

fish, and he has named it *Malania anjouanae*, as a tribute to Dr. Malan, the Prime Minister, who had placed an aeroplane at Prof. Smith's disposal. It is of interest to note that the fish was caught in 20 m. of water by an Arab, using a line, and that the islanders claim that two or three such fish are caught each year in the same region and sold in the local market. Further details will be awaited with considerable interest.

#### University of Leeds

At a meeting of the Court of the University of Leeds on December 17, the vice-chancellor, Dr. C. R. Morris, commenting on the difference of opinion as to whether national service should be done before or after embarking on university work, said that while war service in general encourages the development of the intellectual life, there is evidence that national service in peace-time is inimical to it and ability and personality are not developed in the same way. As regards research in universities, he said that, while there may be some research which it would be wrong for universities to undertake, the great increase in the extent of university research in recent years is an advance in the right direction. The national interest requires full use of the highly trained and expert man-power to be found in university departments, and this would require the provision of more money for the maintenance of departments. It has been, he said, a cardinal point of policy with the University of Leeds also to maintain a strong and numerous teaching staff in relation to students, and experience is showing without doubt that this policy is right. Dr. Morris referred to disappointments in progress with halls of residence: more progress has been made with accommodation for women than for men during the past two or three years. The construction of the new refectory and staff house is well advanced and work on the Rayon Building for the Department of Textile Industries is expected to begin in March or April.

#### British Chemical Abstracts

A QUESTION was asked by Sir W. Wavell Wakefield in the House of Commons on December 16, inquiring whether the Government intends to give any effective support to prevent the termination of the arrangements for the publication of *British Chemical Abstracts*. In reply, Mr. A. E. H. Molson said that the Lord President of the Council was informed of the difficulties that had arisen in regard to the publication of *British Chemical Abstracts*, and that when the question was referred to his predecessor the latter had asked for the advice of the Royal Society. Certain recommendations have recently been received from the Royal Society, designed to ensure the continued publication of these abstracts. These recommendations are at present being examined as a matter of urgency, in consultation with the chemical industry.

#### Studies on Primates

THE two recent parts of Vol. 122 of the *Proceedings of the Zoological Society* (Part 1, May; Part 2, August, 1952) contain, *inter alia*, interesting and valuable contributions to our knowledge of the Primates, living and fossil. The former part has a paper by W. C. Osman Hill, Annie Porter and Margaret D. Southwick on the natural history and parasites of the tarsier, *Tarsier carbonarius*, based on studies of two females and one male which were kept alive in the Society's gardens for 692, 957 and

1,043 days, respectively. During these times careful daily records were kept of their behaviour, including the sexual cycle and their reactions to various situations and conditions. The paper also includes an account of their ailments and treatments and a detailed study of their endoparasites. W. C. Osman Hill also describes fully the external features and visceral anatomy of the rare and almost unstudied African olive colobus monkey, *Procolobus verus*. The identity and relationships of a number of the members of the Colobidae are not satisfactorily established, and this study, with its comparative treatment, is a step towards that end. During 1949-51 the British-Kenya Miocene Expedition collected a considerable amount of fossil hominoid material, which is reported upon by Prof. W. E. Le Gros Clark in Part 2. He has been able to add important details concerning five species belonging to the genera *Proconsul* and *Limnopithecus*. The same part also contains an extensive monograph by Dr. A. J. Haddow on the African red-tailed monkey, *Cercopithecus ascanius schmidti*. This is a most meticulous account of the identification, synonymy, biology, ecology and distribution of this species based on the examination of 143 specimens and on countless observations in field and laboratory. It is a more complete study of any African monkey than has been published heretofore, and clears up some of the confusion that exists in this important group of animals.

#### Fakes and Forgeries in Museum Objects

In a paper on "Fakes and Forgeries in Museums" (*Museums Journal*; September 1952), Dr. H. J. Plenderleith, of the Research Laboratory of the British Museum, gives some interesting examples of how the scientific worker can help scholarship in the detection of deception. The methods used are naturally those mainly associated with non-destructive testing. Among many interesting tests, he relates the study of a Greek bronze which could not be sectioned. A coin of known date and composition from Delhi was used as control; it showed certain surface features of decay. When sectioned, however, it revealed a crystalline structure with evidence of inter-crystalline oxidation and even a copper-rich area arising from the secondary reduction of cuprite. Micro-cracks were revealed in the brittle interior and an internal granulated condition at the deepest points of attack. The same tests applied under the base of the Greek bronze yielded results which indicated its genuineness. Such micro conditions would be impossible to fake. The patina of the bronze was, however, olive green in colour, easily detached and showed no foundation of cuprite. These suspicious observations were confirmed by X-ray diffraction. It was therefore clear that, although the bronze was genuine, the patina had been faked.

#### Newton's "Principia"

IN the March issue of *Scripta Mathematica*, a quarterly journal devoted to the philosophy, history and expository treatment of mathematics (Yeshiva University, 20th and Northampton Streets, Easton, Pa.), an article is published under the title "A Survey of the Number of Copies of Newton's Principia in the United States, Canada, and Mexico". The survey was inspired by the late Dr. David Eugene Smith and has been carried out by Frederick E. Brasch, a consultant in bibliography, of Stanford University, California. The article directs attention to the Western trend of scientific progress