

self-contained recording equipment, of British design, is now being manufactured by the Cambridge Instrument Co., Ltd.; it is anticipated that the polarograph will find still wider uses in the near future, especially in analytical and electrochemical work.

#### Petroleum

THE first number of *Petroleum*, a monthly magazine "devoted to the essential interests and needs of the petroleum industry", was published in October (Leonard Hill, Ltd., 17 Stratford Place, London, W.1. Annual subscription, 10s. post paid. Abroad, 12s. 6d.). The sponsors of this journal are to be congratulated on launching this new venture scarcely a month after the beginning of war, and on the way in which they have interpreted the Prime Minister's admonition to carry on. Naturally the outbreak of war materially upset carefully laid plans for the first number. Highly specialized articles had to be omitted and photographs discarded lest they should fall into enemy hands. Moreover, many potential contributors were called away on national service and were accordingly not in a position to submit articles. Nevertheless, in spite of these handicaps, the first number is full of interest and it may be its lack of too highly technical contributions will prove an asset in the long run. The question raised as to whether concrete or steel should be used for underground storage, the description of some lesser known uses of petroleum and the notes on petrol rationing in Great Britain and other countries, to cite a few examples, should appeal not only to petroleum technologists but equally to a far wider public.

#### Entomology in South Africa

THE appearance of volume 2 (dated October 30, 1939) of the *Journal of the Entomological Society of South Africa* will be welcomed by workers in this branch of zoology. Some seventeen papers are included within a compass of 262 pages and their great diversity of character may be gathered from the fact that they include descriptions of new Thysanoptera, a study of body temperature in *Samia cecropia* and an investigation of the chromosomes in some of the Transvaal Acrididæ. We wish every success to this new periodical and trust that it will be assured of adequate support during these critical times. The price of the volume is £2, and European readers may obtain it from N. V. Swets and Zeitlinger, Keizergracht 471, Amsterdam, Holland.

#### Books on Gardening and Botany

MESSRS. DULAU AND COMPANY, LTD., of 29 Dover Street, London, W.1, have issued a catalogue of books on botany and gardening. Several volumes of standard journals, many of which are out of print, are offered, notably *Curtis's Botanical Magazine* (1-42), the R.H.S. Daffodil Year Book for 1913-15, the first 22 volumes of the *Transactions of the Edinburgh Botanical Society*, the *Journal of Botany*, and the *Kew Bulletin*. The remainder of the list covers the better-known classics of a wide range of horticultural activities. Seventeenth-century herbals

appear to be represented mostly by later reprints, though one or two originals are also offered. A number of first editions and association books of general literary significance occupy the main part of the catalogue.

#### Centenary of Pulkovo Observatory

THE centenary of the Pulkovo Observatory, one of the oldest scientific institutions in the U.S.S.R., will be marked by a special jubilee session of the Academy of Sciences to be held in Leningrad on December 25. The papers of a scientific and historical character to be read at the session will show in historic retrospect the century of endeavour of the Pulkovo Observatory and its role in world science. The centenary will also be marked by the issue of a comprehensive symposium and the opening of an exhibition dealing with the work at the Observatory.

#### Announcements

PROF. E. D. ADRIAN, professor of physiology in the University of Cambridge, has been appointed a member of the Medical Research Council in the vacancy caused by the death of Prof. John Mellanby.

THE following officers for 1940 of the Institute of Metals have recently been elected: *President*, Lieut.-Colonel the Hon. R. M. Preston; *Vice-Presidents*, Dr. S. F. Dorey, Engineer Vice-Admiral Sir George Preece, Mr. A. J. G. Smout; *Honorary Treasurer*, Lieutenant-General Sir J. Ronald E. Charles.

THE Institution of Automobile Engineers is holding a special general meeting to which other institutes have been invited on December 12, at the Institution of Electrical Engineers, Victoria Embankment, W.C.2, at 6 p.m., when Dr. J. S. Clarke of the City of Birmingham Gas Department will read a paper entitled "The Use of Gas as a Fuel for Motor Vehicles".

THE Hunterian collection of surgical specimens at the Royal College of Surgeons of England has been removed to a bomb-proof vault in the College basement. All the more important manuscripts, books, and pictures in the College library have been moved to the country.

The Universities of Breslau, Erlangen, Marburg and, with the exception of the medical faculty, Königsberg, which were closed at the beginning of the war, have reopened.

PROF. GERMANO SOLLAZZO has been nominated director of the new hospital at Milan named Ospedale del Perdono, which is to take the place of the famous old Ospedale Maggiore.

THE second Argentine Congress of Ophthalmology will be held at Rosario in October 1940, under the presidency of Prof. Esteban Adrogué. Further information can be obtained from the Sociedad Argentina de Oftalmología, Santa Fé, 1,171.