

## SCIENCE NEWS A CENTURY AGO

## Travels of Schomburgk and Gould

In its column of "Weekly Gossip" the *Athenæum* of October 5, 1839, referred to the naturalists Robert Schomburgk and John Gould.

Of the former the journal said: "We have also the pleasure to announce the arrival in London, after an absence of twelve years from Europe, of Mr. Robert Schomburgk, who, during the last four years has been engaged exploring in the colony of British Guiana under the auspices of the Geographical Society, in the course of which time he has twice ascended the Essequibo, and explored that river to its sources, about 40 miles north of the equator; he has also examined the Berbice and Coventry rivers. . . . During his last journey, on which he was absent about two years in the interior, the traveller crossed the frontier to Fort San Joaquim in the Brazils, and ascended the Caruman mountains; thence returning to Pirára, he journeyed in a north-west direction to Roraima, a remarkable flat-topped sandstone mountain, rising 7,000 feet above the sea; and by a westerly course to Esmeralda, on the Orinoco, thereby connecting his labours with those of Baron Humboldt in the year 1800, and materially changing the position of the sources of that river as laid down in all our maps. Thence descending by the natural canal of the Cassiquiare to San Carlos, he embarked on the Rio Negro and followed its downward course as far as Moura, from which place he ascended the Rio Branco to San Joaquim thus completing a circle of upwards of 2,000 miles, a great part of which was through a country hitherto almost unknown. . . ."

Mr. (afterwards Sir) Robert Hermann Schomburgk was of German birth, being born in Prussia, June 5, 1804. After his explorations in the West Indies and British Guiana, he was appointed Government Commissioner for surveying and making the boundaries of British Guiana establishing the 'Schomburgk line'. Afterwards he was British Consul at San Domingo and at Bangkok. He died at Schönberg, near Berlin, on March 11, 1865.

Of the naturalist John Gould the *Athenæum* said: "Mr. Gould, another of our enterprising naturalists, gone on a scientific pilgrimage to the very antipodes, and whose proceedings and success we have from time to time been enabled to announce to our readers, has, according to accounts just received, left Van Diemens Land for Southern Australia. He had already collected about 800 specimens of birds, 70 of quadrupeds (several of which are new), more than 100 specimens preserved whole in spirits for dissection, and the nests and eggs of above 70 species of birds, together with skeletons of all the principal forms".

Born at Lyme Regis on September 14, 1804, Gould as a boy lived with his uncle at the royal gardens at Windsor. In 1827 he became taxidermist to the Zoological Society and during the years 1831-37 published works on the birds of the Himalayas and of Europe, the drawings for which were made by his wife, who in 1838 accompanied her husband to Australia, where she died. Gould returned to England in 1840 and afterwards published "The Birds of Australia", "The Mammals of Australia", "A Handbook of Birds of Australia" and "The Birds of Great Britain". He was elected F.R.S. in 1843 and died in London on February 3, 1881.

## REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

## Great Britain and Ireland

- The Archaeology of the Channel Islands. Vol. 2: The Bailiwick of Jersey. By Jacquetta Hawkes. Pp. xvii+320+12 plates. (Jersey: Société Jersiaise.) 25s. net. [59]  
 Imperial Bureau of Animal Breeding and Genetics. Bibliography on the Genetics of *Drosophila*. By H. J. Muller. Pp. 132. (Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd.) 5s. [149]  
 Twentieth Annual Report of the Ministry of Health, 1938-39. (Cmd. 6089.) Pp. xi+312. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 5s. net. [159]

