

special needs of the studies and operations to be served, while in regard to the latter an information service which derives its life from its users either as contributors or as recipients is not a bureaucratic processing machine but a positive and creative element in national life.

These discussions were echoed in that following Mr. F. C. Francis' paper on September 19 on "The British Museum as a Special Library". Pointing out that the librarian cannot be content with cataloguing and classifying his stocks but must always be on the look-out for means to make his books known and to make them play their full part in the growth of knowledge, Mr. Francis explained how, broadly speaking, the British Museum has itself tended to specialize on subjects that might be roughly grouped as humanistic. It is the practice of the Museum to attempt to add to its collections 'English' books printed abroad, and also to buy books by outstanding writers, and really important books likely to be of historical importance in every field of knowledge. Scientific works published in the general proceedings of learned societies and academies, or in series, or as dissertations will, almost certainly, be found in the British Museum Library in complete ranges, as will the publications of foreign Governments, which again include works in all branches of study. Generally speaking, the collections are strong on the historical side of most subjects and weakest in modern foreign technical literature in non-humanistic subjects. Even here, Mr. Francis pointed out that of 112 items on pp. 226, 227 of the "World List of Scientific Periodicals", the British Museum has seventeen, the Natural History Museum Library five and the Science Library twenty-two, while of the seventeen, five are not to be found elsewhere. Similarly, out of 87 items on pp. 510-11, ten are in the Museum (and three only there), five in the Natural History Museum, and sixteen in the Science Library. Again, the Museum has no fewer than 111 items not included in the recent ASLIB List of Scientific and Technical Periodicals received from the U.S.S.R. during the period 1933-42. Finally, commenting on Mr. C. C. Barnard's suggestion, Mr. Francis urged that we should first carefully consider the place which each library, whether a national library or a special library, can take in a properly thought-out scheme devised to fulfil the tasks allotted to it as economically as possible. The organization of collecting so as to provide up-to-date, accurate and complete information on the subjects covered requires a measure of unified control if special libraries are not to be doing the same work, and he thought centralization rather than dispersal of our great reference library services should be the ideal.

At the following session, Major Irving J. Newman described the organization of American Photographic Information Services in Great Britain and included a showing of the film "Report from the Aleutians". The afternoon session of the Conference on September 19 was devoted to a discussion on the co-ordination of abstracting, at which Prof. R. S. Hutton presided. Referring to the earlier ASLIB discussions and inquiry on this question initiated in 1931, and to Prof. J. C. Philip's paper "Efficiency with Economy in Abstracting", Prof. Hutton suggested that the discussion should centre on such points as whether existing abstracting services adequately cover the delegates' field of interest, and whether there is duplication in their particular fields. If they run their own abstracting service, is that because existing services do not

cover the field, are too slow or cannot cater for their special needs? Again, can a centralized abstracting service adequately serve their special field of interests or secondary interests indirectly related to their main field of research? The discussion was opened by Dr. S. C. Bradford, who put the case for a central abstracting service with his usual ability. Mr. King gave a brief statement of the steps already taken in regard to collaboration in the preparation of scientific abstracts arising out of the report of the British Commonwealth Science Committee. Despite a full discussion, it cannot be said that any tangible result was achieved. Most of those who participated appeared to be of the opinion that whatever centralized abstracting service may be organized, specialized abstracts will still be required to supplement it.

## SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF THE AMARYLLIDACEÆ

THE American Amaryllis Society is again to be congratulated upon the publication of its ninth year-book "Herbertia" for 1942 (From the Society, Orlando, Florida, U.S.A. 3.25 dollars post paid). The Society, through its able editor Dr. Hamilton P. Traub, has brought together a large number of short contributions which deal with all aspects of the Amaryllidaceæ. Detailed descriptions of the Ixolirion tribe, with keys and descriptions of species, are given by Dr. Traub, and include chromosome data for *I. tartaricum*. The genus *Crinum* is also the subject of a comprehensive review by Dr. J. C. Th. Uphof. Suitable illustrations play a considerable part in the correct recognition of species, and Major Albert Pam of Broxbourne, England, has prepared an extensive check-list of coloured plates of amaryllids which have been published in the literature. A new species of *Hemerocallis*, *H. altissima*, is described by Dr. A. B. Stout, who also outlines the various stages in the breeding of a red-flowered day-lily. Starting with *Hemerocallis flava*, *H. aurantiaca*, *H. Thunbergii* and the Europa day-lily, hybridization and selective breeding produced the Theron class, with petals almost wholly red. Further breeding has made possible the introduction of bi-coloured flowers, and blooms with various geometrical arrangements of red upon a yellow ground.

