

mentation. The discussion includes contributions from Dr. F. Steggerda, director of the Nederlandsch Instituut voor Documentatie en Registratuur, and Dr. C. Groeneveld, of the Royal Dutch Shell Laboratory, and indicates the wide variety of practice. Two points which might be noted in passing are: first, the importance of relating the filing system to the quantity of material it is called upon to handle; and secondly, that notably in regard to correspondence, the papers and discussion collected in this report indicate a number of factors in efficient registry service which should be impressed firmly on all those using correspondence files, whether they bear any responsibility or not for the filing system itself. 51.

Delinquency among Young People in Colombia

IN *Revista de la Universidad del Cauca* (No. 9, June 1946), Luis Carlos Pérez deals with factors responsible for crime among young people in Colombia. The author provides statistics based upon the results of certain investigations, in particular of the cases where there has been death of one or both parents, and these present some interesting features. When the mother survives, the number of delinquents increases, but when the father survives it decreases; the greatest number comes from cases where both parents are alive. Offences against property are by far the most numerous, and next to these, but very much less numerically, are offences against persons and cases of vagrancy. Cases of lapses after reformatory treatment are numerous; they suggest that it has no effect or that the teaching is practically the negation of correctional. Other matters are discussed, such as the larger number of male than of female criminals, the criminality of women in Colombia (in 1944, out of a total of 5,217 people condemned for offences, only a little more than 6 per cent were women), the problem of crime among the Indians, the Indian in relation to the law in Colombia, etc. In connexion with the last point, there is no general legislation; the protectors and judges of the Indians are usually the missionaries. They are authorized to exercise civil, penal and judicial jurisdiction over them, in accordance with a law passed in 1890. Difficulties arise in those cases where it is not very easy to differentiate between Indians who are civilized and those who are not. The methods for obviating this difficulty are by no means ideal, and alterations in the system are matters of great importance. 61.

Fruit Production and Propagation

THE war-time concentration on food production and the turning of many fruit-tree nurseries to short-term crops, has resulted in an acute shortage of young trees to meet the needs of the expanding industry and the private garden alike. In addition, much experienced labour has been lost to the industry in general, so there is real need to make known in a practical form the most up-to-date methods of propagation and the accumulated experience of orchard management. These objects are admirably achieved by two recent pamphlets issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries ("Apples and Pears". Bull. 133. Pp. 119+18 plates. 2s. 6d. net; and "Fruit Tree Raising: Rootstocks and Propagation". Bull. 135. Pp. 46+2 plates. 1s. 3d. net. London: H.M. Stationery Office). The arts of budding and grafting can only be fully acquired by

observing the green-fingered dexterity of the experienced propagator, and proficiency and speed are only achieved after long practice (100 buds or 70 grafts an hour are said to be good averages); nevertheless, Bulletin No. 135 does as much as can be done by precept. It includes, *inter alia*, chapters on the classification and uses of rootstocks; propagation from seed, cuttings, stools and layers; tree shaping; control of pests and diseases, and a useful calendar of nursery operations.

Bulletin No. 133 is a well-illustrated text-book of commercial apple and pear production, and covers all aspects of the subject from planning and planting to storing and marketing. There is a particularly good chapter on top-working and frame-working, but that on pruning might have been improved by reference to the results of pruning and shaping trials at the research stations. In the chapter on soil management, on the other hand, the section on cover crops does not distinguish very clearly between established commercial practice and recent experimental results which have not been tested commercially. Both bulletins provide the orchardist with authoritative manuals at negligible cost. 3/2.

Diseases of Cereals in Scotland

THE high atmospheric humidity in Scotland favours the rapid development of eyespot (*Cercospora herpotrichoides*) on wheat and barley, but the severity of the disease is offset by the relatively long rotations employed. A survey carried out in 1944 (Mary D. Glynn, *Ann. Appl. Biol.*, 33, 1, 35; 1945) showed 75 per cent of the autumn-sown wheat crops to be affected, and some 9 per cent showed obvious loss. Nearly all spring-sown crops of barley were affected; but damage appeared to be less than on wheat. Sharp eyespot (*Corticium Solani*) was widespread and was particularly common in Aberdeenshire; loss is apparently slight, but deep lesions may cause some straggling. Take-all disease (*Ophiobolus graminis*) was seen on less than half the wheat crops, and in only one case was 10 per cent of the straws affected. Except in Dumfriesshire and Aberdeenshire, it was much less common than eyespot, a conclusion similar to that reached by R. W. G. Dennis (*Ann. Appl. Biol.*, 31, 370; 1944). 51/2.

Coryndon Memorial Museum, Nairobi

THE annual report for 1945 of the Museums Trustees of Kenya announces the appointment of Dr. L. S. G. Leakey (upon his release from war duties) to the full-time curatorship of the Coryndon Memorial Museum. Dr. Leakey, well known for his work in East African prehistory, has already carried out a great deal of work for this Museum in his capacity first as honorary curator and then as part-time curator. The Curator's report for the same year reports the holding of a Conference of Curators of East African Museums under the chairmanship of Dr. Leakey, and it is hoped that in future this will be an annual event. It was decided that a Federation of East and Central African Museums should be formed and linked with the Museums Association of England and the Empire. The same report makes reference to the possible development of the Museum as Kenya's War Memorial. During the year, the Governor called for suggestions as to what form the Kenya War Memorial should take, and a special committee was appointed to consider schemes sent in. Out of the ninety-eight

received, two were selected for a final choice. Of these, one was a scheme for a "Technical College for All Races", and the other a "Museums Service Extension Scheme", which was submitted by the curator and by the Executive Committee of the Natural History Society. It will be remembered that Dr. Leakey referred to these proposals in a broadcast on the needs of the East African peoples which he made during a recent visit to Great Britain. He made it clear that so far as the East African native is concerned, the scheme envisaging a technical college is overwhelmingly favoured.

