

Yukawa', and Prof. Wentzel confirms that "since the discovery of the  $\pi$ -meson it has become increasingly clear that this particle has basically the properties of a Yukawa particle". The periodical *Progress of Theoretical Physics* was founded by Prof. Yukawa in 1946, and he is a member of the editorial board.

#### Proceedings of the Rajasthan Academy of Sciences

THE first number of the *Proceedings of the Rajasthan Academy of Sciences*, which Academy was inaugurated at Pilani, India, in November 1949, to promote the progress of pure and applied science and to investigate the resources of Rajasthan (see *Nature*, 165, 20; 1950), includes the scientific papers read at discussion meetings held during the first four months of the establishment of the Academy. In the second part of the *Proceedings* it is proposed to include lectures delivered on scientific subjects for general audiences. The present part, dated July 1950, includes papers on magnetic studies on potassium chromate (A. Mookherji), diamagnetic susceptibilities of paramagnetic ions (A. J. Jagannadham), the isomerization of aniline thiocyanate (R. D. and N. P. Gupta), the preparation of *d*-xylose from agricultural wastes to serve as starting material in the synthesis of *d*-ascorbic acid (K. Ramamurti) and a note, by B. V. Ratnam, on the occurrence of a polydelphous androecium in *Althaea rosea* and its morphological significance.

#### Scientific and Technical Journals published in South-East Asia

A LIST containing the titles of 125 scientific and technical journals published in South-East Asia has been compiled by the Unesco East-Asia Science Co-operation Office, Manila (pp. 28; 1950). The titles are arranged by countries under the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaya, Thailand and Indochina, and besides details of subscription and the source from which each journal can be obtained, particulars are included of the commencement of publication and of the series issued to date. The co-operation of users of the list in keeping it up to date by reporting errors or omissions or the publication of new periodicals, etc., is invited.

#### Histamine Antagonists

THE Chemical-Biological Coordination Center of the United States National Research Council has published Review No. 3, "Histamine Antagonists", by F. Leonard and C. P. Hutter (pp. 122; Washington, D.C.: National Research Council, 1950; 1.50 dollars). This work gives a tabular survey of compounds having the specific property of counteracting the physiological effects of histamine. The release of free histamine in the blood is, as is known, responsible for pathological conditions, and histamine antagonists have a great interest in medicine.

#### M.K.S. System of Electrical and Magnetic Units

THE question of the M.K.S. system of units was considered by the Technical Committee on Electrical and Magnetic Units of the International Electrotechnical Commission at its meeting in Paris in July last year, and three points, among others, were recorded as follows. (1) In the light of the replies from the national committees to the inquiry made by the Central Office of the International Electrotechnical Commission, the 'newton' was finally adopted as the name of the unit of force in the

M.K.S. system. (2) It is considered convenient to base the M.K.S. system on four principal units, and it is recommended that, for the purpose of developing the definitions of the units, the fourth principal unit should preferably be the ampere. (3) Rationalization is adopted for the M.K.S. system, which results in the following formulæ:  $\mu_0 = 4\pi \cdot 10^{-7}$  for the permeability of free space (henry/metre); and  $\epsilon_0 = 1/\mu_0 c^2$  for the permittivity of free space (farad/metre);  $c$  being the velocity of light in free space, and  $\epsilon$  the Commission's symbol for permittivity.

#### Lundy Field Society

APART from a list of birds recorded during 1950, which included the Balearic shearwater and the American pectoral sandpiper, the annual report of the Lundy Field Society for 1950 contains some notes on the birds of Lundy extracted from diaries kept between 1870 and 1905. While 1950 contains no record of the quail, an entry in the diaries for 1870 states that "men at mowing have destroyed five quail nests"; corn-crakes, too, were common in the last century but only one is recorded for 1950. The report also contains accounts of the distribution on Lundy of the water-snail, *Limnæa truncatula*, the longhorn grasshopper, *Leptophyes punctatissima*, certain small mammals including the pygmy shrew, *Sorex minutus*, and the black and brown rats, *Rattus norvegicus* and *R. rattus*, mosses, two-winged flies and butterflies and moths. Among other articles in the report is one by L. A. Harvey on the granite shores of Lundy, this being supplemented by lists of marine alga and shore fauna; the latter includes nine species of tunicates. The report may be obtained from Mr. L. A. Harvey, University College, Exeter, price 2s. 6d.

#### Entomological Society of India: Officers

THE thirteenth annual general meeting of the Entomological Society of India was held on January 2, with Dr. H. S. Pruthi, plant protection adviser to the Government of India and retiring president of the Society, in the chair. During 1950 the Society was able to publish five numbers of the *Indian Journal of Entomology* at a total cost of more than Rs. 10,000 instead of the usual two issues. In view of the increased cost of printing, it was decided to raise the subscription rates of the *Journal* by about 25 per cent. Other prominent activities during the year were: a census of entomological workers in India; the dissemination of scientific information; efforts to establish a National Entomological Laboratory in India; and assistance in promoting international contacts between entomologists. The following have been elected officers for 1951-52: *President*, Dr. E. S. Narayanan (New Delhi); *Vice-Presidents* (from ex-presidents), Dr. H. S. Pruthi (New Delhi) and Dr. K. B. Lal (Kanpur); *Vice-Presidents* (new), Dr. I. M. Puri (Delhi) and Dr. K. N. Trehan (Ludhiana); *Councillors*, Shri S. Ramchandran (Coimbatore) and Dr. V. P. Rao (New Delhi); *Chief Editor*, Shri Y. Ramchandra Rao (Bangalore); *General Secretary*, Dr. S. Pradhan (Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi); *Joint Secretary and Treasurer*, Shri S. N. Chatterjee (New Delhi).

#### Histochemical Society: Officers

THE following have been elected officers of the Histochemical Society: *President*, Dr. David Glick (University of Minnesota); *Vice-President*, Prof.