

work of the Irish Sea Fisheries Association, Ltd., which began to function in 1931, and during the period intervening was engaged in the provision and equipment, on hire-purchase terms, of more than 130 motor-vessels which constitute the bulk of the existing fishing fleet. The larger landings in the year are attributable mainly to the efforts of the inshore fishermen, who found themselves well equipped at the onset of war conditions which have caused such a radical change in the operation of supply and demand for the output of sea-fishing in common with other food-producing industries. The increased earnings now obtainable are attracting more and more men.

The Dingle fishermen again did remarkably well, and their landings were just double the value of those of the preceding year. The summer and winter herring fishery, contrasted with 1939, showed quantitative increases of 21 per cent and 56 per cent respectively. The catches of salmon and sea-trout are better than those of the three preceding seasons, but are still below the average for the previous four decades. The drift-net fishings for salmon off the north and north-west coasts were also below average. The spawning season was a good one in nearly all fishing districts and the run of smolts, so far as was ascertainable, up to the average of previous years. The bad weather, however, interfered seriously with hatching experiments, although the output from the experimental brown trout hatchery at Lough Owel was nevertheless the highest yet recorded.

### Meteorology in Iraq

THE fifth annual report of the Director of the Meteorological Service of the Government of Iraq, which covers the year ending March 31, 1941, describes the work of this Service during a period when it was much affected by the entry of Italy into the War on June 10, 1940. The amount of civil aviation in Iraq was greatly reduced, but the companies still carrying on were supplied with reports and forecasts on the usual lines. The greatest difficulties arising from the entry of Italy into the War were in connexion with supplies of equipment from Great Britain. The supply of balloons required for making observations of the upper winds became erratic, and larger reserves had to be built up, which gave rise to problems of storage in a climate very unfavourable for rubber storage. The experiment was made of getting balloons made in Australia and the United States. In both cases results were satisfactory apart from the extra expense.

Other innovations included the making of the hydrogen required for the balloons on the spot with the aid of French generators employing ferro-silicon, and the construction by the Ordnance Department of Stevenson screens and rain-gauges, the former at a cost less than half that involved when obtaining the screens from England. What is described as the outstanding event of the year under review was the setting up of synoptic reporting stations at Hail and Riyadh in Saudi Arabia with the help of King Ibn Saud. A new observatory was also established at Kut al Hai, and a Dines pressure tube anemometer was installed at Rutba at considerable expense. A beginning was made with the preparation for publication of all available climatological data based on observations made in Iraq. The report, therefore, shows that the year was one of progress in spite of the unusual difficulties in the way of advance.

### The Ray Society

THE report of the Council of the Ray Society, which has just been circulated, states that, with the consent of the members, the annual general meeting has again not been held, and the present officers and council will continue to act for the current year. The accounts show that the reduction in the amount received from subscriptions has again been less than was anticipated and the sales of the Society's publications have been well maintained. A volume on "The Larvæ of Decapod Crustacea" by Dr. Robert Gurney will shortly be issued to subscribers for 1941. A work on the British Mysidæ (Opossum shrimps) by Prof. W. M. Tattersall is in preparation and is intended to form the issue for 1942. Owing to shortage of materials, the publications will, for the present, be issued in paper covers, but it is hoped later to supply covers for binding uniform with the volumes already published. The Council reminds members that, under present conditions, considerable delay in the publication of the annual volumes cannot be avoided. It is mentioned that at least one author has lost, by enemy action, all the notes and manuscripts prepared for a work to be offered to the Society.

### Diseases and War

THE April issue of the *Quarterly Review* contains an interesting article on this subject by Major Frederic Evans, who discusses the problems of an army so far as the maintenance of health is concerned. He classifies the diseases which it is important to prevent in the following nine groups: (1) louse-borne diseases, which consist of typhus fever, trench fever and relapsing fever, (2) mosquito-borne diseases, namely, malaria and yellow fever, (3) diseases caused by sandflies in hot regions, such as sandfly fever, oriental sore and probably kala-azar, (4) excremental diseases, namely, typhoid, paratyphoid, cholera, dysentery and infectious diarrhoea, (5) diseases due to droplet infection, such as cerebro-spinal fever, diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles, smallpox, influenza and pulmonary tuberculosis, (6) venereal diseases and skin diseases, especially scabies, (7) diseases caused by environmental conditions, namely, heat stroke, frostbite and trench foot, and (8) food deficiency diseases, such as scurvy, beriberi and night-blindness. In conclusion, Major Evans emphasizes the importance of the medical officer training his sanitary duty squad as thoroughly as he trains his stretcher bearers and medical orderlies.

### The Far East and the War

PROF. P. M. ROXBY'S admirable pamphlet on "China" (Oxford Pamphlets on World Affairs, No. 54. London: Oxford University Press. 4d. net) provides an excellent introduction, for those who have only now come to realize the importance of China in the War, to an understanding of the place of China in the struggle of the United Nations. Within the compass of thirty pages, he gives a succinct description of the land of China, the impact thereon of the West, and of the Nationalist movement and the progress of reconstruction up to 1931. The latter part of the pamphlet deals with the Japanese seizure of Manchuria and the consequences of the Sino-Japanese war which broke out in 1937. With Sir John Pratt's "Japan and the Modern World" (Oxford Pamphlets on World Affairs, No. 55. 4d. net) a penetrating analysis is afforded

of the causes which have merged the European and the Far Eastern conflicts into a single war. Sir John Pratt, moreover, in tracing the course of Japanese foreign policy and particularly of Japanese relations with Great Britain, goes to those fundamental differences in national temper and outlook which explain the present hostility of Japan and Great Britain, and indeed raise the question as to the desirability from the start of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance of 1902.

