

selected more or less at random: Robert Boyle, Roger Bacon, Descartes, Galileo, William Gilbert, William Harvey, Hippocrates, Robert Hooke, James Hutton, Christian Huygens, Johannes de Ketham, Lavoisier, Sir Isaac Newton, Ambroise Paré, Pasteur, Scheele, and Vesalius. The prices asked, and presumably obtainable, are in many cases high; and are an indication of the marked trend in recent years for early scientific and medical works to appreciate in value. An interesting sidelight as to how the scarcity, as opposed to the absolute scientific importance, of a book may affect values is afforded by a comparison of the prices asked for James Hutton's "Theory of the Earth" (£175) on one hand, and Newton's "Principia" (1st edition, 2nd issue, £130) on the other. It has long been realized that copies of the former are extremely difficult to find, and also that it was an epoch-making work; yet it can scarcely be claimed that it ranks in importance with Newton's *magnum opus*.

Colonial Service Appointments

THE following appointments in the Colonial Service have been announced: A. L. Barcroft, to be agricultural officer, Malaya; P. A. Donovan, to be agricultural officer, Sierra Leone and Gambia; A. Hyslop, to be agricultural survey officer, Gold Coast; N. F. Robertson, to be plant pathologist, West Africa Cocoa Research, Gold Coast; P. F. Burgess, to be assistant conservator of forests, Malaya; W. E. S. Mutch, to be assistant conservator of forests, Nigeria; J. C. Wilson, to be assistant conservator of forests, Gold Coast; Major D. J. Gear, to be geologist, Uganda; Flt.-Lieut. E. G. Davey, to be assistant director, Observatory, Mauritius; Lieut. C. G. Dixon, to be senior geologist, British Guiana; R. Mather, to be meteorological officer, Malaya; T. Bell, agricultural superintendent, British Guiana, to be senior agricultural officer, Palestine; E. J. Shrubshall, senior assistant conservator of forests, Malaya, to be conservator of forests, Malaya; G. W. Somerville, senior assistant conservator of forests, Malaya, to be conservator of forests, Malaya.

Announcements

DR. JULIAN HUXLEY, executive secretary of the Preparatory Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, has been appointed director-general of the Organisation.

MR. J. M. COOK, sometime lecturer in classical archaeology in the University of Edinburgh, has been appointed director of the British School of Archaeology in Athens.

DR. ALEXANDER MULLER, of the Davy Faraday Research Laboratory of the Royal Institution, has been appointed deputy director of the Laboratory.

THE Pest Infestation Laboratory of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, originally set up at Slough, Bucks, in 1940, is to be extended. Mr. G. V. B. Herford, at present officer-in-charge, has been appointed director of the Laboratory.

THE Olaf Bloch Memorial Award was founded by the Institute of British Photographers and the Royal Photographic Society jointly in 1946 as a tribute to the memory of Olaf Bloch. The award, consisting of books to the value of about £10, will be given for an essay, the subject of which for 1947 is "The

Effect of the Introduction of Panchromatic Emulsions on the Applications of Photography". Particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, Institute of British Photographers, 49 Gordon Square, London, W.C.1; the closing date for the competition is June 1, 1947.

THE Institution of Civil Engineers has arranged three Christmas lantern lectures for boys on "Railways: How They Are Built and How They Run", to be delivered by Mr. Cecil J. Allen (December 30), Mr. L. G. B. Rock (January 3) and Mr. O. S. Nock (January 6). Tickets are issued for each lecture, and can be obtained free of charge from the Secretary, Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, Westminster, S.W.1. The lectures are primarily intended for boys between thirteen and seventeen years of age.

A COURSE of twelve lectures on "Recent Advances in Dairy Technology" is to be given at the Central Laboratories, Express Dairy Co. Ltd., under the auspices of Chelsea Polytechnic early in the New Year. The lectures will be given on Tuesdays at 6.30 p.m., beginning on January 14, and are intended to serve the interests not only of persons engaged in the control of milk in its preparation for the consumer but also of medical officers of health, public analysts, food chemists and others concerned with milk as a foodstuff and with public health. The fee for the course is £1; particulars are available from the Chelsea Polytechnic. An inaugural address, open to the public, will be given by Dr. N. C. Wright, director of the Hannah Dairy Research Institute, on January 7.

A SHORT course of about twelve lecture-demonstrations on television practice, commencing Thursday, January 16, at 7-9 p.m., have been arranged at the South East London Technical Institute, Lewisham Way, London, S.E.4. The fee for the course is £1. Particulars can be obtained from the head of the Electrical Engineering Department of the Institute.

THREE graduate memberships of the Royal Institution are to be awarded in 1947. Graduates of either sex, of any university of the British Empire, who have graduated during 1946 with first- or second-class honours in any scientific subject, are eligible. Forms of application can be obtained from the General Secretary, Royal Institution, 21 Albemarle Street, London, W.1, to whom they must be returned by January 15.

THE Council of the Institution of Metallurgists has made arrangements for the operation of an appointments register, commencing in January 1947, the purpose of which is to put in touch members of the Institution who are seeking posts and employers having vacancies on their metallurgical staffs. Inquiries should be addressed to the Registrar, Appointments Register, Institution of Metallurgists, 4 Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1.

IN the note entitled "Documentation in Switzerland" in *Nature* of November 23, p. 742, it was stated incorrectly that the publication under notice was by T. van Schelven and published by the Kosmos Publishing Co. of Amsterdam. The pamphlet is issued by the Schweizerische Vereinigung für Dokumentation from the library of the Technical High-School, Zurich.