

Sickness in the Population

THE Registrar-General has recently issued the second of the monographs dealing with medical and population subjects (*Sickness in the Population of England and Wales in 1944-47*; H.M. Stationery Office. 1s.). For more than a century the statistics of the General Register Office have provided a basis for attacks by medical science on the killing diseases; but it is only in recent years that an attempt has been made on a national scale to measure ill-health which does not necessarily cause death, but which leads to great economic loss as well as individual and social disturbance. Before ill-health can be measured it must be defined, and for any published morbidity statistics to have real meaning the terms used should command general acceptance. In the present stage of development of this subject terminology is neither precise nor uniform, and here the author of the monograph, Dr. Percy Stocks, chief medical statistician to the General Register Office, makes an attempt to standardize terminology by describing in detail the terms he uses in the interpretation of his material. He then examines the value and limitations, as indices of morbidity, of information derived from notifications of infectious diseases, from the Survey of Sickness, carried out monthly since 1943, and from statistics of special food allowances given for certain diseases. 36

Training the Employment Interviewer

AN article on the means of making employment interviewers more efficient in selecting and allocating applicants for jobs has been written by John Munro Fraser in the current issue of *Psychology at Work* (2, No. 2, May 1949). These courses have been organised by the National Institute of Industrial Psychology and are arranged in groups of three, the first of the group having been started in September 1946 to provide instruction in the systematic approach to selection and allocation and to give supervised practice in interviewing. On the second course, which was arranged some months later, students are given more intensive practice in interviewing. A little later the third course takes place, and here the personnel officers attending are shown how to use and interpret a series of intelligence tests suitable for different levels of employees. Already a number of these grouped courses have been arranged in different parts of Great Britain, and the results have been entirely satisfactory, a reasonable standard of competence having been reached by the students.

Fourth Empire Mining and Metallurgical Congress

A THIRD circular on the coming Fourth Empire Mining and Metallurgical Congress has recently been published. Details of this Congress have already been reported (see *Nature*, February 5, p. 206), but this new circular, besides covering all the points previously mentioned, contains the final programme details in the various centres, a list of papers to be read and a list of delegates. The general time-table is: July 9-12, inauguration of the Congress in London, and short excursions in the London area; July 13-17, technical sessions in Oxford; July 18-23, excursions to a choice of one of the four following centres—Cardiff, Cornwall, Edinburgh or Newcastle-on-Tyne. The sessions in Oxford will be organised as follows: *A* and *B*, mineral resources; *C*, modern methods of prospecting; *D*, physiological and psychological effects of heat and humidity on workers in deep mines and metallurgical

works; *E*, petroleum; *F*, coal; *G*, present-day trends in mineral dressing; *H* and *I*, metallurgy and metallurgical industries. In addition to the technical papers which will be presented at these sessions, three evening lectures will be delivered: "Metallurgical and Mining Aspects of Atomic Energy" by Sir John Cockcroft, director of research (atomic energy), Ministry of Supply; "Miners as Pioneers" by Dr. Charles Camsell, formerly Deputy Minister of Mines and Resources, Ottawa; and "The General Theory of Metals and Alloys" by Dr. W. Hume-Rothery, lecturer in metallurgical chemistry, University of Oxford. Besides the member States of the British Commonwealth, eleven other countries will be represented at the Congress, as follows: Belgium, Chile, Egypt, Holland, Iraq, Italy, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States. Further information may be obtained from the Joint General Secretaries, Fourth Empire Mining and Metallurgical Congress, 436 Salisbury House, Finsbury Circus, London, E.C.2.

Summer School in Theoretical Physics at Bristol

THE H. H. Wills Physical Laboratory and the Department of Adult Education of the University of Bristol, in co-operation with the Institute of Physics, will be conducting in Bristol during September 19-24 a summer school in theoretical physics, with particular application to crystal growth and related problems. Lectures will be given by Prof. N. F. Mott, Dr. F. C. Frank and others. The present course is similar in conception to those of previous years, and is intended mainly for research students at universities and for the members of the staffs of Government and industrial laboratories who wish to familiarize themselves with the theoretical aspects of subjects with which they are, or have been, concerned on the experimental side. In addition to the regular lectures, there will be opportunities for research workers attending this course to discuss their own work and its theoretical implications. The course will refer to the development of ideas brought forward at the Conference of the Faraday Society in April of this year. The fee for the course is six guineas, but a limited number of free places will be available for students. The total number attending the course will be limited to about fifty. Further particulars and forms of application, to be returned before July 10, can be obtained either from the Director of the Department of Adult Education, University, Bristol, 8, or from the Secretary of the Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

Annual Meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry

THE annual general meeting of the Society of Chemical Industry will be held during July 11-15 at Whitworth Hall, University of Manchester, under the presidency of Sir David Rivett. Special features of the meeting will be the presentation on July 13 of the Medal of the Society to Dr. Foster D. Snell, of New York, who will give an address on "Detergents and Detergency", and on July 14 the Ivan Levinstein Memorial Lecture by Prof. Paul Karrer, of Zurich, on "A Short Survey of the Biological Significance of the Vitamins and Related Substances". The programme of the meeting will consist mainly of lectures, works visits and social excursions. The British Rayon Federation is arranging an exhibition of fabrics at Ashburne Hall during the week of the meeting. Further information may be

obtained from the honorary secretary of the Manchester Section of the Society, Dr. W. H. Brindley, c/o Hardman and Holden, Ltd., Manox House, Miles Platting, Manchester 10.

