

of the League of Nations, in a 32-page report prepared by Mr. L. F. Atzenwiler entitled "Pre-War Production and Distribution of Narcotic Drugs and their Raw Materials" (New York: International Documents Service, Columbia Univ. Press, London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1944. 50 cents.) summarizes and analyses the mass of world-wide material which the Board has received. The report shows the importance of each country as a producer, and the quantities and methods of disposal of the raw materials and manufactured drugs, by both producer and consumer countries. The world productions of raw opium and morphine, for example, were 18,504 tons and 137,360 kgrm. respectively during the period 1934-37. Although such details will chiefly interest technicians, the main facts, trends and conclusions should be of great value as basic material for those concerned with future international work in this field.

Treatment of Arterial Injuries

THE Medical Research Council's War Memorandum, No. 13 (H.M. Stationery Office, 1944), on "Arterial Injuries" has been prepared by the Vascular Injuries Sub-committee of the Council's War Wounds Committee. It is intended for those who have only a limited experience of the early treatment of arterial wounds. It carries the authority of the eleven leading British surgeons who sit on this sub-committee, and shows how far surgery has advanced in recent years. The pamphlet is divided into sections on anatomy, symptoms, treatment in forward battle areas or in hospitals where specific operative treatment is possible and on the management of limbs in which the circulation has been impaired. Appendixes deal with the technique of the suture of completely or partially divided arteries, the administration of heparin, the technique of blocking the sympathetic nervous system in the arm or leg and the writing of notes on vascular injuries. Primarily useful to surgeons, this pamphlet will no doubt interest others who may have to deal with this kind of injury in peace-time as well as in war.

Spicules on the Sun

THE March issue of *Sky and Telescope* contains a brief notice of solar spicules, which are very small spike-like prominences most commonly seen in the polar regions of the sun. They have previously been seen during solar eclipses; but the coronagraph makes it possible to carry out daily observations of their numbers and duration. Dr. Walter O. Roberts is in charge of the observations made at Harvard College Observatory's Fremont Pass station at Climax, Colorado, and he has found that the spicules last only four or five minutes from the time of detection until they fade out completely. A spicule is brightest just before it attains its full height, and after reaching its maximum elongation it begins to fade out without any perceptible motion. Their average width is about 4,500 miles and most of them are only a few thousand miles high. The largest spicule sometimes lasts eleven minutes, and some of the smaller ones about two minutes. At times as many as twenty-five spicules have been seen simultaneously in a 60° arc of the sun's polar limb. They are not seen in disturbed regions of the sun, and they show material flowing outward from the lower layers of the atmosphere; this is in contrast to the ordinary solar prominences, which show material when it is falling inward to the sun's surface.

Smithsonian Publications

THE Classified List of Smithsonian Publications Available for Distribution, May 1, 1925, compiled by Helen Munroe (Publication A.3802, Smithsonian Institution, Washington), contains only such works as can now be supplied by the Institution. It is not a complete list of all Smithsonian publications issued to date, and in particular publications of the United States National Museum and of the Bureau of American Ethnology are not included. The papers are arranged by subjects alphabetically, and the series in which they appeared are indicated. Those in the series of Contributions to Knowledge and Miscellaneous Documents are not public documents, but are available in printed editions and distributed without charge to public libraries, educational establishments and learned societies. They are supplied to other institutions and to individuals at the prices indicated. The Smithsonian Report volumes are distributed gratuitously to libraries and individuals throughout the world; but many of those of which the Smithsonian edition is exhausted can be purchased through the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington. Applicants to the Institution should state the grounds for their request, as the Institution can only supply the papers as an aid to research or studies in which applicants are specially interested.

Announcements

THE Committee of Privy Council for Medical Research has appointed Prof. P. A. Buxton, professor of medical entomology in the University of London, and Sir Alexander Fleming, professor of bacteriology in the University of London, to be members of the Medical Research Council from October 1, 1945.

MR. J. STEWART COOK has been appointed organizing secretary of the British Association of Chemists as from July.

THE life and work of the late Major Charles E. S. Phillips, secretary of the Royal Institution during 1929-45, will be commemorated at a meeting at the Institution on October 1 at 5 o'clock. Lord Rayleigh, the president, will take the chair and short addresses dealing with various aspects of Major Phillips' life and his connexion with the Royal Institution will be given by Sir Robert Robertson, Sir Richard Paget, Mr. R. S. Whipple, Prof. W. V. Mayneord and Sir Henry Dale.

THE Imperial Institute is arranging a series of lectures on recent progress in geological investigation and mineral developments in the Colonies. Each lecture will be devoted to a particular territory and will be given by a recognized authority. The first of the series will be given on October 31 at 3 p.m. by Dr. F. Dixey, director of the Geological Survey of Nigeria, on "Nigeria, Its Geology and Mineral Resources". The second lecture in the series, by Dr. N. R. Junner, director of the Gold Coast Geological Survey, will be given in December, and others will follow.

THE Hertfordshire Institute of Agriculture has unbound copies of *Nature* from 1926 onwards. Those dated up to the beginning of the War are available to bombed-out research institutions and libraries on payment of cost of packing and transport. Further information can be obtained from Mr. H. W. Gardner, Hertfordshire Institute of Agriculture, "Oaklands", St. Albans, Herts.