

a first-class product from the feeding point of view, is regarded as probably not economic for the moderate-sized dairy farm. The possibility of improving the protein ration by feeding non-protein nitrogen compounds such as urea, with the idea that it would be converted into protein in the rumen of the animal, is under investigation. No far-reaching results are yet announced, but when roughly one third of the protein of the production ration was supplied in this form, the health, milk yields and body weights of the cows remained unimpaired during the six-week trial period. As regards disease prevention, control measures against mastitis have been extended, and the use of sulphanilamide administered orally has met with marked success. Dried milk products are being studied on the technical side, factors affecting their solubility and keeping quality receiving special attention. It appears that the addition of antioxidants to the precondensed milk before drying considerably increases the keeping quality of the resultant powder.

### Earthquake at Santa Barbara, California

FROM *Earthquake Notes* of December, 1941, we learn that a severe earthquake occurred at Santa Barbara, California, at 11.51 p.m. P.S.T. on June 30, 1941. This was followed by a swarm of aftershocks which continued for several days. Shocks of any consequence ceased to occur at about noon on July 3, but three shocks were reported on this date. A preliminary report from the seismological laboratory at Pasadena gives the epicentre location as  $34^{\circ} 20' N.$ ,  $119^{\circ} 35' W.$  This position is about eight miles off shore in a south-easterly direction from Santa Barbara. Damage was estimated at about 150,000 dollars. Maximum intensity was about VII or VIII on the modified Mercalli scale. Accelerograph records of this shock were obtained at Santa Barbara, Long Beach and Vernon. The record obtained at Santa Barbara is being analysed by integration methods and the results are expected later.

### "Davitamon-Five" Vitamin Tablets

MESSRS. ORGANON LABORATORIES, LTD., Brettenham House, Lancaster Place, London, W.C.2, have recently put on the market a new preparation of vitamin tablets named "Davitamon-Five". This preparation is intended for those people who wish to ensure that they are ingesting an adequate quantity of essential vitamins. The tablets are intended for the day-to-day prophylaxis and treatment of mild hypovitaminoses; and since a number of research workers have made it clear that specific avitaminotic symptoms are abolished more rapidly when the diet is adequate in the other vitamins, they can also be used to provide a suitable background for an intensive single-vitamin therapy. Each tablet contains: 1,000 I.U. vitamin A; 50 I.U. vitamin B<sub>1</sub>; 200 I.U. vitamin C; 200 I.U. vitamin D; 0.5 mgm. PP factor of the B complex. A sample of the tablets can be obtained from the above laboratories.

### Science Masters' Association: Annual Meeting

THE forty-first annual meeting of the Science Masters' Association will be held at Rugby School during April 8-10, under the presidency of Mr. P. H. B. Lyon, headmaster of Rugby School. The subject of the presidential address will be "English in the Science Course". Lectures will be delivered

by Prof. M. L. E. Oliphant on "Recent Practical Applications of Nuclear Physics" and by Mr. L. J. F. Brimble on "Human Biology in Education". Prof. L. T. Hogben will deliver the Science and Citizenship Lecture. A discussion on "Science in Post-war Education" will be opened by Mr. E. G. Savage. Further information can be obtained from Mr. W. Askhurst, Grammar School, Stretford, Lancs.

### Announcements

PROF. A. W. M. ELLIS, professor of medicine, University of London, has been appointed director of research in industrial medicine by the Medical Research Council.

SIR EDWARD APPLETON, secretary of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, will deliver the twenty-sixth Guthrie Lecture of the Physical Society on March 20. He will speak on "Ionospheric Influences on Geomagnetism".

MR. W. T. HALCROW will deliver the thirty-second May Lecture of the Institute of Metals on May 31 at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. The title of the Lecture will be "Water Power and its Application to the Production of Metals".

MR. S. BAIRSTOW, of the Chemical Research Section, Research Department, of the London Midland and Scottish Railway, has been awarded the Herbert Jackson Prize for 1941, for a paper entitled "The Relation between Calorific Value and the Road Performance of Producer-Gas Vehicles".

AT the request of the Minister of Agriculture, the National Institute of Agricultural Botany has set up a special Seed Production Committee the duty of which will be to take all possible steps to stimulate, co-ordinate and ensure home seed production. The chairman of the Committee is Mr. W. Gavin, agricultural adviser to the Ministry of Agriculture. The executive officer is Mr. Leslie E. Cook, and all communications should be addressed to him at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge.

A COPY of the third (revised) edition of a pamphlet on "The Colorimetric Determination of Oxidation-Reduction Balance" has been received from the British Drug Houses, Ltd., Graham Street, London, N.1. This gives in simple language a summary of the theory of oxidation-reduction processes and potentials, and of oxidation-reduction indicators and their uses in volumetric analysis and in several fields of work, including biochemistry and soil chemistry. Copies of this useful pamphlet can be obtained free of charge on application to the British Drug Houses, Ltd.

THE Lady Tata Memorial Trust is prepared to consider applications from workers in Great Britain for grants or scholarships for the year beginning October 1, 1942, for research on blood diseases, with special reference to leukaemia. Under present conditions it is not possible to deal with new applications from workers overseas. Inquiries must be addressed to the Secretary, Scientific Advisory Committee, Lady Tata Memorial Trust, c/o London School of Hygiene, Keppel Street, London, W.C.1, not later than March 31.