Fourteenth International Veterinary Congress

THE Fourteenth International Veterinary Congress will be held in London during August 8-13, and the meetings will take place in the Central Hall, Westminster, and in Church House, Westminster (see *Nature*, February 5, p. 205). It is now known that H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester will be unable to open the Congress. The main theme of the Congress is the veterinary profession's contribution to world food supplies, and at the plenary meetings in the Central Hall the first address will be given by Lord Boyd Orr on "The World Food Situation". At the sectional meetings, papers (printed and circulated in advance) will be presented by delegates, from many parts of the world, who will discuss animal health and disease control problems. Further information on the International Congress may be obtained from the Organising Secretary, Fourteenth International Veterinary Congress, 10 Red Lion Square, London, W.C.1.

The National Veterinary Medical Association will this year confine its annual congress activities to three days, two of which will coincide with meetings of the International Congress, so that there may be joint discussions; the third day will be devoted largely to demonstrations at the Royal Veterinary College, Camden Town, London, N.W.1. The Association congress will afford opportunities for international discussion on small-animal matters, as opposed to the farm livestock subjects which will occupy the time of delegates during the first four days.

Traditional Art of the British Colonies

AN exhibition of "Traditional Art of the British Colonies" will be opened at the Royal Anthropological Institute, 21 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1, on June 21, and will remain open throughout the "Colonial Month", of which it is one of the principal features, and will be open between the hours of 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Mondays to Saturdays, closing on Wednesday, July 20. This will be an unusual opportunity for studying the ancient cultures of Nigeria, as well as masks and figures from other African Colonies, from Malaysia and from Oceania. A full descriptive and illustrated catalogue (price 1s. 6d. to visitors) underlines the relevance of the scientific data of anthropology to aesthetic appreciation.

Special Science Exhibition for the Blind

THE first exhibition in Great Britain solely for blind persons is being held at the Science Museum, South Kensington, London, S.W.7, during June 11-26. It has been organised by the Science Museum in conjunction with the National Institute for the Blind, and suitable exhibits covering a wide range of popular science are available for examination by blind visitors. The exhibition includes models and apparatus relating, for example, to the many forms of transport (railways, shipping and aircraft), to mining, the textile industries, hand and machine tools, time measurement, meteorology, printing and typewriting. Descriptive labels, transcribed into Braille, explain the exhibits, and printed labels are available for escorts to read to those not pro-

ficient in Braille. As the Exhibition is intended solely for the blind and partially sighted, it is not open to normally sighted members of the public unless acting as escorts to blind visitors. The Exhibition is free and is open daily from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. (Sundays 2.30-6 p.m.).

Lady Tata Memorial Fund Awards

LADY TATA MEMORIAL FUND international awards for research in blood diseases, with special reference to leukaemia, have been awarded for the year 1949-50 to the following, for work at the places mentioned. *Grants* for research expenses and assistance: Dr. M. C. Bessis (Paris); Dr. J. Bichel (Aarhus); Dr. P. Cazal (Montpellier); Dr. J. Clemmesen (Copenhagen); Dr. E. Kelemen (Szeged); Dr. J. Chandra Mehta (Agra); Prof. C. Oberling (Paris); Dr. Edith Paterson (Manchester); Dr. G. Schallock (Münster); Prof. E. Storti (Pavia). *Scholarships*: Dr. P. Atanasiu, of Rumania (Paris); Dr. C. F. M. Plum (Copenhagen).

University of London: Appointments

THE following appointments in the University of London have been announced: Mr. R. S. Edwards, to the University chair of economics with special reference to industrial organisation tenable at the London School of Economics and Political Science as from October 1; Dr. G. A. D. Haslewood, to the University chair of biochemistry tenable at Guy's Hospital Medical School as from October 1. The title of reader in mathematics in the University has been conferred on Dr. Daniel Pedoe, in respect of the post held by him at Westfield College. The following doctorates have been conferred: *D.Sc.*: H. J. S. King (Northern Polytechnic), F. O. Howitt (West Ham Municipal College) and B. C. Saunders (an external student).

Announcements

MR. T. DALLING, chief veterinary officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, has been elected president of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons for the year 1949-50.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Photochemistry in Relation to Textiles" is being arranged by the Society of Dyers and Colourists and will be held at Harrogate during September 22-24. At this symposium, which is open to non-members, special emphasis will be laid on the scientific and technical aspects of the fading of dyed materials and the photodegradation of both dyed and undyed materials. Further information may be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, Society of Dyers and Colourists, 32-34 Piccadilly, Bradford, Yorks.

THE Department of Radiology of the University of California Medical School will be holding a post-graduate course on physics in radiation therapy during September 6-9, after the course on the medical aspects of nuclear energy during August 29-September 3 (see *Nature*, May 14, p. 760). The course will be conducted under the chairmanship of Dr. Robert S. Stone, professor of radiology, and ten lectures will be delivered by Dr. Edith H. Quimby, associate professor of radiology, Columbia University. Ionizing radiations from various types of sources will be considered. Further information may be obtained from Prof. Stacy R. Mettler, Medical Extension, University of California Medical Center, San Francisco 22, California.