### The Indian Science Congress

THE following have been elected presidents of the various sections of the 1943 session of the Indian Science Congress, to be held in Lucknow during January 2-8, 1943. The fourteen sections into which the Congress originally divided its work have been re-grouped into twelve sections. *Mathematics and Statistics*, Dr. S. C. Dhar, University of Nagpur; *Physics*, Dr. H. J. Bhabha, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; *Chemistry*, Dr. S. S. Joshi, Benares Hindu University; *Geology and Geography*, Lieut.-Colonel E. A. Glennie, Survey of India, Dehra Dun; *Botany*, Dr. K. Biswas, Royal Botanical Garden, Sibpur, Calcutta; *Zoology and Entomology*, Dr. B. N. Chopra, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta; *Anthropology and Archaeology*, Dr. N. Chakravarti, Archaeological Survey of India, New Delhi; *Medical and Veterinary Sciences*, Dr. F. C. Minett, Imperial Veterinary Research Institute, Mukteswar; *Agricultural Sciences*, Rao Bahadur Y. Ramchandra Rao, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi; *Physiology*, Dr. B. Narayana, P.W. Medical College, Patna; *Psychology and Educational Science*, Dr. B. L. Atreya, Benares Hindu University; *Engineering and Metallurgy*, Prof. K. Aston, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

### Night Sky in June

New moon is on June 13d. 21h. 02m. U.T., and full moon on June 28d. 12h. 09m. Lunar conjunctions with the planets occur as follows: Venus on June 10d. 05h., Venus 2° N.; Saturn on June 12d. 08h., Saturn 3° N.; Mars on June 17d. 07h. Mars 4° N. On June 29d. 20h. Venus is in conjunction with Uranus, Venus 1.7° S. Mercury is near the sun during the month and souths at 13h. 03m. and 10h. 39m. at the beginning and end of the month respectively. Venus is a morning star and souths at 9h. 22m. in the middle of the month. Jupiter, in conjunction with the sun on June 25, is too close to the sun to be observed. Saturn is a morning star and souths at the end of the month at 9h. 49m. Only two occultations occur in the month and the brighter of the two stars, 44 Virginis, occulted on June 22d. 22h. 50m., is mag. 5.9. The sun enters the sign of Cancer on June 22d. 01h., the summer solstice, and at this time the nights in the latitude of London are about 7 hours long. If civil twilight is taken into consideration (sun 6° below the horizon) the time of darkness is only 5½ hours. Conditions for seeing the night skies are very much restricted during the month.

### Recent Earthquakes

A STRONG earthquake was reported on May 23 to have occurred in Colombia, South America. The town of Girardot, some sixty miles south-west of Bogota, is stated to have been partly destroyed, and shortly afterwards the island of Gorgona, in Buena-

ventura Bay, was submerged by a huge wave. This part of South America is particularly liable to experience earthquake shocks. Many of these from 1763 until 1936 have been described by J. Emilio Ramirez, S.J., and one reported by the British Association Seismological Committee in 1907 broke submarine cables off the mouth of the Esmeralda River on January 31, 1906.

The Ecuador earthquake of May 14 was beautifully recorded on the E-W Milne-Shaw seismogram obtained by Rev. J. P. Rowland, S.J., at Stonyhurst College Observatory. The *P* wave was impulsive at 02h. 25m. 50s. U.T. and a full suite of pulses followed. The readings are in agreement with the statements in NATURE of May 23, p. 578.

### Announcements

SIR HENRY H. DALE, president of the Royal Society, will retire from the post of director of the National Institute for Medical Research on September 30. To succeed him the Medical Research Council has appointed Prof. C. R. Harington, who is at present professor of chemical pathology in the University of London and director of the Graham Medical Research Laboratories in University College Hospital Medical School.

DR. C. G. DARWIN, director of the National Physical Laboratory, has been appointed scientific adviser to the Army Council.

THE following officers of the Royal Society of South Africa have recently been elected: *President*, Prof. A. Brown; *Hon. Treasurer*, Prof. R. W. James; *Hon. General Secretary*, Dr. A. J. H. Goodwin; *Hon. Editor of Transactions*, Dr. A. L. du Toit; *Hon. Librarian*, Prof. E. Newbery.

THE following appointments in the Colonial Service have recently been made: Mr. C. E. J. Biggs (senior agricultural officer, Uganda), deputy director of agriculture, Tanganyika; Mr. A. E. Pound, (inspector of produce, Nigeria), agricultural officer, Kenya.

THE population of Peru, according to the last official census, taken in 1940, is 7,023,111 inhabitants (*Bol. Of. San. Panamericana*, January). The female population forms 50.58 per cent, and the male 49.42 per cent. More than half the population, 52.89 per cent, are whites or mulattoes, and 45.86 per cent are Indians, while the Negroes constitute only 0.47 per cent.

IN "Belgium and the War" (Oxford Pamphlets on World Affairs, No. 56. 4d.), Prof. G. N. Clark describes the economics and politics of Belgium before the German invasion of May 1940, as well as the course of Belgian foreign policy in recent years. The latter part of the pamphlet describes the brief campaign of eighteen days and the reasons for the capitulation of the Belgian army; with, finally, an account of the occupation of Belgium, colonial resistance and of the issues which have made the Belgians carry on the struggle against the Axis Powers.

ERRATUM. In the letter "2-Aminofluorene as Growth Inhibitor for Bacteria and Rats" by F. Bielschowsky and Prof. H. N. Green in NATURE of May 9, p. 526, an error in the legend to the graph was overlooked. It should read: "broken line, feeding on 2-acetyl aminofluorenone; crossed line, 2-acetyl aminofluorene".