

the medieval and later economic and social life of the city and surrounding country in agriculture, trades—Gloucester is famous for its early iron-working—and the home. A special exhibit arranged for the jubilee conference of the Museums Association at Cheltenham in July had as its most prominent exhibit a selection of the local horn industry, which has existed in Gloucester since medieval times and still survives in one small factory.

Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science

THE annual report of the Committee of Management of the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science for the year 1938 records a membership of 128 at the end of the year (Calcutta: Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, 1939). Financial stringency has limited the purchase of reference books and periodicals for the library and also that of scientific apparatus, and for the same reason the Government of India has been unable to restore the ten per cent cut in the annual grant of 20,000 rupees for the year 1938-39. Appendixes include lists of periodicals available in the library and of books purchased as well as an account of research work carried out in the laboratories of the Association. An arrangement has been devised for magnetic measurements, at low temperatures in the range obtainable with liquid air, on typical paramagnetic salts of the rare earth and the iron group. Magnetic measurements on rhodochrosite, MnCO_3 , indicate that this crystal should prove a more suitable substance than the hydrated sulphates and selenates of manganese for use as the medium for the production of very low temperatures by the demagnetization method. Other studies have included the magnetic anisotropy of hydrated gadolinium sulphate, crystalline fields in rare earth salts, magnetic studies in relation to valency problems and to crystal structure, magnetic studies on organic crystals of the aromatic class, and optical studies of the chrysene molecule. Other work has been concerned with the absorption spectra of arsenic and antimony sulphides and of the sulphur molecule.

Adult Education in Household Science

HOME-LIFE problems have become, under the impact of social and economic changes, increasingly complex and baffling, and among expedients employed in the United States for coping with the situation is the promotion of adult classes for home economics. Such classes are becoming increasingly important, and the Office of Education has issued a stimulating and helpful guide entitled "Homemaking Education Programs for Adults" (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office. Pp. 126. 15 cents). A detailed discussion of principles and methods of instruction appropriate for communities of different types and the preparation of teachers and leaders is followed by illustrations drawn from various parts of the United States. As an example of the scope of the work of the classes, here is a list of headings taken from a Kansas leaflet for use by itinerant teachers: food for the family,

clothing, child-care and development, home-management, care of the sick, shopping, home-planning and furnishing, hospitality in the home. The extent and character of the existing provision for such classes vary widely in different parts of the country, but the discussion reveals the existence of an increasing emphasis in American theory and practice on the necessity for "the extension of educational activities beyond the confines of the school building into the community", involving acceptance by the public educational authorities of responsibility for provision of nursery schools and adult classes. The bulletin contains much that should interest household science schools, organizers of adult education and women's institutes.

Health Organisation of the League of Nations

THE annual report of the Health Organisation is contained in its recently issued *Bulletin* (8, Nos. 1-2, Allen and Unwin, Museum Street, W.C.1. 5s.). Prevention and treatment of malaria, cancer, leprosy, nutrition, housing and physical education, biological standardization and drug traffic are some of the subjects that are covered by the activities of the League's Health Organisation. A considerable report on rural housing and planning is contributed by M. Vignerot (France). The last article, of 260 pages, is a survey by Dr. Waleh-Sorgdrager of Leptospiroses, diseases of man and animals caused by infection with minute spirilliform micro-organisms, which include infectious jaundice or Weil's disease of man and infectious jaundice of dogs. A recently differentiated epidemic disease of man, 'mud fever', is fully described. It occurs in regions of the Danube, Elbe and Oder which are liable to floods, though is not necessarily connected with flooded districts, and is caused by a species of *Leptospira*, *L. grippotyphosa*. The disease is an acute and severe febrile condition, but is never fatal. The natural habitat of this microbe is uncertain, as is also the problem of transmission to man. A bibliography of 70 pages completes this important article. A review designed to show how the Health Organisation functions, entitled "World Health and the League", is also issued by the League (Messrs. Allen and Unwin. 6d.).

Birth Customs in East Anglia

IN the June issue of *Folk-Lore*, Miss Barbara Newman and Mr. Leslie Newman record the result of a questionnaire sent to a large number of nurses in Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire for information on husband's 'labour pains' and husband's pains other than labour, such as sympathetic morning sickness and toothache, the use of herbal remedies to ensure easy labour or to quicken labour, and customs connected with the placenta, umbilical cord and caul. Nearly all the midwives agreed that 'husband's pains' were quite usual. In one case a medical man had himself suffered therefrom, and had no doubt that in cases which had come under his observation the pains were both genuine and severe. As regards the prevalence of 'husband's toothache', it was reported that at a town council

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