

## The Fossil Fishes of the Yorkshire Coalfields

ON November 20, 1839, the naturalist William Crawford Williamson (1816-95) contributed to the Geological Society a paper "On the Fossil Fishes of the Yorkshire and Lancashire Coal Fields". Within the previous four years the Coal Measures of these counties had assumed a zoological importance which hitherto they had not been supposed to possess. In Lancashire ichthyolites had been lately found to pervade the whole of the series from the Ardwick limestone to the millstone grit, and in Yorkshire they had also been found in abundance. These remains, except in the case of the Ardwick limestone, always occurred in highly bituminous shale and were most abundant where plants were least numerous. The fishes were found chiefly in the roof of the coal, rarely in the seam itself, and not often in its floor. The author made some observations on the manner in which ichthyolites were associated with other fossils in the Coal Measures. At Burdichouse they occurred in the midst of fresh-water shells and Cypris; at Coalbrook Dale with marine Testacea; at Middleton, near Leeds, with Lingula; and at the top of the series in Lancashire and Derbyshire with Mytili and Melanice. When he read this paper, Williamson was a medical student; in 1851 he became first professor of natural history, anatomy and physiology at Owens College, Manchester. He was Wollaston medallist in 1890.

## Roman Causeway

"SOME works for improving the channel of the Scheldt", according to the *Gentleman's Magazine* of November, 1839, "have occasioned several extensive cuttings across the old Roman causeway called La Chaussée de Brabant de Brunehaut, which connects in a straight line the towns of Bavay and Tournay. These cuttings took place on the spot described in the Itinerary of Antoninus as the Pons Scaldis. In the course of the works there have been discovered on various points remains of constructions, and large quantities of material which indicate the site of a town or large village; and it appears that in this locality several bridges have been thrown over the Scheldt. This discovery shows that the point given by antiquaries as Pons Scaldis was not merely a bridge over the Scheldt, but a Roman station which was probably fortified."

## Royal Botanic Society

THE issue of the *Gentleman's Magazine* of November 1839 contains the following information: "A charter of incorporation has just been granted to this Society, for the promotion of botany in all its branches, and its application to medicine, arts, and manufactures, and also for the formation of extensive botanical and ornamental gardens within the vicinity of the metropolis'. The Charter appoints the Duke of Richmond as the first president, Mr. Marjoribanks the first treasurer, and the Duke of Norfolk, the Earl of Albemarle, Mr. Rushbrook, Philip Barnes and James de Carle Sowerby Esqs. the first councillors. The organization is similar to that of other scientific societies, and meetings for the discussion of scientific subjects will be held periodically. The anniversary meeting is assigned by the charter for the first of January. Steps are in active progress for the completion of the gardens in Regent's Park, in which exhibitions will be held in the approaching season."

## APPOINTMENTS VACANT

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

LECTURER in the Mining Department—The Principal, Technical College, Sunderland (November 25).

SENIOR LIBRARIAN of the University of Cape Town—The Secretary, Office of the High Commissioner for the Union of South Africa, Trafalgar Square, W.C.2 (December 31).

## REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

## Great Britain and Ireland

The British Academy. Presidential Address, 12 July 1939, by Sir David Ross. (From the *Proceedings of the British Academy*, Vol. 25.) Pp. 8. (London: Oxford University Press.) 6d. net. [2510]

Borough of Falmouth Public Library. Descriptive Catalogue of the Paintings and Engravings in the Maritime and General Art Collections. Pp. 23. (Falmouth: Public Library.) 2d. [2510]

## Other Countries

Commonwealth of Australia: Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Bulletin No. 129: Investigations on Chilled Beef. Part 2: Cooling and Storage in the Meatworks. By W. J. Scott and Dr. J. R. Vickery. Pp. 63. (Melbourne: Government Printer.) [2310]

Indian Forest Records (New Series). Botany, Vol. 1, No. 5: Recently Introduced or Otherwise Imperfectly Known Plants from the Upper Gangetic Plain. By Mukat Behari Raizada. Pp. vi+223-236. 12 annas; 1s. Entomology, Vol. 5, No. 3: New Species and Biology of *Coccotyptes* and *Thamnurgides* (Scolytidae, Col.). By C. F. C. Beeson. Pp. ii+279-303. 10 annas; 1s. (Delhi: Manager of Publications.) [2310]

Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt: Technical and Scientific Service. Bulletin No. 186: The Pomegranate Fruit Butterfly *Virachola livia* Klug; Morphology, Life-History and Control. By Dr. A. D. Hanna. Pp. ii+54+40 plates. P.T. 10. Bulletin No. 196: Further Tonnage Tests of Imported Sugar Cane Varieties. By Arthur H. Rosenfeld. Pp. 10+2 plates. Mills. 15. Bulletin No. 203: Manurial Requirements of Sugar Cane in Egypt. 3: Further Rate of Nitrogen Experiments. By Arthur H. Rosenfeld. Pp. ii+24+5 plates. Mills. 35. Bulletin No. 209: Some Mealy Bugs of Egypt and Experiments on their Control by means of Chemicals. By M. Deshir and M. Hosny. Pp. 16. P.T. 2. Bulletin No. 216: Some Notes on the Potato Tuber Moth (*Phthorimaea operculella*, Zell.). By Rizk Attia and Bishara Mattar. Pp. ii+136. P.T. 10. Bulletin No. 223: Study and Control of Antirrhinum Rust. By Dr. Amin Fikry. Pp. ii+16+21 plates. P.T. 4. Bulletin No. 226: Pneumococcus in Camels. By Dr. Hussein Kamel. Pp. 12+4 plates. P.T. 2. Bulletin No. 235: The Cottons of Egypt. By H. A. Hancock. Pp. 24. P.T. 2. (Cairo: Government Press.) [2410]

Egyptian Government: Ministry of Public Works. Annual Report for the Year 1932-33. English Version. Part 1. Pp. 214. P.T. 50. Part 2. Pp. 438+12 plates. P.T. 100. (Cairo: Government Press.) [2410]

U.S. Department of the Interior: Office of Education. Bulletin 1939, Misc. No. 3: Education in the United States of America. Pp. 55. 15 cents. Leaflet No. 52: Know Your Modern Elementary School. By Helen K. Mackintosh. (Know Your School Series.) Pp. iii+22. 5 cents. Vocational Division Bulletin No. 198 (Business Education Series No. 11): Conference Topics for the Retail Grocery Business, Rewritten and revised by Kenneth B. Haas and B. Frank Kyker. Pp. iii+133. 20 cents. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) [2410]

Proceedings of the United States National Museum. Vol. 87, No. 3069: A Generic Revision of the Staphylinid Beetles of the Tribe Paederini. By Richard E. Blackwelder. Pp. 93-126. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) [2410]

Memoirs of the Entomological Society of Washington. No. 1: The North American Bees of the Genus *Osmia* (Hymenoptera: Apoidea). By Grace A. Sandhouse. Pp. iv+167 (11 plates). (Washington, D.C.: Entomological Society of Washington.) [2410]

U.S. Department of Commerce: National Bureau of Standards. Research Paper RP. 1221: Rate of Oxidation of Steels as determined from Interference Colors of Oxide Films. By Dunlap J. McAdam, Jr. and Glenn W. Geil. Pp. 63+124. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) 10 cents. [2410]

National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. Report No. 670: Tensile Elastic Properties of 18:8 Chromium-Nickel Steel as affected by Plastic Deformation. By D. J. McAdam, Jr. and R. W. Mebs. Pp. ii+42. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) 15 cents. [2410]

New Zealand. Thirteenth Annual Report of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Pp. 131. (Wellington: Government Printer.) 2s. 9d. [2510]

Report upon the Mining Industry of Malaya. By Sir Lewis Leigh Fermor. Pp. xv+240. (Kuala Lumpur: Government Press.) 2.50 dollars; 6s. [2610]

Royal Observatory, Hong Kong. Magnetic Results, 1938. Prepared under the direction of C. W. Jeffries. Pp. 51+2 plates. (Hong Kong: Government Printers.) 1 dollar. [2710]