

well satisfied with this first trial, for there were so many faults of construction and want of insulation in the machines and battery, which could not be repaired on the spot, that I was terribly annoyed. All these repairs and important changes being accomplished, the experiments will shortly be commenced. The experience of the past year, combined with the improvements of the battery, give as the result, that to obtain the force of one horse (steam-engine estimation) it will require a battery of 20 square feet of platina distributed in a convenient manner, but I hope that from 8 to 10 square feet will produce the effect. If heaven preserves my health, which is a little affected by continual labours, I hope that within a year of this time I shall have equipped an electro-magnetic vessel of from 40 to 50 horse-power."

The author of these experiments, the first made on electric propulsion, was Moritz Herman von Jacobi (1801-1875), who for many years was a professor at St. Petersburg.

Medical School at Athens

THE issue of the *London Medical Gazette* of October 12, 1839, contains the following information: "An attempt is making at Athens, the present capital of the modern Greek Empire, to organize a medical school, by several well-educated and respectable Bavarian physicians and surgeons, who are attached to the Court, and whom King Otho has induced to settle in his country. . . . They had from nine to twelve pupils, natives of the country, who were lectured to by a German in the modern Greek language; the professors, from a residence of several years in the country, being able to impart instruction to their pupils in their native tongue. Although it is the merest beginning of a medical school, it is nevertheless praiseworthy and honourable in its present founders, and may be the germ of an institution which shall move onward hand in hand with the regeneration of poor fallen Greece. . . . Athens possesses at this moment a most excellent military hospital, arranged upon the modern European plan, capable of containing very comfortably several hundred patients. Also a highly respectable and well-arranged cabinet of Natural History."

Subterranean Forest

THE *Gentleman's Magazine* for October 1839 contains the following information: "The capacious bonding pond, which is now being excavated at South Stockton, has led to the discovery of an extensive subterranean forest. The timber is chiefly oak. A yew tree, of considerable size, has been found, the wood of which is sound and good and fit for the turner's lathe. Many of the oaks are of large dimensions, and it is expected that some of them will be suitable for the purpose of building. Whilst examining this forest, Dr. Young of Whitby, with some friends discovered one of the oaks to have been cut in two, which had evidently been done previous to its being covered by the earth. He supposes the forest must have been cut down by the Roman soldiers, as they were in the habit of laying timber on the low swampy grounds for the purpose of making roads. Be this as it may, it is certain the hand of man has been exercised on the timber, and it may form a fertile subject for the lover of ancient history and the geologist to speculate on."

APPOINTMENTS VACANT

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

ASSISTANT I (reference B.401) and ASSISTANT II (reference B.402) at Air Ministry Headquarters—The Under Secretary of State, Air Ministry, Department ZA (B/127), Harrogate, Yorks (October 13).

COMMISSIONED ORDNANCE MECHANICAL ENGINEERS in the Indian Army Ordnance Corps—The Secretary, Military Department, India Office, S.W.1 (quoting O.M.E. Recruitment) (October 17).

ASSISTANT ENGINEER for the Drainage and Irrigation Department, Malaya—The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4 Millbank, S.W.1 quoting M/5765).

METEOROLOGICAL ASSISTANTS (Male) in the Meteorological Office—The Under-Secretary of State, S.2.B.(Met.), Department Q.J., Air Ministry, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

Great Britain and Ireland

Report on the Fish and Fisheries of Lake Rukwa in Tanganyika Territory and the Bangweulu Region in Northern Rhodesia. By C. K. Ricardo. (Published on behalf of the Governments of Tanganyika Territory and Northern Rhodesia.) Pp. 78. (London: Crown Agents for the Colonies.) 6s. [159]

University of Manchester: Faculty of Technology. Prospectus of University Courses in the Municipal College of Technology, Manchester, Session 1939-40. Pp. 418. (Manchester: Municipal College of Technology.) [189]

Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Session 1938-1939. Vol. 59, Part 2, No. 18: Tests of Significance of the Differences between Regression Coefficients derived from Two Sets of Correlated Variates. By Dr. F. Yates. Pp. 184-194. 1s. Vol. 59, Part 2, No. 19: On the Reciprocation of Certain Matrices. By A. R. Collar. Pp. 195-206. 1s. Vol. 59, Part 2, No. 20: Studies on Reproduction in the Albino Mouse. 3: The Duration of Life of Spermatozoa in the Female Reproductive Tract. By Hugo Merton. Pp. 207-218. 1s. Vol. 59, Part 2, No. 21: Reciprocity and the Number 137, Part 1. By Prof. Max Born. Pp. 219-223. 6d. (Edinburgh: Robert Grant and Son, Ltd.; London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd.) [189]

Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Vol. 59, Part 3, No. 29: An Early *Diclyconus*, and the Genus *Orbitolina*: their Contemporaneity, Structural Distinction, and Respective Natural Allies. By Lt.-Col. L. M. Davies. Pp. 773-790+2 plates. (Edinburgh: Robert Grant and Son, Ltd.; London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd.) 3s. [189]

Other Countries

Proceedings of the United States National Museum. Vol. 86, No. 3065: Neotropical Flies of the Family Stratomyidae in the United States National Museum. By Maurice T. James. Pp. 695-698. Vol. 87, No. 3066: Ceratopsian Dinosaurs from the Two Medicine Formation, Upper Cretaceous of Montana. By Charles W. Gilmore. Pp. 18. Vol. 87, No. 3067: Two New Parasitic Isopods from the Eastern Coast of North America. By A. S. Pearce and Henry A. Walker. Pp. 19-24. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) [189]

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections. Vol. 98, No. 20: The Helt Township (Indiana) Meteorite. By Stuart H. Perry. (Publication 3546.) Pp. ii+7+9 plates. (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution.) [189]

Advisory Committee on Education. Staff Study No. 10: The Land-Grant Colleges. By George A. Works and Barton Morgan. Pp. ix+141. 25 cents. Staff Study No. 18: Educational Service for Indians. By Lloyd E. Blauch. Pp. xii+137. 25 cents. Staff Study No. 19: Research in the United States Office of Education. By Charles H. Judd. Pp. viii+133. 20 cents. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) [189]

U.S. Department of the Interior: Office of Education. Vocational Division Bulletin No. 196 (Agricultural Series No. 52): Farm Forestry; Timber Farming including Woods Management and Forest Tree Planting. By W. A. Ross and W. R. Mattoon. Pp. vi+63. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) 15 cents. [189]

Transactions of the San Diego Society of Natural History. Vol. 9, No. 10: The Holotype of *Barbatia (Acar) gradata* (Broderip and Sowerby). By Philip W. Reinhart. Pp. 39-46+plate 3. Vol. 9, No. 11: The Silky Pocket Mice of Southern California and Northern Lower California, Mexico, with the Description of a New Race. By Laurence M. Huey. Pp. 47-54. Vol. 9, No. 12: A New Silky Pocket Mouse from Southwestern Utah. By Laurence M. Huey. Pp. 55-56. Vol. 9, No. 13: A New *Perognathus arenarius* from near the U.S.-Mexican Boundary in Lower California. By Laurence M. Huey. Pp. 57-58. Vol. 9, No. 14: Three New Worm Snakes of the Genus *Leptotyphlops*. By Laurence M. Klauber. Pp. 59-66. (San Diego, Calif.: San Diego Society of Natural History.) [189]

Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History. Vol. 76, Art. 4: On the Anatomy and Evolution of the Locomotor Apparatus of the Nipple-tailed Ocean Sunfish (*Masturus lanceolatus*). By Henry C. Raven. Pp. 143-150. (New York: American Museum of Natural History.) [189]