

## NEWS and VIEWS

## British Association: Annual Meeting

SIR HENRY TIZARD was installed as president of the British Association at a meeting held at Burlington House on January 9, when the Committees of Sections met to draft the outlines of their programmes for the forthcoming annual meeting, to be held this year during September 8-15 at Brighton. Emphasis will be given to scientific subjects which have a bearing on the economic crisis; a preliminary programme will be issued in the beginning of April.

The officers of the Association for the present year are as follow: *President*, Sir Henry Tizard; *General Treasurer*, M. G. Bennett; *General Secretaries*, Dr. Edward Hindle and Sir Richard Southwell; *Presidents of Sections*, Sir Lawrence Bragg (Physics and Mathematics), Prof. John Read (Chemistry), Dr. A. E. Trueman (Geology), Prof. H. Graham Cannon (Zoology), Lord Rennell of Rodd (Geography), Sir Hubert D. Henderson (Economics), Wing-Comm. T. R. Cave-Browne-Cave (Engineering), R. U. Sayce (Anthropology and Archaeology), Prof. H. Hartridge (Physiology), Prof. A. Rex Knight (Psychology), Prof. J. R. Matthews (Botany), W. O. Lester Smith (Education), Dr. G. Scott Robertson (Agriculture).

## International Geological Congress

SIR JOHN ANDERSON has accepted the office of honorary president of the General Organising Committee for the eighteenth session of the International Geological Congress, which is to be held in Great Britain this summer, and will welcome the delegates and members at the first meeting of the General Assembly. Prof. H. H. Read, president of the Geological Society of London, has succeeded the late Sir Thomas Holland as president of the General Organising Committee and president-designate of the Congress. More than a thousand geologists from countries overseas are expected to attend the Congress; the total attendance, including British geologists, is likely to approach two thousand. Twenty-eight Governments and about 160 universities and scientific institutions have already accepted invitations to be represented by official delegates. The meetings of the Congress will be held during the period August 25-September 1 in the Royal Albert Hall and the lecture theatres of the Royal Geographical Society and the Imperial College of Science and Technology. Sir Edward Bailey and Prof. O. T. Jones will deliver special addresses on the structural history of Britain.

The list of subjects to be discussed at the sectional meetings of the Congress is as follows: (A) problems of geochemistry; (B) metasomatic processes in metamorphism; (C) rhythm in sedimentation; (D) geological results of applied geophysics; (E) geology of petroleum; (F) geology, paragenesis and reserves of the ores of lead and zinc; (G) geology of sea and ocean floors; (H) Pliocene - Pleistocene boundary; (J) faunal and floral facies and zonal correlation; (K) correlation of Continental vertebrate-bearing rocks; (L) earth movements and organic evolution; (M) other subjects. In addition, problems of African geology will be considered at open meetings of the Association des Services Géologiques Africains; and selected palaeontological topics will be discussed by the International Palaeontological Union. A series of meetings on the mineralogy and geology of clays will be organised in conjunction

with the Clay Minerals Group of the Mineralogical Society. In addition to the thirty-two geological excursions previously announced, five more excursions are being organised; two of these will visit East Anglia, one will visit Jersey, and two others will demonstrate the general geology of Scotland, and the hydrogeology of England and Wales. There will also be a series of day and half-day geological excursions. Full details of the excursion programme and of other arrangements for the Congress can be obtained from the General Secretaries, 18th Session International Geological Congress, Geological Survey and Museum, Exhibition Road, London, S.W.7.

## International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences

THE third session of the International Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (which met in London in 1934 and Copenhagen in 1938) is to be held under royal patronage at Brussels-Tervueren, during August 15-23, 1948. The president will be Prof. Ed. De Jonghe (University of Louvain); secretary, Prof. Frans M. Albrechts (University of Ghent, director of the Museum of the Belgian Congo); treasurer, Prof. Fr. Twiesselmann (University of Brussels, curator of the Royal Museum of Natural History). The subscription for full members is £2 2s.; for associates 200 Belgian francs. The Congress will meet in twenty-four sections, covering all branches of anthropological and ethnological research. Communications must be sent in typewritten synopsis, of not more than 200 words, to the Secretary before June 1; the full text and illustrations before July 1. Provision will be made for films and sound-records. There will be several exhibitions in connexion with the Congress; and excursions during August 24-28. Accommodation may be reserved either in the 'Cité Estudiantine' of the University of Brussels at 165 Belgian francs a day; or in hotels through Wagon-Lits-Cook, 17 Place de Brouckère, Brussels; approximate cost, room 100-200 Belgian francs; meals, 75-125 Belgian francs. Formal dress will not be required for any of the functions. The Organising Committee will endeavour to obtain currency facilities and reduced fares. Correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary, Musée du Congo Belge, Tervueren.

## Embryology of Monsters

A RECENT issue of *Ciba Symposia*, a journal produced by a pharmaceutical firm, contains two informative articles on monstrosities in embryological development. The first, by Dr. Hamburger, professor of zoology in Washington University, St. Louis, is a general account of natural and experimentally induced maldevelopments. The second, by Dr. Wolfgang Born, of the Department of Fine Arts of Louisiana State University, traces the course of monstrosities, real and imaginary, as they appear in painting, sculpture and mythology. It is interesting that Dr. Born is a son of the Gustav Born who was one of the founders of experimental embryology, and one of whose main discoveries was that two halves of a divided amphibian embryo will fuse together if they are kept in apposition. It is widely believed that this finding was one of those brilliant outcomes of an accidental observation. In the course of Born's studies on regeneration, some tadpoles were halved just after hatching. To enable him to distinguish individual larvae on which he was working, he left a part of the skin of the back intact after

having halved the bodies. To his surprise he found next day that the halved larval bodies the dorsal skin of which had been left intact had re-united and healed together.