South African Association for the Advancement of Science

THE *South African Journal of Science* of June 1946 (volume 42) from the Association, Johannesburg) contains the report of the Johannesburg meeting in 1945 of the South African Association for the Advancement of Science, including the presidential address of E. C. Chubb, director of the Durban Museum, on "Museums and the Advancement of Science", the sectional addresses and the papers read or presented to the sections. The president, after indicating the services which the British Museum had rendered to the advancement of science, gave an interesting review of the activities of the museums of South Africa. Dr. H. van Gent's presidential address to Section A dealt with the contribution of variable star research to the progress of astronomy, while Mr. H. Wilson's presidential address to Section B, "Methane: a Neglected National Asset", discussed the potentialities of methane and urged the serious co-ordinated exploration of the country's resources of natural gas containing methane. Prof. C. J. van der Horst's presidential address to Section D, "Revolution in Evolution", reviewing the influence of Hugo de Vries' conclusion regarding evolution by sudden mutations, discussed more particularly the nature and origin of the trophoblast or feeding layer surrounding the mammalian embryo, and Prof. C. P. Lestrade, addressing Section E, dealt with "Some Problems of Bantu Language Development". Prof. Lestrade was concerned mainly with whether all or any of the South African Bantu languages should survive, and if so, with the part they should play in the life of the Bantu-speaking peoples, and secondly, how we could best ensure that the languages deemed worthy of survival could play the part desired, and he referred in conclusion to the lessons to be learned from the language situation in the Philippines. Of equal practical interest is A. J. Limebeer's presidential address to Section F on "The Employment of the Partially Disabled considered as a Social Policy".

Congress on Colonial Agriculture

THE Institut National pour l'Étude Agronomique du Congo Belge (INEAC), 12 rue aux Laines, Brussels, is organising at Yangambi, in the Belgian Congo, an 'agricultural week' during February 27-March 5. There will be visits to the Yangambi laboratories and gardens and to the neighbouring experimental stations. Papers will be read concerning Colonial agricultural questions, including particularly agricultural methods of promoting soil conservation. A report will be published in due course. Papers (two typewritten copies) should be sent to the Institute at Brussels by January 15 or to Yangambi (Belgian Congo) by February 1.

University of Sheffield: Appointments

THE Council of the University of Sheffield has made the following appointments: Dr. Arthur G. Walker, special lecturer in differential geometry in the University of Liverpool, to the chair of mathematics, in succession to the late Prof. P. J. Daniell; Dr. T. S. Stevens to be senior lecturer in organic chemistry; Dr. Quentin H. Gibson to be lecturer in physiology; H. J. V. Tyrrell to be assistant lecturer in chemistry; Dr. W. J. P. Neish to be cancer research assistant in the Department of Pathology.

University of Cambridge: Appointments

THE following appointments have been made in the University of Cambridge: W. L. S. Fleming to be director of the Scott Polar Research Institute in succession to Prof. F. Debenham, who has resigned; Dr. L. E. R. Picken, Dr. R. J. Pumphrey and H. W. Lissmann to be assistant directors of research in zoology. Prof. Carl Störmer, of the University of Oslo, will deliver the Rouse Ball Lecture for 1946-47.

Announcements

PROF. W. V. MAYNEORD, professor of physics applied to medicine at the Royal Cancer Hospital, London, will deliver a series of six lectures at the British Institute of Radiology on "The Applications of Atomic Physics in Medicine" on Wednesdays beginning January 1 at 5 p.m.

THE Rector and Fellows of Lincoln College, Oxford, propose to elect an official fellow in chemistry, the appointment to commence on October 1, 1947. Particulars may be obtained from the Rector, to whom application, including a personal record and the names of three referees (but no testimonials), should be made before February 8, 1947.

AN election to the Pinsent-Darwin Studentship in mental pathology will be made at Cambridge in March. It is of the annual value of not less than £225 and is tenable for three years. The student must engage in original research into any problem having a bearing on mental defects, but may carry on educational or other work concurrently. Applications should be sent before February 28 to the Secretary, Pinsent-Darwin Studentship, Psychological Laboratory, Cambridge. Applicants should state their age and qualifications and the general nature of the research that they wish to undertake. No testimonials are required, but applicants should give the names of not more than three referees.

FOURTEEN member firms of the Scientific Instrument Manufacturers' Association of Great Britain, Ltd., have formed an Electronics Section. The first chairman is Capt. A. G. D. West, director of Cinema-Television, Ltd. One of the main objects of the Electronics Section will be to further and improve the manufacture of British electronic instruments and apparatus, an industry which has experienced a rapid growth during the last few years.

MR. ROBERT D. POTTER, former science editor of the *New York Herald Tribune* and staff physics writer on Science Service, Washington, D.C., is resigning after six years as science editor of the *American Weekly* to found his own science writing organisation. His firm will be known as "The Wordshop" with headquarters at Scarborough-on-Hudson, N.Y., U.S.A. Mr. Potter was a founder-member and twice president of the National Association of Science Writers.