Cytology of the genus *Narcissus* forms the subject of a paper by Dr. Abilio Fernandes of Coimbra, Portugal, who is a recipient of the Society's Herbert Medal. Chromosome numbers for fifty-seven species, varieties and forms, with information about the relative sizes of various pairs, are combined with more general considerations. Diploids, for example, do not grow on acid soils ( $pH$  3.7-6.2), whilst hypotetraploids ( $2n = 26$ ) can grow on soils of moderate acidity and on neutral and alkaline ones ( $pH$  5.7-7.8). Cytological studies also reinforce the morphological subdivision of the genus into three groups. Some vitamins, hormones, pyrimidines and purines, with certain other substances, were found by Dr. F. T. Addicott to increase the percentage germination and tube-length of pollen grains of Milla sp. This fact should materially assist breeders to effect cross-pollination between varieties otherwise difficult of fertilization.

Virus diseases are also considered in the year-book. Earl Hornback lists the species of *Narcissus* in order of resistance to such maladies, placing *N. Tazetta* as

most resistant, with double forms, Poetaz and Poeticus varieties as most susceptible. L. S. Hannibal finds, however, that not many other genera of the Amaryllidaceae are affected by mosaic diseases. Several factors in the propagation of alstroemerids are of scientific interest. Alstroemeria seeds, for example, must have sun before they will germinate, whereas seeds of Pomarea must be protected from the sun, according to Harry L. Stinson. L. S. Hannibal shows, among other factors, that in the further treatment of seedlings, alstroemerias must not suffer any crowding of the roots, otherwise flowers will not be produced. Vegetative propagation of Homero callis by crown cuttings has been further studied by V. T. Stoutemyer, who finds that the cuttings grow much faster and make greater weight if they are given six hours extra light each day, than in conditions of ordinary illumination.

Other aspects of practical culture, of harvesting, storage, forcing and of garden combination are dealt with in the volume.

It is difficult to escape the conclusion that knowledge of the horticultural science, genetics and taxonomy of the Amaryllidaceae has advanced more than that of any other group during the last decade. Perhaps it is because "Herbertia" gathers together all the items into a connected whole, but there is also the specialist stimulus provided by a Society bent upon the encyclopaedic study of a relatively small field which is replete with garden beauty, world-wide in origin and distribution, and full of scientific interest.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(Meetings marked with an asterisk \* are open to the public)

### Friday, October 22—Saturday, October 23

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ASSOCIATION (at the Royal Empire Society, Northumberland Avenue, London, W.C.2).—Conference on "Country Towns in a National Planning Policy".\*

### Friday, October 22—Sunday, October 24

INSTITUTE OF INDUSTRIAL ADMINISTRATION (at the Waldorf Hotel, Aldwych, London, W.C.2).—Conference on "Management in Action".

### Saturday, October 23

SHEFFIELD METALLURGICAL ASSOCIATION, at 2.30 p.m.—Discussion on "The Education and Training of Metallurgists" (to be opened by Dr. Edwin Gregory).

### Monday, October 25

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY (at Kensington Gore, London, S.W.7), at 5 p.m.—"Flying Boats over Africa" (Kodachrome Film by courtesy of B.O.A.C., Commentary by Mr. Ronald W. Waugh).

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (at Savoy Place, Victoria Embankment, London, W.C.2), at 5.30 p.m.—Discussion on "How Far is International Standardization in the National Interest?" (to be opened by Colonel Sir A. Stanley Angwin).

ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIAN ENGINEERS, CHEMISTS AND SCIENTIFIC WORKERS IN GREAT BRITAIN (at the Austrian Centre Swiss Cottage, 69 Eton Avenue, Hampstead, London, N.W.3), at 7 p.m.—Mr. David Cushman Coyle: "The Tennessee Valley Authority—Democratic Planning of a Water System in U.S.A.".

### Tuesday, October 26

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY (at the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, South Kensington, London, S.W.7), at 2.15 p.m.—Mr. H. Rottenburg: "The Universal Decimal Classification as the Keystone of the Publishing and Bookselling Business"; Dr. R. L. Sheppard: "The Bureau of Hygiene and Tropical Diseases".

CHADWICK PUBLIC LECTURE (at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, Gower Street, London, W.C.1), at 2.30 p.m.—Miss Margery Fry: "Ill Health and Ill Doing".\*

EUGENICS SOCIETY (at the Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1), at 5.30 p.m.—Dr. A. Spencer Paterson: "The Size of the Family of the Business, Professional and Titled Classes".

### Thursday, October 28

OIL AND COLOUR CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION (MANCHESTER SECTION), (in the Engineers' Club, Albert Square, Manchester), at 2 p.m.—Dr. W. J. S. Naunton: "Molecules without Tears".

LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON (joint meeting with the Zoological Society of London) (at the Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1), at 3 p.m.—General Meeting; at 3.15 p.m.—Dr. J. E. G. Wheeler: "On a Humpbacked Whale taken in Bermuda in 1942"; at 3.35 p.m.—Mr. Gilbert J. Arrow: "Polymorphism in

Giant Beetles"; at 3.55 p.m.—Dr. V. J. Chapman: "1939 Cambridge University Expedition to Jamaica".

BRITISH INSTITUTION OF RADIO ENGINEERS (LONDON SECTION) (at the Institution of Structural Engineers, 11 Upper Belgrave Street, London, S.W.1), at 6.30 p.m.—Mr. John Logie Baird: "Colour and Stereoscopic Television".

ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIAN ENGINEERS, CHEMISTS AND SCIENTIFIC WORKERS IN GREAT BRITAIN (joint meeting with the Royal Netherlands Institution of Engineers) (at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Storey's Gate, St. James's Park, London, S.W.1), at 7 p.m.—Mr. P. Kaufmann: "District Heating".

### Friday, October 29

NORTH-EAST COAST INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS AND SHIPBUILDERS (in the Lecture Theatre of the Mining Institute, Newcastle-upon-Tyne), at 6 p.m.—Dr. G. A. Hankins: "Experimental Fluid Dynamics Applied to Engineering Practice" (Andrew Laing Lecture).

### Saturday, October 30

ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE (at the Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1).—Centenary Meeting.

At 11.15 a.m.—Sir John L. Myres: "A Century of Our Work".  
At 3 p.m. (at 21 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1).—"The Future of Anthropology". (Dr. G. M. Morant: Physical Anthropology; Prof. V. G. Childe: Archeology; Mr. R. U. Sayce: Material Culture; Dr. R. Firth: Social Anthropology).

## APPOINTMENTS VACANT

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments on or before the dates mentioned:

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST—The Director of Education, Municipal Buildings, Castle Street, Aberdeen (October 30).

TEACHER (MALE) OF GENERAL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS to students in full-time Junior and part-time day courses in the College of Technology—The Director of Education, Education Offices, Rotherham (October 30).

HORTICULTURAL OFFICER to take charge of advisory and demonstration work on commercial holdings and matters arising from the Horticultural Cropping Orders—The Executive Officer, Hampshire War Agricultural Executive Committee, The Castle, Winchester (October 30).

WATERWORKS ENGINEER AND MANAGER—The Town Clerk, Town Hall, Halifax (endorsed 'Waterworks Engineer and Manager') (November 1).

ASSISTANT LECTURER IN ZOOLOGY—The Registrar, University College, Nottingham (November 1).

ASSISTANT LECTURER IN AGRICULTURAL BACTERIOLOGY—The Registrar, University, Leeds 2 (November 6).

PROFESSOR OF ENGINEERING—The Registrar, University College, Singleton Park, Swansea (November 20).

SENIOR LECTURER IN ELECTROTECHNOLOGY at leading Technical College, Chile—The British Council, 3 Hanover Street, London, W.1 (endorsed 'Chile').

ASSISTANT ENGINEER for the Government of Northern Rhodesia Public Works Department—The Ministry of Labour and National Service, Central (Technical and Scientific) Register, Alexandra House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 (quoting Reference No. E.697).

WATERWORKS ENGINEER for the Nigerian Government Public Works Department—The Ministry of Labour and National Service, Central (Technical and Scientific) Register, Alexandra House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 (quoting Reference No. E.771).

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER for the Sierra Leone Government Public Works Department—The Ministry of Labour and National Service, Central (Technical and Scientific) Register, Alexandra House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 (quoting Reference No. E.774).

MASTER OF ENGINEERING, whose main work will be the teaching of Engineering and the organization of Junior Technical Classes for boys of 14 to 16—The Headmaster, The Gateway School, Leicester.

CIVILIAN TECHNICAL OFFICER for a Government Department near London with (1) expert knowledge of direct and alternating current generators, regulating gear and switchgear, rotary and static converters, internal combustion engines, primary and secondary batteries, radio communication senders, receivers and station accessories, telephone and transmission apparatus, including hand sets, carrier telephony and voice frequency telegraph equipment, teleprinter and cable-laying plant, or (2) ability to assess modern designs of above equipment for maintenance spares—The Ministry of Labour and National Service, Appointments Department, Q.S. 24, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 (quoting Reference No. Q.16848).

FOR GOVERNMENT POSTS IN INDIA—INDUSTRIAL PLANNING OFFICER (GENERAL), (Reference No. C.1911A), with sound mechanical training, and at least five years' subsequent supervisory experience in recognized mechanical workshop; DESIGN OFFICER (Reference No. C.1912A), first-class Mechanical Engineer with up-to-date experience in Design of Light Mechanical Engineering Work; ASSISTANT INDUSTRIAL PLANNING OFFICER (Ammunition) (Reference No. C.1913A), with first-class mechanical training and knowledge of Modern Methods of Production and specialized experience in Light Press Tool Work and Machinery Components for Air Bomb; ASSISTANT INDUSTRIAL PLANNING OFFICER (Non-Ferrous) (Reference No. C.1914A), with at least five years' experience in Production of Non-ferrous Metals and Alloys, and be familiar with Wire Drawing, Sheet and Strip Rolling, and Sand Casting and Electrodeposition; ASSISTANT INDUSTRIAL PLANNING OFFICER (Tools) (Reference No. C.1915A), with good experience in Machine Shop Process Planning and Jig Design experience—The Ministry of Labour and National Service, Central (Technical and Scientific) Register, Alexandra House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 (quoting the appropriate Reference No.).