

SEVENTY YEARS AGO

NATURE, vol. 1, February 24, 1870

The Minister of Public Instruction

REFERENCE is made in a leading article to the Education Bill, the first reading of which was taken in the House of Commons "last week". The reception given to the Bill suggests that a Minister of Public Instruction will shortly be appointed.

"Such a Minister should, we think, take charge of the whole range of natural knowledge in all matters in which the State in any way intervenes to advance such knowledge. We understand the comprehensive term natural knowledge to include Education, Science, the Fine Arts, and Music. . . . The Education branch would include the national system of compulsory primary education about to be established, public schools, universities. . . . The Science branch would include all establishments, in receipt of Government assistance, in which Science is taught as a special study; all those in which scientific observations or investigations are conducted under State auspices, and all museums in which natural objects are displayed for scientific purposes. . . . The first step towards organizing this branch of knowledge must be by collecting facts and opinions relating to it. This step can only be taken through the agency of a Royal Commission instructed to give the widest possible scope to its inquiries into everything relating to both Instruction and Investigation in Science."

"A DEPUTATION consisting of Earl Fortescue, the Right Hon. C. B. Adderley, Dr. Farr and others, had an interview with Mr. Shaw-Lefevre at the Board of Trade on Saturday to recommend the legislation of metric weights and measures in the Post Office, and the legal substitution of metric weights for the Troy weight which the Standard Commissioners propose to abolish."

"WE have to record the decease of Mr. J. F. Sowerby, so well-known in connection with the illustration of botanical works, especially the new edition of the English Flora, edited by Mr. J. Boswell-Syme, now nearly completed."

"A METHOD of protecting iron from atmospheric influences has been proposed by Messrs. Macmillan and Macgregor, of Dumbarton and Glasgow. They bring melted sulphur into contact with the cold metallic surface to be coated. The sulphur chills and sets into a hard, thin, protecting cover."

APPOINTMENTS VACANT

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

RESIDENT HEADMISTRESS of the Royal Masonic School for Girls, Rickmansworth Park—The Secretary, Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, 31 Great Queen Street, Kingsway, W.C.2 (March 1).

CHIEF CHEMICAL INSPECTOR, Chemical Inspection Department, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich—The Ministry of Supply (S.E.3.B.), The Adelphi, W.C.2 (quoting Appts. 021/S.E.3.B.) (March 4).

LECTURER IN BACTERIOLOGY, Royal Veterinary College, and RESEARCH ASSISTANT in the Research Institute in Animal Pathology—The Bursar, Royal Veterinary College, The University, Reading (March 9).

HEADMISTRESS of the County School for Girls, Gravesend—W. A. Clench, Bank Chambers, Windmill Street, Gravesend (March 11).

PROFESSOR OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING—The Secretary, The University, Birmingham (April 20).

PART-TIME TEACHER IN CHEMISTRY—The Head of the Department of Chemistry and Biology, The Polytechnic, Regent Street, W.1.

CIVILIAN WIRELESS INSTRUCTORS at the Electrical and Wireless Schools, Royal Air Force—The Under-Secretary of State (S.5.D.), Air Ministry, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2.

ASSISTANT MECHANICAL ENGINEERS for the Electrical Branch, Public Works Department of the Government of Nigeria—The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4 Millbank, S.W.1 (quoting M/9067).

MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEER for the Public Works Department of the Government of the Gold Coast—The Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4 Millbank, S.W.1 (quoting M/9120).

TWO ASSISTANT ENGINEERS—The Engineer, Nene Catchment Board, Priestgate, Peterborough.

TEMPORARY FORECASTERS, Grade II (Male) in the Meteorological Office—The Under-Secretary of State, S.2.B.(Met.), Department Q.A., Air Ministry, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2.

HEADMASTER of the Sydney Grammar School, Sydney, New South Wales—The Agent-General for New South Wales, 125 Strand, W.C.2, or The Secretary to the Trustees, Sydney Grammar School, Sydney.

REPORTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

Great Britain and Ireland

Royal Commission on the Distribution of the Industrial Population. Report. (Cmd. 6153.) Pp. x+320. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 5s. net. [62]

University of Leeds: Department of Coal Gas and Fuel Industries, with Metallurgy. Report of the Livesey Professor (D. T. A. Townend) for the Session 1938-39. Pp. 18. (Leeds: The University.) [72]

Mines Department. Eighteenth Annual Report of the Secretary for Mines for the Year ended 31st December 1938, and the Thirty-first Annual Report of H.M. Inspector of Mines for the same Period, with a Statistical Appendix to both Reports. Pp. xx+271. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 4s. net. [72]

Father and the Family. Pp. 12. (London: National Baby Welfare Council.) 2d. [82]

Mines Department. Report of the Committee on the Emergency Conversion of Motor Vehicles to Producer Gas. Pp. 27+2 plates. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 9d. net. [82]

Tenth Annual Reports of the National Radium Trust and Radium Commission, 1938-1939. (Cmd. 6161.) Pp. 30. (London: H.M. Stationery Office.) 6d. net. [92]

Smoke Abatement in Wartime. Pp. 12. (Epsom: National Smoke Abatement Society.) [92]

Transactions of the Zoological Society of London. Vol. 24, Part 7: The Mammals of the North Cameroons Forest Area; being the Results of the Percy Sladen Expedition to the Mamfe Division of the British Cameroons. By Ivan T. Sanderson. Pp. 623-726+22 plates. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd.) 50s. [122]

Other Countries

Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections. Vol. 99, No. 1: Sketches by Paul Kane in the Indian Country, 1845-1848. By David I. Bushnell, Jr. (Publication 3553.) Pp. ii+25. (Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution.) [12]

Proceedings of the United States National Museum. Vol. 87, No. 3075: A Taxonomic Study of Neotropical Beetles of the Family Mordellidae, with Descriptions of New Species. By Eugene Ray. Pp. 271-314. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office.) [22]

Report of the Danish Biological Station to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. 43, 1938: On the Migrations and the Racial Character of the Plaice. By Erik M. Poulsen. Pp. 80. (Copenhagen: C. A. Reitzel.) [62]

New Zealand State Forest Service. Misc. Series No. 1: Forestry in New Zealand. Pp. 24. (Wellington: Government Printer.) [62]

Gold Coast Colony. Report on the Gold Coast Survey for the Year April 1938 to March 1939. Pp. 10. (Accra: Government Printing Department; London: Crown Agents for the Colonies.) 1s. [62]

Field Experiments on Sugar-Cane in Trinidad. Annual Report for 1939. By P. E. Turner. (Published by the Sugar-Cane Investigation Committee.) Pp. 262. (Trinidad: Government Printing Office.) [62]

Ministry of Agriculture, Egypt: Technical and Scientific Service. Bulletin No. 204: Flax in Egypt. Part 1: Research and Culture. By Dr. M. A. El Kilany. Pp. 4+32+10 plates. P.T. 3. Bulletin No. 215: Jute and Kindred Fibres in Egypt—Research and Culture. By Dr. M. A. El Kilany. Pp. 6+22+12 plates. P.T. 3. (Cairo: Government Press.) [122]

Publications of the South African Institute for Medical Research. No. 45: A Study of Experimental Tissue Reactions following Intravenous Injections of Silica and other Dusts. By F. W. Simson and Dr. A. Sutherland Strachan. Pp. 95-122+25 plates. (Johannesburg: South African Institute for Medical Research.) [122]

Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences. Vol. 39, Art. 4: American Cities and States; Variation and Correlation in Institutions, Activities, and the Personal Qualities of the Residents. By Edward L. Thorndike. Pp. 213-298. (New York: New York Academy of Sciences.) [122]

Field Museum of Natural History. Anthropological Series, Vol. 31, No. 1: Anthropometric Observations on the Eskimos and Indians of Labrador. By T. Dale Stewart. Material and Data collected by William Duncan Strong. (Publication 462.) Pp. 104+16 plates. (Chicago: Field Museum of Natural History.) 1.75 dollars. [122]