

logical physiology of urobilin and bilirubin, the sex hormones and the interaction of the glands of internal secretion. At the Institute of Nutrition directed by Prof. Escudero research work was done on milk, dietetics of childhood, national foods and vitamin C. At the Institute of Experimental Medicine directed by Prof. A. H. Roffo investigation was carried out on the carcinogenic action of tars (from coffee, tea, maté and tobacco), of derivatives of irradiated cholesterol, of diets based on cooked fats and of the production of cutaneous cancer in rats repeatedly subjected to the action of the sun and ultra-violet rays. The Bacteriological Institute of the National Department of Health directed by Prof. Sordelli not only prepares sera, vaccines and hormones, but also carries out research work on various infectious diseases such as brucellosis, bacillary dysentery, enteric fever, sylvatic plague, psittacosis, trypanosomiasis, uncinariasis, influenza and typhus. Important investigations have also been made on the adrenals and vitamin A at the Institutes of Physiology and Pharmacology of Rosario, and on endocrinology, electrocardiography and blood groups, at the Institute of Physiology at Córdoba.

### Artificial Insemination of Cattle

ARTIFICIAL insemination of animals has been applied for some years in a number of countries. Advantages claimed for the practice are the lessening of the risk of spread of disease in livestock, reduction in sterility and increase in fertility, facilitation of improvement in quality, and economy in livestock management. Trials of artificial insemination of cows on a practical scale have been recommended by the Agricultural Improvement Council for England and Wales to be carried out in the first place at two centres, Cambridge and Reading, by the Cambridge School of Agriculture and the National Institute for Research in Dairying respectively, under the guidance of a supervisory committee and with the assistance of local committees for the two areas. The supervisory committee is as follows: Prof. J. Scott Watson (chairman), Prof. J. F. Craig, Mr. J. H. Everall, Dr. John Hammond, Mr. Robert Hobbs, Mr. P. A. Mytton, Mr. C. Nevile, Capt. J. Templeton.

### Horticultural Composts

WORK upon the scientific mixing of composts performed at the John Innes Horticultural Institution has been condensed into a useful short paper by W. J. C. Lawrence (*J. Roy. Hort. Soc.*, 67, Pt. 3; March 1942). The new composts involve the use of sterile peat and very coarse sand for the improvement of texture, partial sterilization of turf loam by steam to eliminate harmful organisms and substances, and the addition of "John Innes base", a mixture of fertilizers. This base consists of a slowly available nitrogenous manure, a preponderance of superphosphate, and a little sulphate of potash. Details for the mixing of seed and potting composts are given in the paper, and fuller details are available in a leaflet (from the Institution, 31 Mostyn Road, London, S.W.19, price 6d.).

### Two Early Plant Collectors

A SHORT paper by the Right Rev. J. W. Hunkin, Bishop of Truro (*J. Roy. Hort. Soc.*, 67, Pt. 2; Feb., 1942) describes the work of William and Thomas Lobb, two of the first plant collectors employed by James Veitch and Sons about 1840. William was

responsible for such familiar introductions as *Berberis Darwinii* and *Escallonia macrantha* from Chile, while Thomas brought many new rhododendrons and orchids from Malaya.

### Royal Society of Edinburgh Year Book

IN 1940 it was decided that the *Proceedings of the Royal Society of Edinburgh* should be published in two sections, "A" (Mathematical and Physical) and "B" (Biological), and the appendixes and certain other matter issued separately. The first issue of this additional material has now appeared under the title of "Year Book of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, 1940-1941" (price 5s.). It includes obituary notices, brief 'proceedings' of the meetings held during the session, lists of recent awards of the Society's medals, etc., membership list, and the laws of the Society. It will be very convenient to have these details of the constitution and activities of the Society in separate and handy form for reference purposes.

### Announcements

DR. CHARLES OLMSTED, of the Department of Botany of the University of Chicago, has been appointed botanical editor of *Ecology*. He succeeds Prof. Francis Ramaley, of the University of Colorado. Prof. Thomas Park, of the Hull Zoological Laboratory of the University of Chicago, remains editor for zoology.

PROF. ADOLF WINDAUS, professor of chemistry in the University of Göttingen, well known for his researches on vitamins, has been awarded the Goethe Medal for Art and Science on the occasion of his sixty-fifth birthday.

THE following appointments and promotions have recently been made in the Colonial Service: W. S. Luke, to be veterinary officer, Kenya; R. Johns, agricultural officer, Fiji, to be director of agriculture, Leeward Islands; C. W. Elliot, assistant conservator of forests, to be senior assistant conservator of forests, Kenya.

THE following awards have been made by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers: Edison Medal to Dr. J. B. Whitehead, professor of electrical engineering at the Johns Hopkins University; Alfred Nobel Prize for 1940-41 to Robert F. Hays, jun., of the research laboratories of the Sperry Gyroscope Company, for his paper entitled "Development of the Glow Switch".

THE immediate establishment of a Scientific Advisory Council for the war effort has been officially announced in Jerusalem. The Council will work in close co-operation with the Palestine Government. Dr. Judah L. Magnes, president of the Hebrew University, has been appointed president, and Prof. Farkas secretary of the Council, the membership of which will consist of representatives of the Hebrew University, the Technical High School at Haifa, and the Agricultural and Daniel Sieff Institutes at Rehovot.

ERRATUM. In NATURE of April 4, p. 383, "Linkage of Physico-Chemical Processes in Biological Systems" by Prof. E. J. Conway, equation 4 should read:

$$2K = C_Y + \sqrt{C_Y^2 + 4(C'_K^2 + C'_K C'_N)}$$