the film industry. All inquiries should be made to M. Michaelis (honorary secretary), 51 Fitzjohn's Avenue, London, N.W.3.

Prehistory in the Deccan

So long ago as 1930, in the September number of *Antiquity*, Mr. M. C. Burkitt made an attempt to set out in some order the early archæological discoveries of south-east India. The bases for the study were the finds and notes made during a long period of years by Mr. L. A. Cammiade over a wide area of country including the districts along the lower reaches of the Godavari River. Actually, the finds made near this river were all from the surface and could not be accurately dated. They were, however, mostly microlithic in character; but it was clear that many ages were represented. Mr. H. D. Sankalia has now published a short article, "Studies in Prehistory of the Deccan (Maharashtra): a Survey of the Godavari and the Kadva near Niphad" (*Bull. Deccan Coll. Res. Inst.*, **4**, No. 3) which, while not taking us much further, has a certain interest. Briefly, the Godavari has, in places, cut down through the trap to a low level, having previously deposited on the trap a series of gravels in which Mr. Sankalia has discovered a few artefacts *in situ*. Unfortunately, the illustrations are not very good, and it does not appear that any outstanding finds have been made, but Mr. Sankalia is to be congratulated on having started an investigation which eventually may prove to be of considerable interest. It must always be remembered that the well-known micro-industries of the rock shelters in the Central Provinces of India, far from corresponding to the Mesolithic industries of Britain, are apparently for the most part post-Christian in date. At the same time there are post-Middle Stone Age finds of small implements in the Cammiade collection which probably do date to Late Pleistocene times. Further work by Mr. Sankalia may help to elucidate these problems.

St. John's Wort in Australia

ST. JOHN'S WORT (*Hypericum perforatum* var. *angustifolium*), introduced into Australia in about 1880 as a garden plant, is now a serious weed in many parts of that country. Besides reducing the carrying capacity of the pasture, stock may become affected with 'wort dermatitis', for the hypericin in the plant acts on the nervous system, rendering the exposed non-pigmented areas of their skin photo-sensitive. Control measures of various kinds are being tried, including improvement of the pasture by sowing competitive species, chemical treatment and the liberation of insect parasites. Some account of the success attending these trials is given in recent publications of the Australian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Bulletin 151 consists of a paper by R. M. Moore and A. B. Cashmore, who have investigated the problem from the agrostologist's point of view, while the entomological aspect is specially dealt with by F. Wilson and T. G. Campbell in the Council's *Journal* (**16**, p. 45). The results are most promising. Subterranean clover (*Trifolium subterranean*), a winter-growing annual, proved an efficient competitor with St. John's wort, and in association with perennial grasses, such as *Phalaris tuberosa* or *Lolium perenne*, almost completely eradicated the weed and provided a productive and nutritious pasture. The mixture is best sown with a dressing of superphosphate after a summer fallow, a dense pasture being afterwards maintained by regular top-dressings and a rotational system of grazing. The use of dark-coloured stock is also recommended as they are less prone to wort dermatitis. For entomological control, three insects have been established in Australia, two leaf-eaters, *Chrysolina hyperici* and *C. gemellata*, and a root-boring Buprestid, *Agrilus hyperici*. The prospects of success are good, particularly with Agrilus, as it is remarkably free from predators and parasites, but the Chrysolina species have a high reproductive rate, and judging from experience in France, all three insects can play a useful part in the control of the weed.

Stellar Spectrophotometry in the U.S.S.R.

Two recent publications (*Bull. Acad. Sci. Georgian S.S.R.*, **3**, No. 6, p. 509; No. 7, p. 657; 1942) give news that astrophysics still flourishes just beyond the high-water mark of the German advance into southern Russia. At Abastumani Observatory an extensive programme of photo-electric colorimetry of *B*8–*B*9 stars was begun in the summer of 1940 and is still in progress. The colours of all stars of these spectral types brighter than 7·5 mag., lying in a zone within 20° of the galactic equator, are being measured with an antimony-cæsium photo-cell attached to a 33 cm. reflector. Colour filters give effective wave-lengths of 4060 A. and 5280 A., the resulting colour equivalents being on a base-line slightly longer than ordinary photographically determined colour indexes. The greater sensitivity, range and stability of the antimony-cæsium cell enables the Russian observers, V. Nikonov and E. Brodskaja, to obtain observations of which the probable error is less than $\pm 0{\cdot}01$ mag. for stars brighter than the sixth magnitude, and less than $\pm 0{\cdot}02$ mag. for the fainter stars. When full results of this programme are available, they should add greatly to our knowledge of the selective absorption of light by interstellar matter situated fairly close to the sun.

Meanwhile, a vexed point regarding the colour temperature of α^2 CVen is being investigated at Mt. Kanobili. Thirty-three observations of the star taken in the spring and summer of 1941 show a maximum variation of colour temperature of 2,000°, which agrees better with the spectrum changes than the value of 10,000° found by Tai (*Mon. Not. Roy. Astro. Soc.*, **100**, 94; 1939). A puzzling feature of the observations is that the star is bluer at minimum than at maximum, a characteristic which differentiates it sharply from such intrinsic variables as Cepheids and long-period variables. Observations are being continued at Abastumani in happier circumstances than any obtaining since the inception of the programme.

South African Institute for Medical Research

THE annual report for 1942 of the South African Institute for Medical Research in Johannesburg indicates that this progressive Institute is playing its full part in the war effort. Staffed by 153 Europeans and 118 Africans, its activities are wide. In 1942, its buildings, which were no longer adequate to the large demands for serum for civilians and for army needs, were enlarged; a branch laboratory was established at Bloemfontein. The erection of a large plant for the manufacture of dried human and other serum was made possible by a grant of £10,000 from Sir Ernest Oppenheimer and the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa. The production of