

summer months, in warm, dry weather. The composition is now under test; it is in satisfactory condition after five months on a busy trunk road and after ten months on a by-road, and from the results of these and other tests, a useful average life of at least six months may be expected. The colour, while not so white as that of newly painted white lines conforming to BS/ARP 38, nevertheless gives a good contrast with the road surface when observed during day- and night-driving and does not degenerate appreciably.

Health of Southern Rhodesia

IN his recently published annual report for 1939, Dr. Andrew Paton Martin, medical officer of health for Southern Rhodesia, directs attention to the decrease in the birth-rate, the increase in venereal disease and the infiltration of tuberculosis in the colony. There has been an appreciable decrease in scurvy in the mining natives, but the methods of feeding the employees are still far from satisfactory. Of the tropical diseases prevalent in Southern Rhodesia malaria is the most serious, as it caused 10 per cent of the deaths in 1939. Bilharziasis followed it close, and leprosy is a big problem, but trypanosomiasis seems to be absent.

Earthquake in Turkey

A SERIOUS earthquake with its epicentre near Agri, some 70 miles east of Erserum in Turkey, was reported on September 12. Full details are not yet available, but it is feared that the death roll may amount to 500. It will be remembered that the most severe earthquake ever experienced in Turkey took place on December 27, 1939 (see NATURE, January 6, 1940), in Anatolia, and serious aftershocks have occurred at intervals since that time. It may be that large fault blocks in the area have not yet attained their final position of equilibrium, and that parts of the subcrustal layers may still be under some elastic strain.

Earth Tremor in Scotland

ON September 6 an earth tremor shook the Stirling district in Scotland. Furniture was moved by the shock in the villages of Cambus Barrow and Whins o'Milton, but no damage is reported. Stirling district experienced a previous tremor on the night of February 2-3, 1940 (NATURE, February 10, 1940).

Bequests to the University of Sydney

THE University of Sydney has recently received a bequest of £60,000 from the estate of the late Sir Hugh Denison. This bequest is particularly valuable as it is for general scientific research, and unconditional.

The McGarvie Smith Institute of Sydney has made a grant of £9,000 in addition to earlier grants for the extension of the equipment facilities of the Animal Husbandry Farm which bears its name, and which forms an important part of the equipment of the Faculty of Veterinary Science of the University.

Awards of the Medical Research Council of Ireland

THE Medical Research Council of Ireland has made the following awards during the half-year ended June 30, 1941: *Training grants*: Miss D. A. Kilbride for one year from August 1, 1941, to carry out an investigation of iodine absorption by means of balance experiments; and Miss E. O'Donovan for one year from June 1, 1941, to assist in the investigation of the goitre problem by studying the retention of iodine under varying conditions of diet, the work in both instances to be done in the Department of Chemistry, University College, Cork, under the direction of Prof. J. Reilly and Dr. E. M. Mason; *Whole-time grant*: Dr. Cecil Mushatt for four months from March 1, 1941, to enable him to continue his research work at the Johns Hopkins Hospital; *Grants-in-aid*: Dr. James Deeny for six months from July 1, 1941, to investigate the relationship of vitamin C to the formation of complement and the relationship of both to immunity; Dr. D.K. Malley, to investigate the effects of the cortical hormone on a case of pre-adolescent type of adrenocortical syndrome; and Dr. J. G. Waugh, towards the expenses of his research work on sulphonamide therapy in the School of Physic, Trinity College, Dublin. The following grants have been renewed for one year: Dr. T. E. T. Bradshaw (from March 1, 1941) and Prof. Hans Sachs (from May 1, 1941). Prof. J. B. Gatenby and Dr. R. G. Cross have relinquished their grants.

Announcements

THE medal of the U.S. Society of Chemical Industry has been awarded to Dr. Elmer K. Bolton, chemical director of the E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, in recognition of his work in connexion with the development of Neoprene, Nylon and synthetic rubber.

DR. JEROME C. HUNSAKER, head of the department of mechanical engineering in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has become co-ordinator of research and development for the U.S. Navy. He will be assisted by a special board, to be composed of representatives of the chief of naval operations and the commanding officers of the Bureaux of Ships, Ordnance, Aeronautics and Yards and Docks.

PROF. WILLIAM F. DURAND, emeritus professor of mechanical engineering at Stanford University, has been appointed a member of the U.S. National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics. He succeeds Dr. Robert E. Doherty, president of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, who resigned his membership on July 3 to become chairman of the Production Planning Board of the Office of Production Management.

THE following appointments have recently been made in the Colonial Service: D. U. Peters, agricultural officer, Northern Rhodesia; H. A. M. Thompson, agricultural officer, Sierra Leone; C. O. Flemmich (assistant conservator of forests, Malaya), conservator of forests, Fiji.