

Charitable and Scientific Purposes, Inc., has been made to Prof. Otto Neugebauer, of Brown University, Rhode Island, for his book entitled "The Exact Sciences in Antiquity" (Princeton University Press, 1951, and Oxford University Press). The Prize, which is worth five thousand dollars, will be awarded every three years to the author of an outstanding book on mathematical or physical sciences which opens up important fields of research. Prof. Neugebauer, who is an Austrian by birth, is a mathematician who has turned his knowledge to the study of Egyptology and, in particular, to the deciphering of Babylonian and Sumerian cuneiform texts dealing with mathematical and astronomical subjects. The Heineman Foundation was established by Mr. and Mrs. Dannie N. Heineman, of Charlotte, North Carolina, in order to further educational, charitable, religious and scientific enterprises and projects, without reference to nationality, race, creed or colour. Further information can be obtained from the secretary of the Foundation at Suite 1700, 50 Broadway, New York 4, N.Y.

Oil Palm Research in Nigeria

THE Oil Palm Research Station, Benin, formerly a station of the Nigerian Agricultural Department, has recently been transformed into the West African Institute for Oil Palm Research. This Institute has been set up by statute to serve the British West African territories in all matters relating to research on the oil palm—a tropical crop of great contemporary value and importance. Annual reports on the work of the Institute are promised in due course, these continuing the records of the former Research Station. Meanwhile, quarterly progress reports are being made available to those who are interested in this crop; for the managing committee is anxious to make the work of the Institute as widely known as possible. Leaving aside the numerous matters of administrative detail, inseparable from the establishment of a new organization, the contemporary report (No. 3; October–December 1952) contains items of scientific and practical interest on problems of seed germination, the effect of leaf pruning, the effect of burning and non-burning techniques of land-clearing on subsequent yields—a matter of rather special interest to the tropical planter, the agronomist and the soil chemist—genetical and breeding investigations and progeny trials, and the investigation of various obscure diseases to which the oil palm is subject. Although at several points the work has been restricted and impeded by staffing difficulties, the Institute is now an active going concern. For this, much credit is due to the director, Mr. F. W. Toovey, for a notable administrative and scientific achievement in the face of difficulties that only workers with tropical experience are likely to appreciate to the full.

Association of Clinical Biochemists

THE Association of Clinical Biochemists was formed at a meeting held at the Postgraduate Medical School of London on March 28. Regional societies in the Midlands, Glasgow, the north-west and the south of England have been in existence for some time, and an interim committee of these groups was set up last year under the chairmanship of Prof. E. J. King. The activities of the new Association will be both scientific and professional and will comprise the field, now somewhat incompletely covered, between pathology, clinical medicine and biochemistry. The

Association will hold regional and national meetings for reading papers and giving demonstrations, and expects to hold joint discussions with other organizations to deal with selected topics. It hopes to co-operate with other societies affiliated to the International Association of Clinical Biochemists in a scheme for the standardizing and periodical checking of analytical methods used in hospital laboratories. The following papers were read at the inaugural meeting: Mr. E. B. Love, on the laboratory control of anticoagulant therapy; Dr. I. D. P. Wootton, on the quartz spectrophotometer in clinical chemistry; Drs. H. Bickel, J. Gerrard and E. M. Hickmans, on the influence of phenylalanine intake on phenylpyruvic oligophrenia; and Dr. A. L. Latner, on quantitative paper-strip electrophoresis of serum proteins. The meeting accepted a set of rules submitted by the interim committee, which was instructed to nominate a president and to hold elections to a council not later than August 31. Until then the interim committee is to act as a temporary council; Dr. A. L. Tárnoky (Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading) is secretary of the committee.

Deep-sea Trawling

THE results of the deep-sea trawling which was done by the Swedish Deep-Sea Expedition, 1947–48, are given in the "Reports" of the Expedition (2, Fasc. 1; 1951. Pp. 148+2 plates. Göteborg: Elanders Boktryckeri. 25 kr.). In an introductory paper, Dr. O. Nybelin, who was in charge of the zoological work, discusses the technical difficulties of trawling at depths greater than four thousand metres. For this work the expedition employed a thirty-foot otter trawl, of the type used by Scandinavian fishermen to catch the deep-water prawn, *Pandalus borealis*. In the operation of this trawl, considerable use was made of echo-sounding to avoid trawling over hard, rough bottoms, and also of calculations (by B. Kullenberg) on the shape and length of the cable during deep-sea trawling. Dr. Kullenberg's calculations are also published in the present volume. As a result of this preliminary attention to details of technique, the Swedish deep-sea trawl-hauls were relatively more successful than many of those taken on previous expeditions, and the remaining papers in the publication record the zoological catches, in particular the echinoderms, coelenterates, bryozoans and polychaetes. The starfish collections, described by Jensenius Madsen, strongly support the view that the real deep-sea fauna is essentially cosmopolitan. Thus, three species of starfish found by this expedition in the Atlantic had hitherto been known only from the Pacific or Indian Oceans.

Mathematical Association: Meeting in Sheffield

THE annual general meeting of the Mathematical Association will be held in the University of Sheffield during April 8–11. The business of the Association (election of officers and the Council, etc.) will be dealt with on the morning of April 9, and in the afternoon the president, Mr. K. S. Snell, of Harrow School, will give his address, his subject being "School Mathematics To-day and To-morrow". Other topics which will be considered at the meeting are the craft and science of metallurgy, infinity, the Mathematics Division of the National Physical Laboratory, the transition from the primary to the secondary school, the theory of games, and 'from examination question to industrial problem'. In