

for 250 patients as well as the staff of the centre. The centre is owned by the Allgemeinen Unfallversicherungsanstalt (United Accident Insurance Corporation). The Corporation's decision to establish this centre for the rehabilitation of accident cases occurring anywhere in Austria was largely influenced by the views of two young orthopaedic surgeons who were members of the first rehabilitation course held in Great Britain under the auspices of the British Council. When completed, the training centre, which is directly connected to the rehabilitation centre, will be used for short courses of training in carpentry, metalwork, wood-carving, leather work, shoe-making, tailoring and dressmaking. It is not intended to use them for long or complete vocational training courses, such as are available in Government training centres, but rather as a means of giving both work therapy and vocational guidance to those undergoing physical and industrial rehabilitation before returning to their former employment or undertaking new courses of training.

"The Behaviour of Engineering Structures"

PROF. A. J. S. PIPPARD writes: "In my article published in *Nature* of May 2, I made the statement that it was not until 1947 that exact theoretical solutions for the stresses in masonry dams had been obtained. It has since been pointed out to me that Dr. L. F. Richardson dealt with this subject in a paper entitled 'The Approximate Arithmetical Solution by Finite Differences of Physical Problems involving Differential Equations, with an Application to the Stresses in a Masonry Dam', published in *Phil. Trans.*, A, 210, 307 (1911). I regret that I overlooked this reference".

Announcements

THE Alexander Pedler Lecture of the British Association is to be given this year by Sir Harold Hartley; he will speak on "The Life and Times of Sir Richard Gregory". The Lecture will be given in the Royal Institution on May 28 at 6 p.m.; applications for tickets should be sent to the Secretary, British Association, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

THE Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh has awarded the Gunning Victoria Jubilee Prize for the period 1948-52 to Prof. A. C. Aitken, of the University of Edinburgh, for his distinguished contributions in the field of pure mathematics; and the Makdougall-Brisbane Prize for the period 1950-52 to Prof. E. M. Wright, of the University of Aberdeen, for his papers in the field of pure mathematics published within the period of the award in the Society's *Proceedings*. The Prizes will be presented by the president at the meeting of the Society on July 6.

DR. JOSEPH JUNKES, S.J., has been appointed director of the Astrophysical Laboratory of the Vatican Observatory, in succession to Dr. Alois Gatterer; Dr. Ernest Salpeter, S.J., is assistant director of the Laboratory. It is hoped that the first volume of the "Atlas of Molecular Spectra" ("Spectra of Diatomic Molecules, the Oxides"), undertaken by the Observatory at the request of the International Astronomical Union, on which Father Gatterer was engaged until shortly before his death, will be ready by the end of this year.

THE Royal Sanitary Institute, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Infestation Control Division), is organizing a rodent

control exhibition, open to the general public, to be held in the Institute's Museum of Hygiene, 90 Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1, during May 26-June 20 (Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon).

A SUMMER school in the use of electrons for the examination of metals will be held during July 20-31 in the Cavendish and Goldsmiths' Laboratories, University of Cambridge, in co-operation with the Institute of Metals. This will consist of lectures, demonstrations and practical classes in the principles of the electron microscope (including reflexion techniques) and electron diffraction camera and their practical applications to the study of metals. Application forms (to be returned by May 30) and further information can be obtained from G. F. Hickson, Secretary of the Board of Extra-Mural Studies, Stuart House, Cambridge.

Two interesting articles are contained in Vol. 1, Part 2 of the *Journal of the National Museum of Bloemfontein*. The first is by Dr. A. C. Hoffman and describes a dug-out canoe in use in Vandaland. It would seem to be the first of its kind to be found south of the Limpopo, and the first bark canoe to be described from southern Africa. The second article is by Dr. A. J. D. Meiring and describes some polished-edge bone implements found in the coastal strip from Great Brak River in the west to Matjes River in the east. The age may be Wilton. 1

THE summer provincial meeting of the Physica Society will be held in the Department of Physics King's College, Newcastle upon Tyne 1, during July 13-14, the subject being optics and ultrasonics. The meeting will include visits to the Grubb-Parsons Optical Works and Pametrada Research Station. Hostel accommodation is available. The meeting is open to all on application to the offices of the Physical Society, 1 Lowther Gardens, Prince Consort Road, London, S.W.7.

THE Present Question Conference this year will be on "Springs of Action" and will be held at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, during August 8-15. A number of lectures will be given in the mornings by leading experts, the subjects being tradition, the evidence of biology, politics, creative action, the longing for truth, knowledge, communication, moral judgment, productivity, leisure and personal decision. In the late afternoons and evenings, study groups and discussions will be held. The fee for the conference is 2 guineas (students 1 guinea). Accommodation is available in Lady Margaret Hall. Further information can be obtained from the Secretariat, Present Question Conference, 37 Middleway, London, N.W.11.

THE second British Plastics Exhibition and Convention will be held at Olympia, London, during June 8-18. The Exhibition will cover a wide range from the raw material to consumer goods, and more than eighty firms and organizations will be represented. The Convention is designed this year especially for the plastics technologist, and a comprehensive programme of papers has been drawn up by representatives of the British Plastics Federation, the Plastics Institute, the Society of Chemical Industry (Plastics and Polymer Group) and the journal *British Plastics*. The Convention is open to all, admission being by ticket only, obtainable from the organizers, British Plastics, Dorset House, Stamford Street, London, S.E.1.