

## SEVENTY YEARS AGO

NATURE, vol. 1, January 20, 1870

## Kant's Views on Space

PROF. T. H. HUXLEY concludes a letter on this subject with . . . "there can be no doubt that that thorough and acute student of Kant, Dr. Ingleby, was perfectly right when he said that Kant would have repudiated the affirmation that 'space is a form of thought'. For in these sentences [quoted from Kant's writings], and in many others which might be cited, Kant expressly lays down the doctrine that thought is the work of understanding, intuition of the sense; and that space, like time, is an intuition. The only 'forms of thought', in Kant's sense, are the categories."

## Projected Channel Railways

THE second of a series of three articles on this topic was published. The first article discussed the cultural advantages for Great Britain of closer connexion with the continent of Europe, and proceeded to demolish a fantastic scheme for a railway bridge across the English Channel. The second article dealt with a proposed Channel Tunnel and included a map of the route from the engineers' report issued by the promoters. "We are of opinion that it is not an unreasonable proposition, to drive a tunnel under the Channel, but that in some measure it must be a venture. If we are to undertake such a venture to gain a magnificent prize, of immense value to the English and French nations, we must be prepared to meet all ordinary eventualities. . . . The first step towards accomplishing the object would be to obtain a geological section across the Channel . . . from actual test of the materials which compose the bed of the Channel."

## Meteorological Blockade

SIR WILLIAM THOMSON, F.R.S. [afterwards Lord Kelvin] discusses Dr. Balfour Stewart's proposal for a cordon of meteorological stations around a district to keep an exact account of the quantity of water vapour entering and leaving the space over the district in question. "This appears to me a most valuable proposal, which, if well carried out, must have a very important influence, tending to raise meteorology from its present empirical condition to the rank of a science . . . the same system of account-keeping ought to be applied to electricity . . . among the many unknown quantities involved, the two departments of the blockade combined will give means for eliminating some and estimating others."

WE notice that an individual was examined on Tuesday at Worship Street on the charge of sweating sovereigns. The details of the case, which are of considerable importance to the public, will be watched with interest. It appears that the coins are dissolved by acid, aided by a battery, and that the loss in some cases equals about two shillings in the sovereign.

It was announced by Mr. Lockyer at the meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society on Friday last, that the great refractor of 25 inches aperture, constructed by the Messrs. Cooke, of York, is so near completion that it will be erected in the observatory prepared for it at Gateshead early next month.

## APPOINTMENTS VACANT

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

ASSISTANT LECTURER IN ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND PHYSICS at the Technical College, Coventry—The Director of Education, Council House, Coventry (January 26).

HEADMASTER for the Pentre Junior Technical School—The Director of Education, Council Offices, Pentre, Rhondda (January 27).

TEMPORARY INSTRUCTOR LIEUTENANTS in the Royal Navy—The Director, Education Department, Admiralty, Whitehall, S.W.1 (January 31).

GRADUATE ASSISTANT to teach ENGINEERING Subjects, PHYSICS and MATHEMATICS—The Principal, Hendon Technical Institute, The Burroughs, N.W.4 (January 31).

ENGINEERING WORKSHOPS INSTRUCTOR to take Engineering Drawing and Allied Subjects (Elementary Mathematics and Mechanics)—The Principal, Hendon Technical Institute, The Burroughs, N.W.4 (January 31).

LECTURER (Grade II) IN DENTAL PROSTHESIS—The Secretary and Registrar, University, Bristol (February 10).

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH of the Linen Industry Research Association—The Secretary, The Research Institute, Lambeg, Co. Antrim (March 1).

JUNIOR ASSISTANT CHEMISTS—The Secretary, Linen Industry Research Institute, Lambeg, Co. Antrim.

ENGINEER for the Public Works Department of the Government of Hong Kong—The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4 Millbank, S.W.1 (quoting M/9006).

## REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

## Great Britain and Ireland

Imperial Bureau of Animal Breeding and Genetics. Animal Breeding in the Light of Genetics. (Seventh International Genetical Congress, Section D.) Pp. 78. (Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd.) 3s. [2812]

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Report of the Forest Products Research Board, with the Report of the Director of Forest Products Research, for the Year 1938. Pp. iv+84+4 plates. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 1s. 6d. net. [2912]

International Journal of Agrarian Affairs. Vol. 1, No. 1: The Problem of Surplus Agricultural Population. Pp. 96. (London: Oxford University Press.) 3s. 6d. net. [21]

Thirtieth Report of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs and Excise for the Year ended 31st March 1939: being the 83rd Report relating to the Customs and the 82nd Report relating to the Excise. (Cmd. 6098.) Pp. 205. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 3s. net. [21]

University of Durham. Abstracts of Theses for Doctorates presented by Candidates who have received the Degrees in Congregation during the Academic Year 1938-39. Pp. 22. (Durham: The University.) [31]

## Other Countries

U.S. Department of Agriculture. Technical Bulletin No. 690: The Acidic Properties of Peat and Muck. By Irvin C. Feustel. Pp. 42. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) 10 cents. [2812]

Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History. Vol. 76, Art. 8: Body-Forms of the Black Marlin (*Makaira nigricans marlina*) and Striped Marlin (*Makaira mitsukurii*) of New Zealand and Australia. By William K. Gregory and G. Miles Conrad. Pp. 443-456+plates 3-6. (New York: American Museum of Natural History.) [2812]

Chinese Medical Association. Special Report Series No. 12: Nutritional Studies in Shanghai. By H. C. Hou, P. G. Mar, T. G. Ni and B. E. Read. Pp. iv+92. (Shanghai: Chinese Medical Association.) 2 dollars; 4s. [2912]

Madras Government Museum. Guide to the Archaeological Galleries: An Introduction to South Indian Temple Architecture and Sculpture. By Dr. F. H. Gravely, C. Sivaramamurti and other Curators. Pp. viii+48+4 plates. 8 annas. Illustrations of Indian Sculpture, mostly Southern: for Use with the Guide to the Archaeological Galleries. By Dr. F. H. Gravely and C. Sivaramamurti. Pp. iv+46 plates. 1.8 rupees. (Madras: Government Press.) [21]

Journal of the Indian Institute of Science. Vol. 22A, Part 19: Synthetical Investigations in the Thujone Series, Part 8: Synthesis of *iso*-Thujone. By P. C. Guha and A. Kuppusami. Pp. 249-254. 10 annas. Vol. 22A, Part 20: Synthetical Investigations in the Camphane Series, Part 5: Synthesis of Manasse's Ketonic Acid, C<sub>15</sub>H<sub>14</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, from Camphorquinone: 2:2:3-Trimethyl-*cyclohexane*-4-one-Carboxylic Acid. By P. C. Guha and Debabrata Das Gupta. Pp. 255-262. 12 annas. (Bangalore: Indian Institute of Science.) [21]

Government of India: Meteorological Department. Magnetic, Meteorological, Atmospheric, Electric and Seismographic Observations made at the Government Observatories, Bombay and Alibag, in the Year 1937 under the direction of Dr. K. R. Ramanathan. Reduced and tabulated under the direction of Dr. K. R. Ramanathan and Dr. S. R. Savur. Pp. A76+B44+C4+D14+5 plates. (Delhi: Manager of Publications.) 14.14 rupees; 23s. [21]