to approved British expeditions for excavation or other research. For the information of would-be students, the following rough estimate of expenses may be useful: living in Turkey, average £T5 per day for 100 days (say, £50); travelling from Britain and back £120; incidental expenses during stay £30; balance for travel and expenses of research in Turkey £100 (total £300). The Institute is organised under a committee in London, on which there are representatives of the British Academy, the British Museum, the London Institute of Archæology, the British School at Athens, the Society for Hellenic Studies, the School of Oriental Studies, the Royal Society, the Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Asiatic Society, the Royal Anthropological Institute, as well as official representatives of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, London and Edinburgh. The committee's honorary secretary in London is Miss K. Kenyon, c/o Institute of Archæology, Inner Circle, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

Transit Circle for the Royal Observatory, Greenwich

When the Royal Observatory moves from Greenwich to Herstmonceux, the Airy transit circle, which was installed in 1851 and which marks the zero meridian of longitude, will be left at Greenwich, along with a collection of older instruments dating back to the time of Halley. They will form an interesting historical exhibit. The Airy instrument has reached the end of its useful life; the objective has twice been repolished and refigured and is too thin for a further repolishing which is now needed; many of the circle graduations have been almost obliterated by repeated cleaning; the instrument is non-reversible and obsolete in various respects. The Observatory possesses a modern reversible 7-in. transit circle, made by Cooke, Troughton and Simms, and installed in 1936, which is required primarily for fundamental observations. A second transit circle is needed for differential zone observations.

When the Astronomer Royal, Sir Harold Spencer Jones, was in Australia last year, he visited the Melbourne Observatory, which was recently closed. Much of its work has been taken over by the Commonwealth Observatory at Mount Stromlo near Canberra. There he saw an 8-in. reversible transit circle, of 12-ft. focal length, with two circles of 3-ft. diameter. It was made by Troughton and Simms, and installed in 1884; an impersonal micrometer has since been provided for it. The instrument had been used with care and was in excellent condition. When the Government of Victoria was made aware of the requirement for such an instrument by the Royal Observatory, it generously decided to present the telescope. The instrument was dismantled and packed with the assistance of the Royal Australian Navy, and has recently arrived at Greenwich. It will be installed at Herstmonceux in due course.

The Biometric Society: British Region

The Biometric Society, a new international organisation the aim of which is the furtherance of quantitative biology in all its aspects, came into being at a conference held in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, during September 1947. Its president is Prof. R. A. Fisher, and its secretary, Dr. C. I. Bliss, of New Haven, Connecticut. It is hoped to hold international meetings every few years, and all members will receive the journal *Biometrics*. For the purpose of more local activities, the Society is organised into regions, of which it is proposed that a British Region shall form one. A provisional committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. J. W. Trevan, vice-president for the Region, is now engaged in drafting proposals for the regional organisation and activities, which it is intended will primarily provide a means of bringing together all those biologists and biochemists who are interested in the application of quantitative methods, with the statisticians and mathematicians who can co-operate in developing these methods. It is hoped shortly to present these proposals to an inaugural meeting of the Region. Further information can be obtained from the Regional Secretary, Dr. K. Mather, of the John Innes Horticultural Institution, London, S.W.19.

Breeding of Avocets in Britain

Prior to 1938, when two pairs of avocets were reported to have nested in Ireland, ornithological records contained no reference to the breeding of these birds in Britain for more than a century. During the summer of 1947, however, two small colonies of avocets (*Recurvirostra avosetta*) established themselves in East Anglia. According to P. E. Brown and E. Lynn-Allen (*British Birds*, **41**, No. 1, January 1948), nine pairs of adult birds, of which at least seven pairs nested, were present during the breeding season. Altogether sixteen young birds were known to have reached the free-flying state. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has already taken measures to ensure that the birds will be adequately safeguarded should they return in 1948.

School Ecological Studies: Blundell's Scientific Publication

The second number (1947) of the *Magazine of the Blundell's School Science Society* is, like the first, worthy of special note since it has carefully avoided the usual mistake of becoming a rather extravagant, even useless, potpourri of miscellaneous information and has again developed a theme—that of ecology. In fact, it is a good though elementary collection of articles mainly of ecological interest. In an article on "Butterflies of the Tiverton Area", M. A. Lyne describes twenty-seven species found within a ten-mile radius of Blundell's School. P. R. Freeth's interest lies mainly in bird watching and bird ringing, and records that the British Birds Marking Scheme was revived at the School in 1947 after a lapse of eight years. Thirty-nine birds were ringed. O. H. D. Portsmouth describes the flora of a local marsh meadow. The marsh is divided into a wet area dominated by *Carex panicea* and a drier area dominated by *Juncus communis*. This article gives the floral ecology in detail and reveals an extraordinarily sound grasp of the principles of ecological study by such a young author.

R. Honey reports on a survey of the marine algæ of Guernsey, giving a systematic list and dealing with ecological factors, distribution and relations between flora and habitat. G. O. Mackie confines himself to a more intensive ecological study of the flora and fauna of rain gutters. Other articles, all ecological in approach, are the animal ecology of a field drainage scheme by J. S. Miller, some factors affecting the distribution of the may-fly by R. H. Champion, fauna of a stream by E. W. Sturton, and observations in bird territory by J. A. Shepherd. The entire publication reveals a sound biological training, indicates that the young students are stimulated to a healthy enthusiasm (they are fortunate in that their

school is situated in a biologist's paradise), and offers its contributors a rare opportunity for training in setting out their observations, results and conclusions concisely and accurately.

Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology

THE Experimental Psychology Group, a small private society the membership of which is drawn from the teaching and research staffs of British universities and research institutions, and the object of which is to further the experimental and scientific study of psychological problems, has decided to found a new journal, to be known as the *Quarterly Journal of Experimental Psychology*. While the volume of scientific work within the general field of psychology and the neighbouring fringes of physiology, medicine, biology and physics has greatly increased within the past few years, publication has been severely restricted by lack of a journal devoted exclusively to these fields. Much work has appeared in journals representing other branches of science. The intention is to produce a small journal of high quality in which scientific psychological work, whether experimental or clinical, and whether carried out in psychological or in other research institutions, may find a focus and an outlet. The journal will be edited by R. C. Oldfield, of the Institute of Experimental Psychology, University of Oxford, who will be assisted by an editorial board of six other members of the Experimental Psychology Group, and it will be published by Messrs. W. Heffer and Sons, Ltd., Cambridge (subscription, 30*s*. a volume of four parts). It is hoped to produce the first part in March.

Submarine Gravity Survey in the English Channel

THE Department of Geodesy and Geophysics, University of Cambridge, is to make a gravity survey on board H.M. Submarine *Talent* in the English Channel during May. The project is being carried out under the auspices of the Royal Society with the full co-operation of the Royal Navy. The object of the expedition is to obtain information about the structure of the channel basin which should help in interpreting the relation of the geology of southern England to that of the Continent. The cruise will last for four weeks and cover the area between England and France from Plymouth to Hastings. H.M. Submarine *Talent* will be manned by her normal complement of officers and men of the Royal Navy, but three civilian scientific workers, Mr. B. C. Browne, Mr. R. I. B. Cooper and Mr. R. L. G. Gilbert, will also be on board. She will be equipped with special apparatus, some of which has generously been lent by the Danish Geodetic Commission. Accurate measurement of this kind can only be made under very steady conditions, such as those found by a submarine at a depth of 100–200 ft. This method of working was originally devised by the Dutch geophysicist, Prof. F. A. Vening-Meinesz, and has been widely used by him. Similar work has also been carried out by the United States, France, Italy, the U.S.S.R., Japan, and Britain. A British expedition in August 1946 on board H.M.S. *Tudor* surveyed an area from the north coast of Spain to the Rockall Bank. Besides valuable scientific results, the experience gained showed how the apparatus and technique might be improved.

The Berlin Herbarium

MR. A. H. G. ALSTON, of the British Museum (Natural History), writes: "I have received the following information from a correspondent in Germany: The portion of the herbarium, which was evacuated from Berlin to Bleicherode, has quite recently been handed over officially to the Berlin University, and deposited in the Russian sector of Berlin. It was generally believed in Germany that these collections had been transported to the U.S.S.R., but, in fact, they remained at Erfurt until 'the President of the Moscow Academy of Science decided not to take over German *Kulturgut*'."

Ramsay Memorial Fellowships for Chemical Research

THE trustees will consider in June applications for Ramsay Memorial Fellowships for chemical research, one of which will be limited to candidates educated in Glasgow. The value of each Fellowship will be £400 per annum, to which may be added a grant for expenses of research not exceeding £100 per annum, and it will normally be tenable for two years. Full particulars can be obtained from the Joint Honorary Secretaries, Ramsay Memorial Fellowships Trust, University College London, Gower Street, W.C.1, to whom applications must be forwarded not later than April 17.

Announcements

THE Linnean Society of London has awarded the Linnean Medal for the year 1948 to Dr. Agnes Arber, F.R.S., of Cambridge. The Medal will be presented at the anniversary meeting on May 24.

THE Council of the University of Bristol has made the following appointments in the Department of Physics, to take effect on the retirement of Prof. A. M. Tyndall at the end of the present session: Prof. N. F. Mott, to be Henry Overton Wills professor of physics and director of the Wills Laboratory; Dr. C. F. Powell, to be Melville Wills professor of physics; Dr. S. H. Piper, to be assistant director of the Wills Laboratory.

THE following elections to the Paris Academy of Sciences have been announced: André Boivin, *correspondant* for the Section of Rural Economy, in succession to the late M. Henri Vallée; and Dr. Theodor Mortensen, director of the Department of Invertebrates, Zoological Museum, Copenhagen, *correspondant* for the Section of Anatomy and Zoology, in succession to the late M. Edouard Chatton.

DR. E. W. FELL has been appointed senior assistant in metallurgy at the Bradford Technical College. He was educated at Haileybury and the Universities of Birmingham, Aachen and Cambridge, and has many years of varied experience in the practice of metallurgy.

AT the annual meeting of the Manchester Joint Research Council held on February 16, Sir Raymond Streat was elected chairman and Sir Charles Renold honorary treasurer.

THE Association of British Science Writers is now open to accept associate members. Associate membership is intended for non-professional science writers, that is, those who do not earn the major part of their income from science writing. Those interested should apply for particulars to the honorary secretary, Mr. Maurice Goldsmith, at 81 Hillside Gardens, Edgware, Middlesex.

SIR JOHN MYRES writes, referring to his review of "A Glossary of Greek Fishes" (*Nature*, Feb. 7, p. 185), "the words *weel* and *péganon*, which I queried as misprints, are both correct".