

British Museum (Natural History)

It has been decided that the British Museum (Natural History) shall be open to the public every afternoon from 1 until 5 p.m. beginning on February 28, and it is intended after Easter that the Museum shall be open all day from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Certain galleries only are available, and the present restrictions will continue to apply to the number of visitors and to the admission of children unaccompanied by adults.

The Department of Botany has received about seven thousand specimens as a result of an expedition to the Outer Hebrides (Lewis and Harris) organized during the past summer by Miss M. S. Campbell. Miss Campbell was accompanied by Dr. J. W. Campbell, Mr. C. V. B. Marquand, and Messrs. A. J. Wilmott, E. B. Bangarter and J. A. Crabbe of the Department of Botany. The collection is fully representative of the summer flora of the areas visited. Dr. R. Scott Russell has returned from a botanical expedition to the Karakorum Himalayas. The expedition, which would otherwise have continued into 1940, was cut short by the outbreak of war and only the collecting planned for 1939 was carried out. The number of gatherings made was 870, and the specimens collected have been left at Kashmir to be forwarded to the Museum later.

Earthquakes in Turkey

ACCORDING to a *Times* message, the final official figures for the Turkish earthquake of December 26 are 32,741 killed and 9,404 injured. It is also reported that it has been decided to rebuild Erzinjan slightly to the north of the old town and that construction is beginning.

Aftershocks of the earthquake still continue with considerable severity. Between 3 a.m. on February 21 and noon on February 24 another 300 people were killed, many more injured, and more than 10,000 head of cattle perished in addition to six villages being completely destroyed. The earthquakes commenced about 3 a.m. on February 21, and before 5 a.m. there had been eight severe shocks. The epicentres appear to have been near the village of Soysalli, near Kayseri in Central Anatolia, some 150 miles south-east of Ankara. Soysalli and three other villages were completely destroyed and the shocks were sufficiently intense to have been felt in eleven districts and many towns, including Ankara, Istanbul, Smyrna, Konya and Adana. On February 22 there were six more shocks and on February 23 and 24 the shocks continued with decreasing severity. In spite of the intense cold which still prevails in this part of Turkey, many people are preferring to live in tents.

Problems of the Industrial Scientist

A CONFERENCE on "The Problems of the Industrial Scientist" convened by the Association of Scientific Workers and the British Association of Chemists, will be held on March 9, commencing at 2 p.m., in the lecture hall of the Pharmaceutical Society, 17 Bloomsbury Square, W.C.1. All scientific workers and others interested are cordially invited to attend and par-

ticipate. Prof. F. G. Donnan will be in the chair. Mr. Hugh Linstead, of the Pharmaceutical Society, will open the proceedings with a general survey of the problems of scientific workers employed in industry. This will be followed by a series of short papers and discussions. At the conclusion of these discussions, Prof. J. D. Bernal will sum up the discussion as a whole, and the conference will then consider the possibility of adopting a 'programme' for scientific workers in industry. Similar conferences are being held at Liverpool, at 6.30 p.m., on March 4, at 5-6 Bluecoat Chambers, Liverpool, 1; Manchester, at 3.0 p.m., on March 16, in the Chemistry Lecture Theatre, the University; Birmingham, date to be announced later. Following the regional conferences, it is intended at a later date to hold a National Conference to review the data and resolutions resulting from them, and to decide on the final form of the 'programme' and on steps to be taken to work for its acceptance. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Association of Scientific Workers, 30 Bedford Row, W.C.1.

Announcements

THE British Association is arranging a conference on "Science in National and International Aspects", to be held at Reading during July 24-26. This will take the place of the ordinary annual meeting which would in normal circumstances have been held at Newcastle.

MR. ASA BINNS, until recently chief engineer of the Port of London Authority and now a consultant to the firm of consulting engineers, Messrs. Rendel, Palmer and Tritton, has been elected president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers for the year 1940.

DR. LOUIS MARTIN, director of the Pasteur Institute of Paris, has succeeded General Sieur as president of the Academy of Medicine of Paris.

THE Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England has undertaken to organize a library at the medical base in France for the use of the officers of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

THE Oxford Ophthalmological Congress will be held at Oxford on July 4-6. Prof. Le Gros Clark will deliver the Doyne Memorial Lecture, and there will be a discussion on "Emergencies and Complications of the Operation for Cataract".

THE Board of Education has just published a "Handbook of Suggestions of Health Education" (H.M. Stationery Office. 6d. net). The book is issued primarily for the benefit of teachers, and covers most aspects of health education, and incorporates recent advances in the science of nutrition.

ERRATUM. Letter by Dr. D. Roaf entitled "Energies of β -Particles from Uranium- X_2 " in NATURE of February 10, p. 223, the numbers along the $H\beta$ -axis in Fig. 2 should read: 0, 5000, 10,000.