

the present difficulties of rationing and supplies; secondly, to take the present opportunity of food consciousness to change gradually the food habits of the majority of working-people in Great Britain so that the standard of the national diet is improved rather than allowed to deteriorate. For this purpose, it will be observed that all bread is given as national wheatmeal, a raw vegetable is included in every meal in some form or other, cooked vegetables are suggested in much larger quantities than is usual in canteens and oatmeal or wheatmeal flour is used freely in cooking. The booklet is being issued free to all 'British Restaurants', industrial canteens and Londoners' meal services. Copies can be obtained from the Nutrition Section, Food Advice Division, Ministry of Food, Vincent House, Vincent Square, London, S.W.1.

The Newcomen Society

THE Newcomen Society, which this year attains its majority, has recently issued its syllabus of meetings in Great Britain for the session 1941-42. The presidential address of Col. C. E. Davies will be read on November 12 after the annual general meeting. Thirteen papers are included in the syllabus. Among the subjects to be dealt with are automobiles, Suffolk windmills, spring balances, wood screws, and natural draught furnaces. Dr. Thurston is giving a paper on "The Evolution of Rider Planes for Aircraft", Dr. Herbert Chatley one on the "Development of Mechanism in China", and Dr. Dickinson is giving papers on Robert Stuart Meikleham and Joseph Bramah. Other papers relate to early engineering and iron-founding in Cornwall, the French civil engineers of the eighteenth century, and the famous firm of ship-builders, Messrs. Normand of Havre. In the *Newcomen Quarterly Bulletin*, probably the last to be issued for the time being, are some interesting quotations from letters received from members in the United States.

Comet Okabayasi-Honda (1940e).

IN NATURE of March 29, p. 387, a note about this comet appeared, and it was stated that it was discovered at Tokyo on October 4, 1940. Dr. Issei Yamamoto has pointed out that an error has occurred regarding the place of discovery. Okabayasi is at Kurasiki Observatory, which is under the direction of Yamamoto, and early in the morning of September 30 he discovered the object in Leo, suspecting its cometary character at the time, though he was not able to confirm its motion until October 4. Honda is at the Zodiacial Light Station at Seto, Hirosimaken, also under the supervision of Yamamoto, and independently discovered the comet on October 4. From his long experience as an observer he was immediately convinced that it was a comet and reported his discovery to Yamamoto, who met both observers at Kurasiki on October 5 and cabled to Copenhagen. A telegraphic announcement was also made from Tokyo Observatory, and it is possible that some confusion was caused by this. It is very satisfactory to know that the Astronomical Society of the Pacific has awarded the Donohoe Medal to both discoverers.

Announcements

PROF. LANCELOT HOGGEN, F.R.S., regius professor of natural history in the University of Aberdeen, has been appointed Mason professor of zoology in the University of Birmingham in succession to Prof. H. Munro Fox (see NATURE, June 28, p. 800).

DR. L. L. Bircumshaw has been appointed lecturer in inorganic chemistry in the University of Birmingham.

THE Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries has appointed the Hon. Mrs. Youard to be an additional member of the Committee set up on July 21, under the chairmanship of Lord Justice Luxmoore, to examine the present system of agricultural education and to make recommendations for improving and developing it after the War (see NATURE, August 9, p. 161).

AT the recent annual meeting of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, a National Science Fund was established to administer funds for the support of scientific research. The Fund will be managed by a committee under the chairmanship of Dr. William J. Robbins, director of the New York Botanical Gardens, and consisting of seventeen members of the National Academy and twelve others well known in public life or industry.

THE report of University Extension Lectures and Tutorial Classes of the University of Leeds, for the year 1939-40, is a record of steady progress under adverse conditions arising from the War. In all, 78 tutorial classes and 5 sessional courses were attended by 1,063 students. The great majority of the lecture courses dealt with such subjects as literature, social philosophy, economic and political questions and current movements of the day. Of scientific subjects seven courses were held in biology, three in psychology and one each in physiology and geology. The marked absence of any lectures dealing with the physical sciences remains as a challenge to men of science to present their subject in a form acceptable to an ordinary unselected adult audience.

IN accordance with the trust deed governing the Harrison Memorial Fund, the Selection Committee consisting of the presidents of the Chemical Society, the Institute of Chemistry, the Society of Chemical Industry and the Pharmaceutical Society, will make an award of the Harrison Memorial Prize in December. The Prize, of the value of about £150, will be awarded to the chemist of either sex, being a natural born British subject and not at the time more than thirty years of age, who during the previous five years has conducted the most meritorious and promising original investigations in any branch of pure or applied chemistry and published the results of those investigations in a scientific periodical or periodicals. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Chemical Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

ERRATUM.—In a recent communication (NATURE, 148, 226; Aug. 23, 1941) the dissociation products of carbon dioxide were given as $\text{CO}({}^3\Omega) + \text{O}({}^3P)$. This was a printer's error and should read $\text{CO}({}^3\Pi) + \text{O}({}^3P)$.