

## SCIENCE NEWS A CENTURY AGO

## Propagation of Heat in Liquids

On September 14, 1839, the *Athenæum* said: "The experiment of M. Despretz concerning the propagation of heat in liquids has been attended with the most satisfactory results. From these it appears that a liquid column being heated at the upper part, the heat is propagated according to the same laws as those belonging to solid bodies; that the temperature decreases from the axis to the surface, and from the surface to the wall of the side. The depth to which solar heat penetrates in a given time may be easily calculated by these data in large lakes and isolated seas". The French physicist César Mansuète Despretz, well-known for his studies of heat, was born in 1792 and died on March 15, 1863.

## Scientific Gossip

On the same page in the *Athenæum* as the above note appeared, was a column of 'Weekly Gossip' in which it was said: "The prevailing quiet at home has induced us to hunt over the foreign papers and journals, in the hope that something might be thence gleaned, but all seem subject to the same summer influences. It may be well, however, to remind our scientific friends that . . . the Italian savants are to assemble at Pisa in October; that the French Geologists meet in the same month; and that the German Naturalists meet this year at Pyrmont. An account appears in the *Nördische Blätter* of an immense landslip at Federowka, a village situated on the Volga . . . The motion of the ground continued with more or less violence, for nearly three days, and seventy houses were either wholly or partially destroyed. . . . On one side of the village rise high hills, the upper strata of which are of limestone, but the lower of various kinds of clay, while on the opposite side it is washed by the Volga, which is here hemmed into a narrow bed; and the waters thus confined are supposed to have forced a passage between the stony and alluvial beds.

## Proposed Society for Practical Mechanics and Chemistry

The *Mechanic and Chemist* of September 14, 1839, published a note from "Tyro Chemicus" saying: "The increasing desire which the middle classes evince for information in every department of science, particularly those branches in which mechanics and chemistry form a part, shows the immediate necessity of all students in the above branches of science combining together and forming themselves into a society in which practical mechanics and chemistry are exclusively studied, and affording them benefits which the Mechanics' Institution and other similar institutions have denied them; for although they may be called mechanics' institutions, etc., yet no person will attempt to deny that practical mechanics is in most of them totally excluded. . . ." The same remark applied to practical chemistry, and the Editor of the *Mechanic and Chemist* in recommending the proposal said: "Another important advantage derived from a society of this description is the reciprocal instruction resulting from the intercourse of the numbers. Many difficulties may arise to a practical man which would sooner and more satisfactorily be disposed of by a jury of workmen, than by all the erudition of the Royal Society".

## APPOINTMENTS VACANT

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments on or before the dates mentioned:

AGRICULTURAL CHEMIST at the School of Agriculture, Houghall, Durham—The Director of Agriculture, 23 Old Elvet, Durham (September 14).

TEACHER OF MINING SUBJECTS in the Whitwood Mining and Technical Institute—The Secretary to the Managers, Education Office, Castleford, Yorks (September 15).

RESEARCH ASSISTANT IN PHYSICS—The Registrar, University, Leeds 2 (September 20).

PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY—The Registrar, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India (October 31).

PROFESSOR OF BIOCHEMISTRY—The Registrar, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India—(October 31).

ASSISTANT for the Department of the Advisory Economist—The Secretary and Bursar, Seale-Hayne Agricultural College, Newton Abbot, Devon.

## REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

## Great Britain and Ireland

Sir John Cass Technical Institute. Calendar, Session 1939-1940. Pp. 146. (London: Sir John Cass Technical Institute.) [228]

The Absolute Colorimetric Analysis of Metals by the use of the Pulfrich Photometer: Directions for Absolute Colorimetric Analyses of Iron, Steel and Light Alloys. Pp. 103. (London: Carl Zeiss, Ltd.) [223]

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series A: Mathematical and Physical Sciences. Vol. 233, No. 789: The Specific Heat of Gases at High Temperatures. By R. W. Fenning and A. C. Whiffn. Pp. 149-223+1 plate. 9s. Vol. 233, No. 790: Self-Consistent Field, including Exchange and Superposition of Configurations, with some Results for Oxygen. By D. R. Hartree, W. Hartree and Bertha Swirles. Pp. 229-248. 2s. 6d. Series B: Biological Sciences. Vol. 230, No. 565: Reproduction in the Spotted Hyena, *Crocuta crocuta* (Erleben). By L. Harrison Matthews. Pp. 73+14 plates. 24s. Vol. 230, No. 566: The Protobranchiate Mollusca, a Functional Interpretation of their Structure and Evolution. By Dr. C. M. Yonge. Pp. 79-147+plate 15. 12s. Vol. 230, No. 567: The Distribution of Anthocyanins in Flowers, Fruits and Leaves. By William John Cooper Lawrence, James Robert Price, Mrs. Gertrude Maud Robinson and Robert Robinson. Pp. 149-178. Vol. 230, No. 568: Evidence on Spiral Structure and Chromosome Pairing in *Osmunda regalis* L. By Dr. Irene Manton. Pp. 179-215+plates 16-19. 11s. (London: Cambridge University Press.) [223]

Air Ministry. Production of Civil Aeroplanes: Report of a Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for Air. (Cmd. 6038.) Pp. 18. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 4d. net. [248]

Economic Advisory Council: Committee on Nutrition in the Colonial Empire. First Report, Part 1: Nutrition in the Colonial Empire. (Cmd. 6050.) Pp. 310. 3s. net. First Report, Part 2: Summary of Information regarding Nutrition in the Colonial Empire. (Cmd. 6051.) Pp. iv+146. 2s. 6d. net. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) [248]

## Other Countries

Report on Some Problems of Personnel in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. By a Special Committee appointed by the President of Harvard University. Pp. xxiv+166. (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University.) [228]

University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology. Vol. 35, No. 7: Contributions to Alsea Ethnography. By Philip Brucker. Pp. iii+81-102. 25 cents; 1s. 3d. net. Vol. 36, No. 5: Ethnographic Notes on the Washo. By Robert H. Lowie. Pp. iii+301-352. 50 cents; 2s. 6d. net. Vol. 36, No. 6: Pomo Geography. By Fred B. Kniffen. Pp. iv+353-400+plates 5-7. 50 cents; 2s. 6d. net. (Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press; London: Cambridge University Press.) [239]

Anthropological Records. Vol. 1, No. 5: Culture Element Distributions, 9: Gulf of Georgia Salish. By H. G. Barnett. Pp. iv+221-296. 75 cents; 4s. net. Vol. 1, No. 6: Culture Element Distributions, 10: Northwest California. By Harold E. Driver. Pp. vi+297-434. 1.25 dollars; 6s. 6d. net. Vol. 2, No. 3: The Northern Paiute Bands. By Omer C Stewart. Pp. iv+127-150. 25 cents; 1s. 3d. net. (Berkeley, Calif.: University of California Press; London: Cambridge University Press.) [238]

## Catalogues, etc.

Zeiss Nachrichten. 2 Folge, Heft 9, Januar 1939. Pp. 307-354. (Jena and London: Carl Zeiss.)

Priced Catalogue of B.D.H. Laboratory Chemicals and Testing Outfits. Pp. vi+222. (London: The British Drug Houses, Ltd.)

Philips Technical Review. Vol. 4, No. 7, July 1939. Pp. 181-212. (London: Philips Lamps, Ltd.)

Bollettino delle Opere scientifiche—Medicina. Pp. 50. (Bologna: Libreria L. Cappelli.)

Precision Instruments by Kipp and Zonen. (Kip. 3.) Pp. 4. (London: W. Edwards and Co.)