

spoke on "Parasitology and Evolution". Dr. Cameron's paper considered evidence presented by certain groups of internal parasites on the evolution of their hosts and suggested, *inter alia*, a separate origin for the South American and Australian marsupials. It is also suggested in the paper that Africa and South America must have been joined in early Tertiary times, but that no connexion between those two continents and Australia need be postulated by the parasitological evidence.

### German Paint Industry

IN a recent B.I.O.S. Survey of "The Paint Industry in Germany during the period 1939-1945" (Report No. 22; H.M. Stationery Office, 1950; 3s.), the authors, Messrs. N. F. Fisk and H. W. Bowron, have collated and classified material relating to the paint industry from more than two hundred reports on German industry. Their survey is divided into four main divisions: (1) Paints, Varnishes and Printing Inks; (2) Waterpaints; (3) Cellulose Lacquers; and (4) Linoleum and Coated Fabrics. Among points brought out in the survey are the use of new pigments such as lead cyanamide, to which anti-corrosive properties were attributed, and chemically resistant silicon-containing pigments. As in other countries, much new work was done in Germany during the War in the field of synthetic resins such as acid-catalysed air-drying urea-aldehyde and phenol-aldehyde resins, the rapidly-hardening polyurethane combinations of diisocyanates with alkyd-type materials, and the extensively used aqueous emulsion coatings of polyvinyl acetate and polyacrylates. Acetylene was one basis of the German chemical industry, and in addition to being the source of the vinyl compounds, it was the starting material for tetrahydrofuran, a useful solvent for polyvinyl chloride. Another basic process was the Fischer-Tropsch synthesis of hydrocarbons from carbon monoxide and hydrogen. This also served the paint industry, because it provided a valuable supply of fatty acids and alcohols suitable for making plasticizing esters, and a fatty acid residue which was utilized in oil paints and waterpaints.

### Blood-clotting and Allied Problems

THE proceedings of the second Conference on Blood-Clotting and Allied Problems, held by the Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation in New York in January 1949, have now been published in a single volume (pp. 231; Josiah Macy Jr. Foundation, 565 Park Avenue, New York; 2.25 dollars). It contains articles on the separation and assay of a lipid antithromboplastin from human brain, blood, plasma and plasma fractions, on the chemical purification and mode of action of a thromboplastin inhibitor, on the standardization of thromboplastin, the structure of the fibrin clot and the mechanism of its formation, the surface effects on blood coagulation, zeta-potential studies, factors which influence the rate of conversion of prothrombin to thrombin, the blood platelets and coagulation and on a new synthetic anticoagulant (paritol). The discussions of these papers are also reported. An appendix describes the preparation and use of coloured and black-background lantern slides.

### Christ's Hospital Science Journal and N.H.S. Report

IT is with interest that we note the growing concern for science in schools, especially natural history, as evidenced by the increasing number of school science

journals. Most of these, so far, are published by our public schools, the latest addition being the *Christ's Hospital Science Journal and N.H.S. Report*, the first number of which has recently appeared (No. 1, June 1950). The *Journal* contains several interesting articles, mainly by boys of the School. We note with regret, however, that only the ornithological section of the School Natural History Society has anything to report; this in a school so admirably situated for field studies is to be deplored. The *Journal* is to be welcomed, therefore, especially since its appearance might well not only record but also stimulate scientific field activities in the School. Copies of the *Journal* can be obtained from the Science School, Christ's Hospital, Horsham, Sussex, price 1s. 7d. including postage.

### Colonial Service: Recent Appointments

THE following appointments in the Colonial Service have recently been announced: S. D. Ross (assistant director of agriculture, Nigeria), director of agriculture, Gold Coast; W. E. Calton (government chemist, Zanzibar), government chemist, Tanganyika; A. Cawley (mining geologist, Nigeria), assistant director of geological surveys, Nigeria; D. W. MacGregor (veterinary officer, Nigeria), senior veterinary officer, Nigeria; L. P. Georghiades (statistical clerk, Medical and Health Department, Cyprus), statistics officer, Treasury, Cyprus; A. H. Millard (pharmaceutical chemist, Federation of Malaya), chief pharmaceutical chemist, Federation of Malaya; G. H. Swynnerton (senior game ranger, Tanganyika), game warden, Tanganyika; D. E. M. Marsh, assistant conservator of forests, Gold Coast; J. W. Cowie, geologist, Kenya; R. J. M. Gillies, veterinary officer, Northern Rhodesia; K. Nixon and A. G. Willder, veterinary officers, Nigeria; L. A. White farm manager, Department of Agriculture, British Guiana.

### Announcements

THE fourth Arthur Stanley Eddington Memorial Lecture will be given in London on November 2 by Prof. R. A. Fisher, Arthur Balfour professor of genetics in the University of Cambridge; he will speak on "Creative Aspects of Natural Law".

MR. REGINALD D. MEADOWS, demonstrator and supervisor in the School of Geography, University of Cambridge, has been appointed a lecturer in the Department of Education of the International Wool Secretariat. Mr. Meadows has specialized in the economic history of the woollen and worsted industries, and has travelled extensively abroad, where he had the opportunity of studying native sheep in North Africa, Malta, the Azores and Iceland. In Britain he has carried out a detailed survey of the early cloth industry of East Anglia.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Polymer Chemistry as Applied to Plastics" has been arranged by the Plastics and Polymer Group of the Society of Chemical Industry and will take place at Beveridge Hall, Senate House, University of London, during September 21-23. Details of the programme of papers have been published in the August 4 issue of *Chemistry and Industry*. Non-members of the Society may participate in the symposium. Further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, Society of Chemical Industry, 56 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.