

York and Chicago. A monument was erected to him in Vienna in 1908, when an address was delivered by his successor, Prof. Wagner von Jauregg.

Palaeozoic Coral Genera

A COMPLETE list of the Palaeozoic coral genera has been carefully prepared, correctly named, and supplemented by references to authors, synonyms, localities and published works ("Index of Palaeozoic Coral Genera." By William Dickson Lang, Stanley Smith and Henry Dighton Thomas. Pp. vii+231. London: British Museum (Natural History), 1940. 15s.). Genotypes are arranged in the alphabetical order of the trivial names, followed by the generic name and its author. In the list of literature it is useful to have a record of the genera described in each work. Dr. Lang presents the list as the foundation of future work on the phylogenetic classification of the corals. Although he examines critically the gradations and trends among Tabulate and Rugose corals, he and his collaborators leave the interpretation of the facts to others. The most laborious part of the task has, however, been performed for them. More than fifty generic names are pre-occupied by members of other phyla, and of the corals themselves, nearly twenty names are *nomina nuda*. This sifting and purifying should be of lasting benefit to workers on the group.

Intelligence among Australian Aborigines

THE difficulties of applying intelligence tests to primitive peoples with a view to comparative study are notorious, and much ingenuity has been employed in devising tests which are immune from the vitiating factor of differences in the cultural background of the individuals or groups which it is sought to compare. The pioneer work of Dr. S. D. Porteous among Australian aborigines may be recalled in this connexion. Even more remarkable results, however, have been obtained by a recent expedition to the north-western regions of the Continent, sent out by the University of Western Australia, and consisting of three members of the Psychology Department, Mr. N. G. Trayten, Dr. D. W. McElwain and Dr. H. L. Fowler. Under the advice and with the co-operation of Dr. D. S. Davidson, assistant professor of anthropology in the University of Chicago, experiments were made in the application of intelligence tests which had not previously been tried with the Australian aborigines.

Not only was it desired to determine whether these tests were likely to prove more suitable for work with primitive peoples than those generally in use, but also whether they appeared to confirm the low estimate of aboriginal intelligence afforded by previous investigations. In a preliminary report on the work of the expedition, Dr. Fowler (*Australian J. Ser.*, 2, 5; 1940) records that, of the various tests applied experimentally, the Alexander Passalong test, involving the arrangement of coloured blocks in boxes, the Ferguson form boards, in which insets have to be placed in proper position, and the cube construction test, proved the most suitable, the

second being the most satisfactory. Eighteen males and thirteen females were tested. They were of different ages, all but four being adults. In the results the interesting point lies not so much in the average mental age attained as in the range over which the scores spread, while considerable variation was noted in the different tribes. Still more remarkable is the fact that eight of the subjects in one test and five in another scored a mental age of fourteen or over, which indicates that they are at least at or above the level of the average white adult. From these results, which are in agreement with opinions expressed by squatters as to aboriginal abilities, Dr. Fowler draws the conclusion that further investigations should be undertaken in order that, if these preliminary results are confirmed, steps may be taken to foster the development of such abilities.

Roadwork and Bridges in Hungary

FOLLOWING its established custom, the municipal administration of Budapest has again called for tenders for dust-proofing the macadamized roads in the city. According to *Roads and Road Construction* of July, the proposal was to treat 522,000 sq. kilometres of roads with oil while the remaining 320,000 sq. kilometres of road requiring dust-proofing treatment would have been treated with tar. The bids proved that the price of oiling would have been one third higher than last year, while contractors also insisted on various disadvantageous clauses and conditions. The municipality has therefore decided to apply dust-proofing treatment to a total of 550,000 sq. kilometres of road surface only, using tar throughout. The Ministry of Commerce has issued a series of important commissions for the construction or reconstruction of roads and for two new bridges spanning the Danube and the Tisza respectively. The total commissions amount to well over seven million pengoes.

The new bridge over the Danube at Medve will cost more than two million pengoes, while that over the Tisza, in the Hungarian lowlands, will cost nearly 860,000 pengoes. The Danube bridge will be erected by the Hungarian Waggon and Machine Factory, while that on the Tisza will be built by Ganz and Company, of Budapest. The number of road contracts so far allotted is fourteen, and they have been awarded to the same number of different firms, partly to joint stock companies and partly to individuals. The majority of the roads will have concrete surfaces, although a few will have stone surfaces. The total amount of the fourteen orders is about 500,000 pengoes.

