44 minutes on the previous record set up by Mr. A. E. Clouston and Mrs. Kirby Green. The Percival Mew Gull aeroplane showed no serious signs of damage and the 200-h.p. Gipsy Six engine was still in good condition at the end of the flight. The times for the journey out and that for the return flight, namely, both about thirty-nine hours, are also records.

Vienna Academy of Sciences: Prize Awards

THE following awards have recently been made by the Academy of Sciences in Vienna: Haitinger prize for physics to Dr. H. Haberlandt, for his work on the luminescence of fluorites and other minerals; Rudolf Wegscheider prize for chemistry to Dr. R. Kuhn, for his work on lactoflavine; Fritz Pregl prize for microchemistry to Dr. F. Hecht, for his work on microchemical analysis, particularly of thorium, monazite and uranium minerals; Hansgiring prize for astronomy to Dr. M. Beyer, for his work on the photometry of stars, and in particular for his work on variable stars.

Announcements

THE James Scott Prize (1938) of the Royal Society of Edinburgh was presented to Prof. P. A. M. Dirac, at the ordinary meeting of the Society held on February 6, when he delivered an address entitled "The Relation between Mathematics and Physics".

THE James Alfred Ewing Medal of the Institution of Civil Engineers has been awarded to Prof. A. H. Gibson, professor of engineering in the University of Manchester. This Medal was founded in 1936 in memory of the late Sir Alfred Ewing, and is awarded to a person, whether a member of the Institution or not, for specially meritorious contributions to the science of engineering in the field of research.

PROF. F. G. DONNAN has been elected president of the Association of Scientific Workers, in succession to Sir F. Gowland Hopkins, whose term of office has recently ended.

DR. FABIVS GROSS, lecturer in experimental zoology in the University of Edinburgh, has been elected the first holder of the Jacobsson fellowship for research in the new Oceanografiska Institutet of Göteborg, Sweden. The research is in connexion with the inauguration of a new plankton-well, in which the life-histories of plankton may be studied in conditions resembling as closely as possible those in the sea. The University has granted Dr. Gross leave of absence to cover the period of the investigation.

PROF. ADOLF WINDAUS has been awarded the Pasteur Medal for his lectures in Paris on the investigation of vitamins.

SIXTEEN more names have been added to the memorial erected by the German Röntgen Society in commemoration of those roentgenologists and radiologists who sacrificed their lives to science.

M. BERNARD LYOT, who has been awarded the Gold Medal for 1939 of the Royal Astronomical Society, will deliver the George Darwin Lecture at the ordinary meeting of the Society on May 12. The lecture will be illustrated by a film showing the motion of matter in solar prominences and by photographs of the solar corona in the absence of a total eclipse.

At a meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society held on February 10, the following officers were elected: *President*, Prof. H. C. Plummer; *Vice-Presidents*, Prof. S. Chapman, Mr. W. M. H. Greaves, Dr. H. Spencer Jones and Prof. F. J. M. Stratton; *Treasurer*, Mr. J. H. Reynolds; *Secretaries*, Prof. H. H. Plaskett and Mr. D. H. Sadler; *Foreign Secretary*, Sir Arthur Eddington.

THE Division for the Social and International Relations of Science of the British Association is holding a meeting at the University of Reading on March 28 to consider "Milk in its Nutritional Aspects". Further information will shortly be obtainable from the Secretary, British Association, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

THE annual general meeting of the Association of Technical Institutions will be held in London on February 24-25. Three discussions will be held, namely, (1) on the Report of the Consultative Committee; (2) on the Report on Libraries in Technical Institutions; (3) on the Report on Psychological Tests. Further information can be obtained from Dr. H. Schofield, Loughborough College, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

THE Minister of Health has approved an order made by Slough Town Council under the Town and Country Planning Act, 1932, for the preservation of Observatory House, Slough, the residence of Sir William Herschel, where he set up his famous 40-ft. telescope, and also of his son, Sir John Herschel.

THE fifth Elihu Root Lecture entitled "Cultural Contacts of Science" delivered by Sir Richard Gregory on December 8, in the Elihu Root Hall of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, extracts from which were printed in NATURE of December 19, p. 1059, has now been issued in book form. The Elihu Root Lectures were founded to deal with the influence of science and research on current thought. Copies may be obtained from the Carnegie Institution of Washington, Washington, D.C.

It was stated in the report received from the British Museum (Natural History) that the diamond presented by Sir Ernest Oppenheimer to the Museum was the first to be taken from the Kimberley diamond mines (NATURE, Feb. 4, p. 195). We are informed that this is incorrect. The stone came from the Jagersfontein mine in the Orange Free State.