

(Pu), 95 'Americium' (Am), 96 'Curium' (Cm). In all these cases the guiding principle was to accept the names proposed by the real discoverers and to delete names like 'Masurium' or 'Illinium' which were adopted previously on account of spurious claims to the discovery of elements 43 and 61 (see *Nature*, 159, 8; 1947). An attempt was also made to remove some inconsistencies in the names of the older elements. The application of the same principle of historical correctness is here often difficult for lack of clear evidence, and also because it is open to debate how far it is advisable to change long-established names even if justice seems to demand it. A case in question is the name of element 71 (see *Ergeb. Exak. Naturwiss.*, 2, 168; 1923). In 1909 the International Atomic Weight Commission—consisting of Clarke, Ostwald, Thorpe and Urbain—wrongly accepted Urbain's name 'lutecium' instead of Auer von Welsbach's 'cassiopeium'; but since, in consequence of this decision, the former name has received wider recognition, one cannot but approve of its sanctioning by the Amsterdam Congress. Such practical considerations must weigh the heavier the more firmly established a name is. Other names proposed are: 4 'Beryllium' (Be), 41 'Niobium' (Nb), 71 'Lutetium' (Lu), 72 'Hafnium' (Hf), 74 'Wolfram' (W), 91 'Protactinium' (Pa). In view of the widespread use of tungsten not only in the laboratory but also in industry, practical considerations alone suggest that changing the name to 'wolfram' would be undesirable and cause confusion.

Northern Rhodesia Society

THE Northern Rhodesia Society has been formed with the object of promoting the study of various aspects, past and present, of Northern Rhodesia and its peoples. A major activity of the Society will be to publish the *Northern Rhodesia Journal*, which will appear twice a year and which, subsidized by the Government, will cost 5s. a copy. Such topics as Northern Rhodesian history, natural history, memoirs of 'old-timers', sociology and current developments will be covered, so as to supply something of interest both to the expert and the ordinary citizen. The *Journal* will be well illustrated, with six to eight articles plus smaller features, and will be a permanent record of all that matters in the Territory. Ordinary members of the Society (subscription 15s. a year) will receive the *Journal* free and will, in addition, have the privilege of borrowing books from the extensive Rhodes-Livingstone Museum Library, and of attending meetings and discussions of the Society which will be held in the main towns. Associate membership (5s. a year) covers use of the Library for reference only and attendance at meetings. Further particulars can be obtained from the Secretary, Northern Rhodesia Society, Rhodes-Livingstone Museum, Livingstone, Northern Rhodesia.

Care of Archæological Sites

AN article in the *South African Archæological Bulletin* (5, No. 18; June 1950) makes sad reading. At Saulspoot, in the Bethlehem district, rock-shelter paintings occur and an important 'gisement' was identified. It is always of great interest to attempt to correlate the parietal art with datable deposits at the same site. The work of excavation was begun; but during a period of the workers' absence intruders arrived who just 'hogged' the site and left a yawning pit where the section should have been. The problem

of controls is a difficult one. Too rigid rules defeat their own object. It is, in a subtle way, the general interest in archæology among all classes that makes the subject live and enables the few professionals to continue the study. Without this general interest the subject would in practice wither. A certain freedom to explore must therefore be given to the amateur; but, of course, stories such as this one are major tragedies. Perhaps the problem could best be tackled through the schools. If the young folk were taught to realize that Stone Age sites are not innumerable and should be respected, that 'hogging' sites is a crime and that excavations should only be attempted either under a competent excavator or after having already had experience in digging, then such grievous happenings as occurred at Saulspoot would no longer occur.

Nomenclature of Viruses

At the plenary session on August 24 of the Fifth International Congress of Microbiology at Rio de Janeiro (see p. 730), it was recommended that consideration of the starting date for scientific nomenclature of viruses be deferred to the next Congress. Further, the Judicial Commission of the Congress was of opinion that until studies on viruses now in progress have advanced further, the use of any comprehensive system of scientific nomenclature for them is unwise. The co-operation of all virologists is requested in assisting the sub-committee now studying the nomenclature and classification of viruses. The object of these resolutions is to encourage study of the taxonomy and nomenclature of viruses, but to discourage use at the present time of what are considered premature attempts to create comprehensive systems of classification and nomenclature. The chairman of the Virus Sub-Committee of the International Nomenclature Committee is Dr. C. H. Andrewes, National Institute for Medical Research, The Ridgeway, Mill Hill, London, N.W.7.

New Type of Mechanical Gear

A MECHANICAL gear which may be useful in scientific instrument design has been invented by Mr. J. J. Gerritsen, chief engineer of Tiltman Langley Laboratories, Ltd., Redhill, Surrey, which is now developing units based on this invention. The Gerritsen gear consists of a ball race in which the cage and rollers are used as the spider and planet wheels of an epicyclic gear. The races are conical, and by moving them axially the gear ratio may be varied; the centrifugal force on the balls can be used for adjusting the axial position automatically in such a way that the output shaft rotates at a constant speed, while there can be considerable variation of the input shaft speed. It is claimed that the operation of this governing mechanism is extremely rapid, so that the output shaft is little affected even by sudden changes of speed of the input shaft. All the parts of the gear can be easily made. The limiting factor in its performance is presumably the stress at the ball contacts, these points being required to carry tangential load in addition to the normal forces which are found in ball races.

Rheola Forest, Wales

WALES was a beacon to holiday-makers long before the advent of the motor-car. It had, and has, in parts one serious drawback, the dumps of coal-pit refuse, and, less ugly perhaps, the small rough pyramids of