Swiss Postal Railway

It is stated in the *Bulletin* of the Oerlikon Co. that an underground railway has recently been built in Zurich for the conveyance of letters and express packets between the branch post office at the main railway station and the Sihl post office, which are about three quarters of a mile apart. The railway is practically automatic. A driverless electric track is set in motion by pressing a push button on the main

control panel. At the railway station terminus the track runs on to a lift, which operates automatically, rising to the level of the post office above. The railway is operated by a three-phase 220-volt, 50-cycle supply. This obviates the need for converter sets or special gear on the motor track for reversing. To reverse, all that is necessary is to interchange the connections of two phases of the supply.

The motor-truck has two axles, one of which is coupled through gears to a 3.5 h.p. three-phase induction motor, giving the truck a speed of 14.4 ft. per sec. The other axle is driven by a 1 h.p. motor for running at low speed (0.98 ft. per sec.). The latter motor is brought into operation at the stations by means of an electro-magnetic coupling controlled by a change-over switch, which is actuated by a roller contacting with a third rail in the station sections. The truck is fitted with a mechanical brake operated by spring force. The order for the whole installation was placed with the Oerlikon Co.

Catalogue of Meteorites

THE British Museum (Natural History) Catalogue of Meteorites was issued in 1923 and a first appendix appeared in 1927. A second appendix, compiled by M. H. Hey, has now been published by the Trustees of the Museum (1940, pp. 136, price 5s. net). It includes particulars of all meteorites described since the appearance of the first appendix up to the end of September 1939. Additions and corrections to some of the earlier entries have been made and a separate list of meteorite craters has been included. It is interesting to note that the catalogue and its appendixes now contain entries for 1,251 reasonably well-authenticated falls, of which 758 are represented in the Museum collections, and for a further 98 'doubtful' and 'paired' falls, of which there are 24 in the collections. Of the 51 'doubtful' falls, a few may not be meteorites, others have never been adequately confirmed or described, and others may have names that may be synonymous with those of falls otherwise recorded. The 47 'paired' falls are pairs or groups of falls which are possibly or probably identical; these have been counted only once in the totals. Falls reported in ancient histories and objects of worship in ancient temples thought to have been meteorites have not been included, except in the case of *Jalandhar*, which fell in the Punjab in 1621 and was forged into sword blades; in other cases the data are too vague and uncertain.

Extra Fat Allowance for Diabetics

MR. BOOTHBY, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food, has stated in the House of Commons that the Food Rationing (Special Diets) Advisory Committee of the Medical Research Council has advised the Minister of Food that persons suffering from diabetes mellitus should be allowed two extra butter and margarine rations, totalling 12 oz., each week. The necessary arrangements for the issuing of the supplementary rations by food executive officers has been made.

Recent Earthquakes

ON July 30, violent earthquakes occurred on the central plateau of Anatolia. Twelve villages including Peyk were destroyed near Yozgad, the shock also being felt at Ankara, Erzinjan, Tokat, Kayseri, Amasya, Sinop, Istanbul and intervening places. Three hundred people are reported to have been killed and several hundreds of others injured. The epicentre of the shocks appears to have been near Yozgad, which is not far from Erzinjan, the centre of the greatest of all Turkish earthquakes on December 27, 1939 (NATURE, January 6, p. 13). The present shocks cannot be considered as aftershocks of the December 27 earthquake nor are they so intense, but they point to the same general instability of the whole region at the moment, of which all the shocks are the result. It must also be noticed that such a terrific earthquake as that of December 27 would itself give rise to instability which would persist for a considerable time and give rise to earthquake shocks in general not so intense as the original one. Aftershocks of the earthquakes of July 30 were continued on the next day.

An earthquake of considerable severity was experienced in western Hokkaido on August 2. The full extent of the damage caused by the shock is not yet known, but more than a thousand fishing boats were damaged by a huge wave which followed the earthquake, seeming to point to an off-shore epicentre between Hokkaido Island and the mainland of the continent of Asia.

Announcements

MR. R. C. MORRISON, M.P., has been appointed chairman of an interdepartmental committee to secure greater liaison between the activities of the Ministry of Supply, which is responsible for the salvage campaign, and other services and departments.

THE Adelaide meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science arranged for August has been postponed. The position will be reviewed when it is considered that conditions may be favourable for the holding of a meeting.

AWARDS are made from the Sir George Beilby Memorial Fund at intervals determined by the administrators, representing the Institute of Chemistry, the Society of Chemical Industry, and the Institute of Metals. Preference is given to investigations relating to the special interests of Sir George Beilby, including problems connected with fuel economy, chemical engineering and metallurgy. In general, awards are not applicable to workers of established repute, but are granted as an encouragement to younger men who have done original independent work of exceptional merit over a period of years. The administrators of the Fund will be glad to have their attention directed to outstanding work of the nature indicated, not later than November 1. All communications should be addressed to the Convener, Sir George Beilby Memorial Fund, Institute of Chemistry, 30 Russell Square, London, W.C.1.