

1942. As regards nutrition in Venezuela, the same conditions exist as in the other Caribbean Republics, and in some respects as in those in the other Latin American republics. All the publications on the subject come to the same conclusion, namely, that the labouring class is inadequately fed and consumes excessive amounts of carbohydrates compared with other elements such as proteins, vitamins, etc. In many cases a family has to spend 75 per cent of its income on food alone. Farm workers, on the other hand, though receiving much lower salaries, spend less on their food, or 47 per cent of their income, which adequately provides for their food. This situation would be much improved by an educational campaign.

Earthquakes Recorded at Kew

DURING the period December 1, 1943–February 1, 1944, eight strong earthquakes were registered at Kew. Of these, three were in December, four in January and one on February 1. Two earthquakes were registered on December 1, the first being at 06h. 18m. 50s. G.M.T. from an epicentre tentatively calculated to have been 14,600 km. distant. The maximum amplitude attained at Kew was 26 μ . The second on December 1 was registered at Kew at 10h. 47m. 59s. G.M.T., and this also attained a ground amplitude at Kew of 26 μ . Its epicentre has been calculated by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey in co-operation with Science Service and the Jesuit Seismological Association to have been at lat. 20° 2' S., long. 68° 1' W., which is in south-west Bolivia. Its depth of focus was probably near 100 km. On December 23 an earthquake was registered at Kew at 19h. 21m. 32s. G.M.T. and attained a maximum amplitude at Kew of 115 μ . Its epicentral position has been calculated by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey to have been near lat. 6° S., long. 152° E., which is east of New Guinea. Other earthquakes occurred on January 5 (two), 10, and 16. The earthquake on February 1 registered at Kew at 03h. 27m. 59s. G.M.T., had a maximum ground amplitude at Kew of 1,000 μ ; it has already been mentioned in the columns of NATURE as having occurred in Turkey.

Two earthquakes not apparently registered at Kew in any strength occurred on December 21, at 13h. 46·4m. G.M.T., from an epicentre near lat. 13° N., long. 70·5° W., and on December 23 at 15h. 56·0m. G.M.T. from an epicentre near lat. 13·3° N., long. 70·4° W. Both are in the Gulf of Venezuela. These shocks were registered at Tucson, St. Louis, Spring Hill, Georgetown, San Juan, Philadelphia, Burlington, Lincoln, Fordham, Pasadena, Huancayo and Chicago, and their provisional epicentres were calculated by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey in co-operation with Science Service and the Jesuit Seismological Association.

Prof. Alexander Macalister, F.R.S. (1844–1919)

PROF. ALEXANDER MACALISTER, the famous Cambridge anatomist, was born on April 9, 1844, in Dublin, where he was educated at Trinity College. He qualified at the Irish Royal Colleges in 1861, became M.B. at Trinity College ten years later and M.D. in 1876. After acting as demonstrator of anatomy at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, he was appointed professor of zoology, and eight years later professor of anatomy and chirurgery, at

Dublin. In 1883 he succeeded Sir George Murray Humphry in the chair of anatomy at Cambridge, and held this post for thirty-six years. He was a prolific writer. Besides his "Text-book of Human Anatomy" (1889) for which he is best known, he was the author of "Introduction to Animal Morphology" (1876) and "Morphology of Vertebrate Animals" (1878) as well as of numerous papers on animal morphology, human anatomy and small text-books for students. He was a man of remarkable versatility, being an able mathematician as well as versed in archæology, Egyptology and draughtsmanship. Like his cousin, Sir Donald Macalister, he was a proficient linguist, having knowledge of fourteen languages. He received many honours. In 1881 he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society. He was made hon. LL.D. of the Universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow and McGill and hon. D.Sc. and senator of the University of Dublin. His name has been attached to the fovea gastrica and the annulus femoralis s. cruralis.

Announcements

ON the joint recommendation of the presidents of the Royal Society and the Institution of Civil Engineers, the Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers has awarded the James Alfred Ewing Medal for 1943 to Group Captain Frank Whittle. The Ewing Medal is awarded annually for specially meritorious contributions to the science of engineering in the field of research.

At the ninety-seventh annual general meeting of the Palæontographical Society held in the rooms of the Geological Society at Burlington House on April 26, with the president, Prof. H. L. Hawkins, in the chair, it was resolved that the Society's Council be empowered to take such steps as be necessary to mark the approaching centenary of the Society in 1947. A committee has therefore been formed to consider suggestions as to how the occasion should best be commemorated; the secretary is Dr. C. J. Stubblefield, H.M. Geological Survey and Museum, London, S.W.7.

ACCORDING to the *Lancet* of April 8, Brigadier-General Leon A. Fox, director of the United States Typhus Commission, says that more than 1,800,000 c.c. of typhus vaccine supplied to Governments in the Middle East under Lend Lease since last June now are a gift of the United States Government. The Typhus Commission has instructions to make the vaccine available to public authorities wherever typhus epidemics appear. Shipments have gone to Egypt, Persia, Iraq, Cyrenaica, Eritrea, Palestine, Trans-Jordan, Tripolitania, Saudi Arabia and Ader.

IN the course of a review published in NATURE of February 19, p. 207, it was stated that the American Philosophical Society became a local scientific association for Philadelphia after the American Association for the Advancement of Science was formed. This is incorrect. The members of the Society come from all parts of the United States and there are at least fifty foreign members. It holds three general meetings a year, which are attended by members and others from all parts of the country, and is generally recognized as the most distinguished organization in America dealing with all fields of learning.