This observation led Born to the fundamental discovery that it is possible to join together as a chimera the half of an embryo of one amphibian species with that of another. This fact provides the basis for the many transplantation and grafting experiments out of which much of experimental embryology as we know it to-day has developed. The centenary of Gustav Born's birth takes place in 1951, and it is to be hoped that the occasion will be properly celebrated by the publication of a commemorative volume tracing the story of his work and its subsequent development. The present issue of *Ciba Symposia* is a reminder of his very great contributions to experimental embryology, and of the widespread interest which the subject of monstrosities has always aroused.

### Simultaneous Recording of Related Oscillograph Traces

DURING the War, the frequent need in such fields as ballistics, and the study of mechanical shock and vibration, to obtain information about the temporal variation of quantities, and in particular the inter-relationship of these variations, led to a considerable use of the cathode ray oscillograph and moving-film technique. The methods of obtaining several records at once so as to permit a study of this interrelationship included the use of double-beam oscilloscopes, electronic switches for beam splitting, ganged cameras, and the photographing of a number of screens on the same film. Messrs. Cossor designed a unit comprising a 70-mm. film camera facing the screens of two double-beam tubes, and provision was made for ganging three such instruments together. The problem became more difficult, however, when it was desired to record some fifteen traces on the same film, as it was obviously impracticable to photograph fifteen oscilloscopes in line and still retain reasonable trace amplitude. To meet such a requirement, Messrs. Avimo Ltd., Taunton, have produced a series of units, employing up to fifteen 1½-in. cathode ray tubes photographed through mirrors on 70-mm. film or paper. The apparatus is robust and portable, and has a range of film speeds of 1–50 in./sec. The optical reduction factor is 2.5, and a microscope is provided to allow observation of the traces during recording. Of particular importance is the provision of adjustments to permit the alignment of the tubes so that each deflexion shall be normal to the film motion and all the deflexions shall be colinear.

### Rubber Developments

*Rubber Developments* is a new illustrated quarterly, issued gratis by the British Rubber Development Board, Market Buildings, Mark Lane, London, E.C.3. The primary purpose of the journal is to direct attention to fresh or extended applications of the use of rubber, and it is addressed more to the potential user than to the manufacturer of rubber. The first number, consisting of 40 pages, contains articles on the rehabilitation of rubber estates in Malaya, liquid latex, engineering with rubber, and 'Positex', as well as other features. It is interesting to note that there are now six pamphlets available describing 'Positex' and its applications to woollens, cotton, linen and other yarns, and felts, and also its use as

a textile printing paste. The British Rubber Development Board is a non-profit-making organisation, deriving its funds from a cess on raw rubber exported from the British production areas. The Board works in association with corresponding units in France and Holland, the work being co-ordinated on an international basis by the International Rubber Development Committee, the area allocated to the British Board comprising the British Empire and the United States.

### Unasylva : A Forestry and Forest Products Review

THE first number of *Unasylva*, a new, illustrated, bi-monthly magazine of forestry and forest products, published by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, is dated July–August, 1947. Editions are being issued both in English and French, and a Spanish edition is planned for the near future. The aim of the journal is to shed light on all problems connected with forestry, to compare the methods used in different countries and to present the opinions of experts in the various fields. It is realized that the nations working together through the Food and Agriculture Organisation cannot hope to achieve their main objectives if due regard is not paid to the vast forests of the world. Conservation of those that perform useful social or protective functions is essential; their soils must be used wisely if productivity is to be maintained, and improved methods of processing and utilizing forest products need to be found. In the first number, Sir John Boyd Orr, director-general of the Organisation, contributes a foreword, while articles relating to the disappearance of the tropical forests of Africa, forest utilization, and the growth of the world's forests appear under the sub-heading "Problems". In the section dealing with "National Situations" are papers on timber shortage or timber abundance in the United States, and forest and forest products research in Canada, while a further part is devoted to a description of the scope and framework of the Forestry Division of the Food and Agriculture Organisation. Distributing agents for the new magazine are being selected for various countries and areas. Meanwhile, orders are being taken by the Documents Office, FAO, 2000 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D.C., U.S.A.

### Physical Chemistry at the Mellon Institute

A DEPARTMENT of Research in Physical Chemistry has been established at the Mellon Institute of Industrial Research, University of Pittsburgh, to conduct fundamental investigations in its domain for professional and public benefit. Since its beginning, the Mellon Institute has recognized the need of fundamental scientific research as a background and source of stimulus for investigations in applied science. The Institute has therefore supported extensively disinterested investigations planned within the organisation and focused on the study of more basic problems than those usually pursued in researches in applied science or technology. This new Department of Research in Physical Chemistry will supplement the Institute's work in pure science, carried on since 1911 and formally organised under the Department of Research in Pure Chemistry in 1926 and the Department of Research in Chemical Physics in 1946. The Department of Research in Pure Chemistry specializes in the organic, biological and pharmaceutical fields. As investigations in pure science are completed, the results are published and widely disseminated. Dr. John R. Bowman, who