

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.