## Other Countries

- India Meteorological Department. Scientific Notes, Vol. 7, No. 80: Normal Monthly Percentage Frequencies of Surface and Upper Wind. (Afternoon) up to 3 km. in India, Burma and Persian Gulf. Pp. 149-232. (Delhi: Manager of Publications.) 3-6 rupees; 5s. fd. [19]  
 U.S. Department of the Interior: Office of Education. Vocational Division Leaflet No. 6: Instruction in Poultry in Secondary Schools. Pp. iv+18. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) 5 cents. [49]  
 Southern Rhodesia. Report of Commission to enquire into the Preservation, etc., of the Natural Resources of the Colony. Pp. ii+76+8 plates. (Salisbury: Government Stationery Office.) [49]  
 Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt: Technical and Scientific Service. Bulletin No. 193: The Control of Mole-Crickets with Barium Fluosilicate. By A. Kassab. Pp. ii+13+9 plates. P.T. 4. Bulletin No. 217: Nematode Disease of Stone-Fruits. By Dr. Amin Fikry. Pp. ii+9+21 plates. Mills. 35. Bulletin No. 229: Dibble-Sowing of Cotton—Methods, Effects and Profits. By David S. Gracie and Dr. W. Lawrence Balls. Pp. ii+49+16 plates. P.T. 6. (Cairo: Government Press.) [49]  
 Southern Rhodesia. Meteorological Report for the Year ended 30th June 1938. (Salisbury: Government Stationery Office.) [49]  
 Carnegie Institution of Washington. Publication 512: The Volcano-Seismic Crisis at Montserrat 1933-1937. By Frank A. Perrct. Pp. xii+76. (Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Institution.) [59]  
 The Bunas of Bengal. By Minendra Nath Basu. (Reprinted from the Journal of the Department of Letters, Vol. 32.) Pp. viii+120+23 plates. (Calcutta: Calcutta University Press.) [59]  
 Indian Forest Records. Silviculture, Vol. 3, No. 7: A Note on the Control and Eradication of New Outbreaks of the Spike Disease of Sandal (*Santalum album*). By Rao Sahib S. Rangaswami and A. L. Griffith. Pp. v+203-290+6 plates. (Delhi: Manager of Publications.) 1-6 rupees; 2s. [59]  
 Rubber Research Institute of Malaya. Planting Manual No. 8: Bud-Grafting; Practical Instructions for Bud-Grafting Rubber Trees. Pp. 61. (Kuala Lumpur: Rubber Research Institute of Malaya.) 50 cents. [59]  
 Government of India Industrial Research Bureau. Report for the Year 1938-39. Pp. v+47. (Delhi: Manager of Publications.) 1-6 rupees; 2s. [59]  
 Indian Central Cotton Committee: Technological Laboratory. Technological Bulletin, Series A, No. 48: Empirical Relationships between Count, Twist and Strength of Cotton Yarns. Part 1: Count—Single Thread Strength; Part 2: Twist—Strength. By Dr. Nazir Ahmad and V. Venkataraman. Pp. ii+29. (Bombay: Indian Central Cotton Committee.) 1 rupee. [59]  
 Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections. Vol. 98, No. 22: Birds from Clipperton Island collected on the Presidential Cruise of 1938. By Alexander Wetmore. (Publication 3548.) Pp. ii+6. (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution.) [79]  
 Transactions of the Academy of Science of St. Louis. Vol. 30, No. 1: Springtails (Collembola) of the St. Louis Area. By Elmer D. Becker. Pp. 32. 35 cents. Vol. 30, No. 2: Analyzing and Mapping Natural Landscape Factors of the Ozark Province. By Arthur B. Cozzens. Pp. 33-64. (St. Louis, Mo.: Academy of Science of St. Louis.) [79]  
 A Report on the Work of the Archaeological Survey of India. By Sir Leonard Woolley. Pp. ii+47. (Simla: Department of Education, Health and Lands.) [119]  
 Madras Fisheries Department. Administration Report for the Year 1937-38. By Diwan Bahadur Dr. B. Sundara Raj. Pp. iii+78+3. (Madras: Government Press.) 8 annas. [129]  
 Koninklijk Nederlandsch Meteorologisch Instituut. Mededeelingen en Verhandelingen, 42: Het Klimaat van Nederland (The Climate of the Netherlands). H: Mist (Fog). Door Dr. C. Braak. Pp. 49. ('s-Gravenhage: Rijksuitgeverij.) 0.40 f. [129]  
 Nigeria. Annual Report on the Geological Survey Department for the Year 1938. Pp. 18. (Lagos: Government Printer; London: Crown Agents for the Colonies.) 1s. 6d. [159]

## Catalogues

- Bollettino delle Opere scientifiche. Anno 22, N. 2: Medicina. Pp. 32. (Bologna: L. Cappelli.)  
 Rotary Pumps for the Production of High Vacua. (Rot. 3.) Pp. 12. (London: W. Edwards and Co.)  
 A Catalogue of Books selected from the Stock of Bernard Quaritch Ltd. (No. 566.) Pp. 112. (London: Bernard Quaritch, Ltd.)