

achievement. The total membership is now 127, of whom thirty-four have visited and worked on Lundy during the season. Most of the work already attempted has been concerned with the building up of ornithological records, although the difficulty of maintaining a Heligoland-type trap on Lundy has meant that work on birds so far has been mainly carried out by observation. The report contains a full list of the species recorded and also an account of various ecological surveys begun in different terrestrial and freshwater habitats on the island.

### National Museums of Ceylon

THE Administration Report of the Director of National Museums for 1946 (Ceylon Government Press, Colombo, 1947) gives news of the commencement of museum reconstruction in Ceylon. The Colombo Museum was derequisitioned by the military authorities in January 1946; but although the Public Works Department had the building under repair, it was not until the following July that any part of it was fit for the return of some of the Museum's collections. In spite of this and other difficulties, however, it is recorded that when part of the building was reopened there were 22,128 visitors to it between December 20 and 30 of the same year. Reference is made in this section of the report to the requisitioning of show cases by the military authorities in 1942; of the 262 taken over, only 85 were returned fit for use. To replace those lost, orders have been placed with the Crown Agents to the sum of Rs. 91,950, while a further sum of Rs. 41,850 was assigned to the Government Factory Engineer "for building show cases locally, with what was left of the glass that was removed from the original show cases at the time of requisitioning". One is left wondering to what use military authority could have put museum exhibition cases that they suffered so much damage. A new south wing to the Kandy Museum is under construction, and what is left of the King's Palace will be converted into a part of the same Museum. A special strong room will house the Sinhala Regalia. The Ratnapura Museum was reopened to the public in April 1946, while the Jaffna Museum was expected to reopen in July 1947. Under the different museum headings, the report includes long lists of acquisitions made during the year under review.

### Standardization of Micro-film Technique

BRITISH STANDARD SPECIFICATION 1371: 1947 for microfilm, readers and reels has been produced in co-operation with the American Standards Association's Committee, and American standards about to be published will provide equivalents to B.S. 1371, so that microfilms made in Great Britain should be capable of satisfactory projection on a reader made in the Commonwealth or in the United States and vice versa. The specification covers 16 mm. and 35 mm. microfilm readers and reels for processed microfilm, each in a separate section. The first section specifies the stock to be used, dimensions, method of winding, the leader trailer and title frame, as well as the arrangement of images and correct sequence of pages for convenient reproduction. Essential dimensions for microfilm readers are specified in the next section, as well as other features for satisfactory reproduction, including the type of lens and magnification and the limiting temperature for the film in the gate, a method of measuring which is described in an appendix. Dimensions and features of reels for processed microfilm are specified in the

third section. Standardization along the lines indicated in this specification and the three forthcoming American standards should materially assist the satisfactory use of microfilm and its extension to further fields.

### Growth and Nature of Egyptology

AT long last the University of Cambridge has a chair of Egyptology, and Prof. S. R. K. Glanville's inaugural address has been published (London: Camb. Univ. Press. Pp. 37. 1s. 6d. net). The subject has for some time been taught officially in London, Oxford, Liverpool and Manchester; but although so late in the creation of a chair, Prof. Glanville directs attention to three eminent Cambridge men—C. W. Goodwin, E. A. Wallis Budge and Sir Herbert Thompson—who played a big part in the building up of the subject. Actually, it is owing to the generosity of the last of this trio that the creation of the present chair has been made possible. Prof. Glanville continues with a brief survey of the subject under the three headings: monuments, antiquities and writings. He concludes with a strong plea that Egyptology, although not of immediate use like engineering and medicine, yet has its place in the teaching of a great university; he ends with a quotation from Housman: "The pursuit of knowledge, like the pursuit of righteousness, is part of man's duty to himself".

### Society of Engineers: Awards

AT the inaugural meeting for 1948 of the Society of Engineers (Inc.), the first award was made of the Simms Gold Medal, established under a bequest by the late F. R. Simms, for "a paper or lecture describing a new technical discovery, an outstanding invention, or the results of useful research work". The medal was presented to Mr. J. G. Milton for his paper on "Research and New Developments in Water Treatment". Other awards were as follows: Bessemer Premium to Mr. C. D. Mitchell, for his paper on "Prefabricated Pre-cast Concrete Structures"; Nursey Premium to Mr. R. Cecil Smart, for his paper on "Industrial Organisation as a Factor in Productive Efficiency"; Bernays Premium to Mr. Bernard Payne, for his paper on "Water Supply Engineering". Two other papers, namely, "The Engineer and the Law", by C. L. Boucher, and "Liquid Springs", by R. H. Bound, were of particular merit; but their authors, as members of Council of the Society, were ineligible for awards, and they were presented with certificates under seal. The new president of the Society is Mr. E. E. Turner, formerly chief engineer to H.M. Airship R.34, and an authority on high-speed engine lubrication.

### Research on the Biochemistry of Brain Tissue

THE Rockefeller Foundation has given £9,000 for research at the Neuropsychiatric Research Centre at Whitchurch Hospital, Cardiff, for research on the normal and pathological biochemistry of brain tissue under the direction of Dr. Derek Richter. Whitchurch Hospital is one of the leading hospitals in Britain for the investigation and treatment of mental disorders, and a Neuropsychiatric Research Centre has recently been established for which the present grant has been made. The magnitude of the problem of nervous and mental disease in Britain alone is not generally recognized. There are more hospital beds occupied by mental patients than by all other diseases put together, and the annual cost of upkeep