

Bird-Ringing in South Africa

THE first ringing of South African migratory birds was made early in December 1948 when the Cape Bird Club, under the direction of Dr. G. J. Broekhuysen of the University of Cape Town, used specially designed nets to catch European waders on the mud flats at Muizenberg, and marked them with leg bands inscribed "Zoo-Pretoria". The ringing scheme is sponsored by the South African Ornithological Society and is being extended over the Western Province. The birds caught were weighed before marking and release. Little stints, avocets, Sandwich terns, curlew-sandpipers, stilts and other familiar British birds-of-passage and nesting birds are expected to figure prominently in the South African experiment, which will not only elucidate further details about the winter quarters of European waders, and shore birds, but also determine whether many of the birds found at the Cape remain in the Union throughout the year, or nest elsewhere in Africa. Certain species like the black-winged stilt not only migrate from European nesting haunts but also breed in parts of Africa.

For many years now migratory birds ringed in European nesting haunts have been recovered at winter haunts in Africa. Notable among these have been the European swallow, the house-martin, the common swift, the cuckoo, the nightjar, the red-backed shrike and the Sandwich tern and the white stork. More than a score of common swallows marked when nesting or as nestlings in the British Isles have been recovered in South Africa, and the Sandwich tern from Britain has been recovered in Natal.

Research at the University of Sydney

A COMMITTEE appointed by the vice-chancellor has prepared an interesting description of the original scientific work done at the University of Sydney during the years 1944 and 1945, so continuing the account set out in the previous publication for the years 1941-43. The report shows that, despite the absence of many members of staff on war service and the greater amount of teaching duties undertaken by those who remained at the University, much valuable work was carried out and a considerable number of young workers were trained to undertake research. Subjects of research are listed under the headings: art, law, medicine, science, engineering, veterinary science, agriculture, economics and social studies.

University of Leeds

THE Council of the University of Leeds has announced the receipt of the following gifts, among others: a sum of £200 given to Prof. S. Brodetsky by his friends on his retirement from the chair of applied mathematics and presented by him to the University for the establishment of a prize in mathematics; £1,500 given to the Inorganic and Physical Chemistry Department by the Royal Society for the development of a special Weissenberg goniometer.

The following appointments have been made: Dr. D. G. Christopherson, fellow and bursar of Magdalene College, Cambridge, to be professor of mechanical engineering from September 1, 1949, in succession to the late Prof. W. T. David; Mr. R. Holliday, to be senior lecturer in agriculture.

Royal Society Lectures for 1949

THE Croonian Lecture for 1949 will be delivered on June 30 by Dr. D. W. Bronk, foreign secretary of the National Academy of Sciences and chairman

of the National Research Council of the United States. As director of the Johnson Institute for Medical Physics in the University of Pennsylvania, he has greatly influenced the development of biophysics, his special field of work being the physiology of the nervous system; his recent work has been on the oxygen consumption of the brain. The Croonian Lecture was founded by Dr. William Croone, one of the original fellows of the Royal Society, "for a lecture and illustrative experiment for the advancement of natural knowledge on local motion"; the first lecture was delivered in 1738.

The Bakerian Lecture for 1949 will be delivered on May 12 by Prof. H. Raistrick, professor of biochemistry in the University of London. This Lecture was founded by Mr. Henry Baker, "for a yearly oration or discourse by one of the Fellows on some part of natural history or experimental philosophy"; the first lecture was delivered in 1775.

The Wilkins Lecture for 1949 will be delivered on December 15 by Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade, Quain professor of physics in the University of London. The Wilkins Lecture on the history of science was founded in 1947 by Mr. J. D. Griffith Davies, a recent assistant secretary of the Society, who delivered the first lecture entitled "John Wilkins and the Royal Society" in 1948.

Goethe Bicentenary Lectures

A SERIES of six festival lectures in commemoration of the bicentenary of the birth of Goethe will be held at University College, London, under the auspices of the British Goethe Festival Society, beginning on March 3. The first lecture is by Prof. L. A. Willoughby, on "The Living Goethe". The remaining lectures are by Dr. G. P. Gooch, on "Goethe, the Liberal-Conservative" (March 10); Prof. F. Blume, "Goethe and Music" (March 17); Dr. Karl Wolff, speaking in German, on Goethe's religion (April 21); Prof. H. Friedmann, "Goethe's Morphology" (April 28); Mr. L. L. Whyte, "Goethe's Single View of Nature and Man" (May 5). The lectures are at 5.30 p.m. and are open to the public without fee or ticket.

First International Congress of Biochemistry

THE First International Congress of Biochemistry will be held in Cambridge during August 19-25, 1949. The Congress is under the presidency of Prof. A. C. Chibnall, and for the reading of papers and for discussion it is organised into twelve separate sections, each with its own chairman, as follows: animal nutrition and general metabolism, Sir Jack Drummond; microbiological chemistry (vacant through the recent death of Miss Marjory Stephenson); enzymes and tissue metabolism, Prof. R. A. Peters; proteins, Dr. K. Bailey; clinical biochemistry, Prof. E. J. King; structure and synthesis of biologically important substances, Prof. A. R. Todd; cytochemistry, Prof. J. N. Davidson; biological pigments: oxygen carriers and oxidizing catalysts, Prof. D. Keilin; hormones and steroids, Prof. F. G. Young; chemotherapy and immunochemistry, Sir Charles Harington; plant biochemistry, Dr. C. S. Hanes; industrial fermentations, Mr. H. J. Bunker. In addition to the meetings of the sections, there will be Congress lectures and visits to research stations and laboratories. The fee for membership of this Congress is £2. Applications and inquiries should be addressed to the Honorary Organiser, First International Congress of Biochemistry, 56 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.