

SCIENCE NEWS A CENTURY AGO

Lynch's Explorations in Mesopotamia

At a meeting of the Geographical Society on November 25, thanks to the president of the India Board, a communication was read from Lieutenant Henry Blossie Lynch (1807-73) of the Indian Navy relating to his survey of the River Tigris between Ctesiphon and Mósul. "Chains of triangles," said Lynch, "covered Nineveh to Baghdád, Baghdád to Babylon, Babylon to Ctesiphon, Ctesiphon to Baghdád, and the mountains of Hamrín in two points, namely, where the Tigris bursts through them in the N., and Wiyálah to the north-eastward; most of the principal points within the range of these are fixed either by an extension of the trigonometric chains, or by latitudes and true bearings checked by longitudes; the great canals also have been touched by our work sufficiently to show their direction and position. As we work, the field, instead of being diminished, appears to extend; and I have been obliged to leave with regret the tracing of the splendid canals and rivers, and the filling in of the villages and ruins, for more favourable times. . . ."

Anniversary Meeting of the Royal Society

In his address at the anniversary meeting of the Royal Society on November 30, 1839, the president, the Marquis of Northampton, said that "the past year has indeed been to that portion of the Royal Society which takes an active part in its affairs, one of more than usual labour and exertion—of labour and exertion, destined, as I hope, to produce rich and ample fruit. The great and marking peculiarity which has attended it, has been the sailing of the Antarctic Expedition. . . . The Expedition has now sailed, amply provided with the best scientific instruments and furnished with ample scientific instructions. . . . I have stated, Gentlemen, that your Council had recourse to the Scientific Committees for assistance in drawing up instructions for the Expedition in different branches of knowledge; those committees, who were named only two years ago, were at first apparently more a matter of form than substance; they have now been capable of doing excellent service".

The Royal Medals for 1839 were awarded to Dr. Martin Barry (1802-55) for his researches in embryology and to Sir James Ivory (1765-1842) for his investigations on astronomical refraction, while the Copley Medal was awarded to Robert Brown (1773-1858) for his "Discoveries during a Series of Years on the Subject of Vegetable Impregnation". Humboldt denominated Brown "botanicorum facili principis". The son of a Scottish clergyman, Brown, after attending the Universities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh, was made an army surgeon. At the age of twenty-seven he became known to Sir Joseph Banks, through whom he was appointed naturalist to the expedition sent to Australia in 1801 under the command of Captain Matthew Flinders. When Brown returned to England four years later he brought back a collection of 4,000 plants. Soon after his return he was made librarian to Banks and in 1823 became possessed of both his library and herbarium. The collection of plants he offered to the British Museum, and in 1827 he became keeper of the botanical department in the Museum, a post he held until his death. He was admitted F.R.S. in 1811, in 1833 was elected a foreign associate of the Paris Academy of Sciences, and in 1849 was chosen president of the Linnean Society.

APPOINTMENTS VACANT

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

TEMPORARY ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN—The Registrar, University College, Southampton (December 6).

NEFFIELD PROFESSOR OF ORTHOPÆDIC SURGERY—The Registrar, University Registry, Oxford (December 16).

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

Great Britain and Ireland

Memoirs of the Royal Meteorological Society. Vol. 4, No. 40: Correlations between Monthly Rainfall at Eleven Stations in the British Isles. By D. A. Boyd. Pp. 143-160. (London: Royal Meteorological Society.) 2s. 6d. [3010]

Institute of Metals. Industrial Applications of Spectrography in the Non-Ferrous Metals Industry. By F. Twyman. With a Report of a General Discussion on the Subject, held in London on March 9, 1939. (Reprinted from the *Journal of the Institute of Metals*, Vol. 64, No. 1, 1939.) Pp. 38+2 plates. (London: Institute of Metals.) 2s. 6d. net. [3010]

