heat and its origin (five papers), the interior of the earth (four papers) and geophysical prospecting (four papers). Nearly a hundred scientific workers and interested persons from South Africa attended the conference. A number of visitors were from neighbouring British Protectorates and the Belgian Congo, and from farther afield came Dr. Francis Birch (Harvard University), Dr. Robert Stoneley (University of Cambridge) and Dr. C. J. Jaeger (Australian National University, Canberra). In addition, papers were received from M. A. Tuve and H. E. Tatel (Department of Terrestrial Magnetism, Washington, D.C.), from Prof. L. Cahen (Musée Royal du Congo Belge, Tervuren) and from the National Meteorological Service of Portugal. The papers will be published by the authors independently in various scientific journals.

Antwerp 'Zoo' Bulletins

BEFORE the Second World War the Société Royale de Zoologie d'Anvers published a bilingual, French and Flemish, review termed *Zoo*, which was well known to visitors to the Antwerp Zoological Gardens. For financial and other reasons, this has not been restarted since the War. To some extent, it is now replaced by "Bulletins", limited to four numbers in the year, of which the first three are to hand, consisting of 24, 48 and 54 pages, respectively. They are issued by the Society under the general direction of Mr. Walter Van den bergh and the editorship of M. M. Palmans. The first number, July 1953, treats of the infection of penguins with plasmodium by Dr. J. Rodhain ; the second is a description of freshwater fishes from the Belgian Congo, by Dr. Max Poll, many of which are on view in the Antwerp gardens ; and the third treats of various aspects of the acclimatization of the okapi and has contributions by Dr. L. M. G. Guerden and Dr. Vendermander (Ghent), Axel Reventlow (Copenhagen) and C. S. Webb (London). They are all well illustrated by half-tone reproductions of photographs. The treatment is not fully technical but at the same time not popular, and they contain much useful information derived from actual experience. The second bulletin, that on fishes, with illustrations of thirty-four different species living in the Antwerp aquarium, shows that, apart from the scientific interest of some of them, there are a number that make attractive additions to an aquarium.

The Museums Association

THE annual report of the Museums Association published in the July issue of the *Museums Journal* is a reminder of the growing status of these institutions and their increased usefulness to the community. For the Association, 1953–54 has been a year of exceptional activity, the beginning of a number of new ventures and marked by the continued improvement in its finances. The Handbook Panel issued its first publication and the Directory Panel is now collating the results of an extensive questionnaire. A technical certificate is now available to indicate the professional qualifications of those museum workers whose activities are in that particular field, and consideration has been given to the extension of the diploma scheme to other parts of the Commonwealth. As in previous years, the museum movement in Britain records with gratitude its great debt to the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust for its whole-hearted and liberal support.

Museum of Applied Science of Victoria : Report for 1953

IN the report of the Museum of Applied Science of Victoria for the year ended June 30, 1953, it is interesting to note that the Museum intends to carry out radiocarbon (carbon-14) determinations in the near future. The few existing centres in Australia doing this work are unable to cope with all the demands, and the provision of a laboratory for this modern technique will be invaluable to Australian research workers. The acquisition of an 8-in. equatorial telescope in 1945 has resulted in a well-established and popular service to the public. With the generous assistance of a panel of honorary demonstrators from the Astronomical Society of Victoria, members of the public are able to observe the night sky.

Queen Elizabeth Forest Park

A GUIDE to the National Forest Park, comprising Ben Lomond, Loch Ard and the Trossachs, has been compiled by Prof. John Walton, of the University of Glasgow. In commemoration of the Coronation of Her Majesty, it is fitting that this beautiful park should be named the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park. Of all the national forest parks, this is likely to be visited by the greatest number of the public ; unlike the others, it is situated within easy reach of the large populations of Edinburgh, Glasgow and the industrial districts of the central valley of Scotland. Moreover, it includes part of the Trossachs, which has for many years attracted visitors in large numbers from all parts of the world.

The Forestry Commission in 1928 acquired land in the neighbourhood of Loch Ard, and with later acquisitions has brought under national ownership no less than 41,454 acres extending from Loch Venachar and the headwaters of the Forth over the summit of Ben Lomond to the shores of Loch Lomond. The area marches with the main part of the beautiful Trossachs. Plantations covering an area of more than 13,000 acres have been established, while there are nearly 20,000 acres of lochs and mountains which are available for those who find joy and recreation in exploring the wild countryside. Besides sections dealing with the geology, botany, bird and mammal life of the area, the guide contains an account of the structure and freshwater biology of Loch Lomond, Gaelic place names and their derivations, as well as an account of the Trossachs in literature. The guide also contains a useful Ordnance Survey map of the area. Guides cost 3*s*. each and can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office.

Sea-horses in a School Laboratory

MANY people regard sea-horses (*Hippocampus* sp.) as fictitious or heraldic or have heard of them only from mythological references in ancient literature. Apart from the excellent exhibit at the London Zoo, under the care of Mr. H. Vinall, and in a few seaside aquaria such as that at Plymouth, these animals are seldom seen alive in Britain. There are many laboratory difficulties in trying to maintain a stock of sea-horses ; they do not acclimatize easily, refuse to eat and eventually die of starvation. Clean seawater has constantly to be procured, continuously to be aerated and maintained at a temperature of 75° F. by means of thermostatic control. The Edinburgh and East of Scotland Aquarium Society very enterprisingly showed some fine specimens at its annual

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