

Health of Tanganyika

THE chief points of interest in the recently published annual report for 1939 of the Medical Department of Tanganyika Territory are the plans for the development of a native medical, nursing and public health service. The War has interfered with plans for nutritional investigations and relief for deficiencies, although a start has been made. As regards the incidence of various diseases the most important facts are as follows: the discovery of two fresh foci of sleeping sickness (663 cases with 184 deaths), cerebrospinal fever (2,183 cases with 237 deaths), the discovery of a plague-infected rat, and an investigation of smallpox. 248,533 cases of infectious and parasitic diseases were reported from various Government institutions. The most frequent diseases were as follows in the order named: yaws, malaria, syphilis, ankylostomiasis, gonorrhœa, schistosomiasis and tuberculosis. The population of Tanganyika in 1939 was: Europeans 9,165, Asiatics 33,974, and Africans 5,217,345.

The Completed Map of North East Land

ALTHOUGH North East Land, the most easterly island of the Spitsbergen group, was known to the seventeenth-century whalers, it was relatively unexplored until some twenty years ago, except for an attempt by A. E. Nordenskjöld in 1873. The modern survey, begun by the Oxford University Expedition of 1924, was virtually completed by the Oxford Expedition of 1935-36, though some important work was done by the Swedish-Norwegian Expedition of 1931. The map published in the *Geographical Journal* of October 1937 is now revised in some minor and one major point by a new map in the *Geographical Journal* of October 1941 (A. R. Glen, "The Latest Map of North East Land"). This map makes use of the Norwegian aerial surveys of North East Land in 1938 which are not now accessible, and it shows one remarkable change. In the south a great lobe of the South Ice has overridden the coast on a thirteen-mile front and pushed ten miles out to sea. Recent investigations show that the ice of North East Land is in the main in retreat: small ice-free areas have been found on the east coast. This advance is probably purely local, and Mr. Glen suggests that it may be due to a tectonic disturbance or some internal glacial cataclysm. The whole surface of the ice lobe is heavily crevassed.

National Central Library

THE twenty-fifth annual report of the executive committee of the National Central Library for the year 1940-41 refers again to the special war work of the Library for Government departments, research stations and industrial concerns, as well as to the service organized in co-operation with the county libraries and the Scottish Central Library for Students, for the supply of educational books to men serving in the Army in all parts of the British Isles. A similar service has been given to men serving in the Royal Air Force, and the Library has also been able to assist men serving in the Royal Navy and in the Mercantile Marine through the agency of the Seafarers' Education Service. At the request of the Home Office, the Library has organized, with the assistance of the local urban or county libraries concerned, a service for the supply of educational books to aliens in internment camps. The Library has acted as

agent of the American Library Association's Committee on International Relations in connexion with the distribution of American books and periodicals to men serving in the British Forces at home and overseas. With the assistance of the British Council, the Library has also been instrumental in supplying books in their own language to sailors, soldiers, airmen and civilian refugees from Czechoslovakia, Greece, Holland, Poland and other Allied countries now in the British Isles.

When the Treasury grant in aid to the Library for the year 1940-41 was reduced from £4,800 to £3,500, the trustees of the Rockefeller Foundation made an emergency grant of 8,500 dollars for the year 1940-41, and the Foundation has continued to provide money for the upkeep of the Bureau of American Bibliography. The trustees of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust continued their grant of £4,000. The total number of books issued during the year decreased from 50,611 to 39,420, issues to university libraries being 2,433 as against 3,046 in the previous year; of these, 1,100 were supplied by university libraries themselves.

Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons

THE scientific report of the Royal College of Surgeons for the year 1940-41 states that the Museum and store rooms were hit during an air raid, incendiaries increased the damage, falling girders broke up the basement below, and heavy rain the following days drenched the exposed specimens. The loss, though serious, was not complete. In the anatomical series 1,207 specimens survived out of 2,569. In the osteological series, out of 1,655 Hunterian specimens only 94 were saved, and 6,209 of 15,545 College specimens. On the other hand, the whole of the odontological series was saved. Nearly half the 5,400 Hunterian physiological specimens escaped, but only 2,026 of the 14,850 College specimens in this series. Of the human and comparative teratological specimens only 23 of 170 Hunterian specimens remain, but the College specimens have largely survived. The better part of the Hunterian pathological series remains, but the College specimens have been reduced to about a fifth, and the whole of the Townbee and Strangeways collection has gone; the Army Medical War Collection has been reduced from 3,000 to 100. All the mummified specimens and the historical collection are lost, and the instruments collection has been reduced from 2,500 to 2,000. The zoological and anthropological pictures have survived, including Tonks's war pictures. The total loss of specimens amounts to 39,259 out of 65,827.

Vacation Apprenticeship Scheme

THE value of practical training, and of a close linkage with industrial practice during the undergraduate years, is receiving more and more recognition in scientific academic circles to-day. This is the case, not only in the engineering faculties, but also in branches of pure and applied science—chemistry, physics, and even biology. That this is also appreciated and valued by industrial firms themselves is apparent from the steadily growing success that has attended the Vacation Apprenticeship Scheme carried on by the Imperial College Union for the benefit of students of all departments in the Imperial College of Science and Technology. From its inception seven years ago, the scheme has shown a steady record of progress in spite of the uncertainties of the