Air Ministry: Meteorological Office. The Weekly Weather Report for the Period February 27th, 1938, to February 25th, 1939. Sixty-first Year, Vol. 55 (New Series): Particulars of Temperature, Rainfall and Bright Sunshine for each Week. (M.O. 439.) Pp. 72. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 7s. 6d. net. [3010]

Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Vol. 59, Part 3, No. 30: Actinaria and Zoantheria of the Scottish National Antarctic Expedition, 1902-1904. By Prof. Oskar Carlgren. Pp. 791-800. (Edinburgh: Robert Grant and Son, Ltd.; London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd.) 1s. 3d. [111]

Ministry of Health. Report on the Work of the Central Midwives Board for the Year ended 31st March 1939. Pp. 24. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 4d. net. [111]

Vitamin E: a Symposium held under the auspices of the Food Group (Nutrition Panel) of the Society of Chemical Industry on Saturday, 22nd April, 1939, at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Pp. viii+83. (London: Society of Chemical Industry.) 5s. [311]

London Shellac Research Bureau. Bulletin No. 5: The Hot Spraying of Shellac; a New Method of Coating Surfaces. Pp. 22. (London: London Shellac Research Bureau.) [911]

Annual Report of the Director of the Meteorological Office presented by the Meteorological Committee to the Air Council for the Year ended March 31, 1939. (M.O. 438.) Pp. 52. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 9d. net. [911]

Imperial Bureau of Dairy Science. Technical Communication No. 1: The Phosphatase Test for Control of Efficiency of Pasteurization. By H. D. Kay, R. Aschaffenburg and F. K. Neave. Pp. 56. (Shinfield, Reading: Imperial Bureau of Dairy Science.) 2s. [1011]

Medical Research Council. Nineteenth Annual Report of the Industrial Health Research Board to 30th June 1939. Pp. iii+34. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 6d. net. [1311]

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Index to the Literature of Food Investigation. Vol. 11, No. 1, June 1939. Compiled by Agnes Elisabeth Glennie, assisted by Gwen Davies and Catherine Robson. Pp. v+111. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 4s. 6d. net. [1311]

Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Session 1938-1939. Vol. 59, Part 3, No. 23: Genetic Algebras. By Dr. I. M. H. Etherington. Pp. 242-253. (Edinburgh: Robert Grant and Son, Ltd.; London: Williams and Norgate, Ltd.) 1s. 6d. [1311]

Milk and Nutrition: New Experiments reported to the Milk Nutrition Committee. Part 4: The Effects of Dietary Supplements of Pasteurised and Raw Milk on the Growth and Health of School Children (Final Report); Summary of all Researches carried out by the Committee and Practical Conclusions. Pp. 70. (Shinfield, Reading: National Institute for Research in Dairying.) 2s. [1411]

A Lecture on Magnesite. By A. W. Comber. (Twenty-second Streetfield Memorial Lecture, 1939.) Pp. 26+4 plates. (London: Institute of Chemistry.) [1511]

Lily Year-Book 1939. (No. 8.) Pp. iv+183+17 plates. (London: Royal Horticultural Society.) Paper, 5s.; cloth, 6s. [1611]

Preliminary Report on the Problems of Evacuation. Pp. 32. (Liverpool: University Press of Liverpool; London: Hodder and Stoughton, Ltd.) 1s. net. [1711]

Other Countries

Publications of the Dominion Observatory, Ottawa. Vol. 13: Bibliography of Seismology. No. 1: Items 4260-4378, January, February, March, 1939. By Ernest A. Hodgson. Pp. 22. (Ottawa: King's Printer.) 25 cents. [3010]

Egyptian Government: Ministry of Public Works. Annual Report for the Year 1933-34. English Version. Part 1. Pp. 178. (Cairo: Government Press.) P.T. 50. [111]

Report of the Aeronautical Research Institute, Tōkyō Imperial University. No. 182: Note on the Effect of Boundary Walls of a Stream upon the Circulation round a Plane Aerofoil. By Susumu Tomotika, Kō Tamada and Yukimasa Saitō. Pp. 363-391. 45 sen.