

hundred specimens of important minerals, all of which are perfect examples and many are extremely rare. Each specimen is accurately named and localized. The collection will be known as the A. W. Kingsbury Collection of Minerals; part will be on permanent display and the remainder made available for the use of students and interested persons in accordance with the wishes of the donor.

Journal of Inorganic and Nuclear Chemistry

THE first number of a new *Journal of Inorganic and Nuclear Chemistry*, published by the Pergamon Press, of London and New York, appeared in March (pp. 164). The subscription per volume (six numbers) is 90s. (12.60 dollars) or, for individual subscribers, certifying that the journal is for their private use, 70s. (9.80 dollars). The editors are J. J. Katz (Chicago), H. C. Longuet-Higgins (Cambridge) and H. A. A. McKay (Harwell), and there is an international editorial advisory board. The *Journal*, which has the support of many distinguished chemists, is intended to be international in character and will publish papers of the necessary standard from any source. The first number has made a good start. It contains papers from the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany and Sweden, all of which are of a high standard.

Periodicity of Spore Discharge in an Ascomycete

C. T. Ingold and V. J. Cox (*Ann. Bot.*, N.S., **19**, 74, 201; 1955) have discussed this phenomenon in the light of experimental investigations. In *Daldinia concentrica* spore discharge under natural conditions is periodic, most spores being discharged during the night and few in the daytime. An experimental study was made of discharge under controlled conditions of light and temperature. In continuous darkness periodic discharge was maintained for twelve days; but then, although spore output continued, it ceased to be periodic. Return to alternating light (12 hr., 100 foot-candles) and darkness (12 hr.) at once re-established the periodicity. In continuous light (100 foot-candles) periodic discharge ceased after 2-3 days, but was immediately re-established in alternating light (12 hr.) and darkness (12 hr.). When the fungus was placed under conditions of alternating light and darkness each of six hours duration, two peaks of spore-output were soon developed in the 24-hr. period. The experiments suggest that the natural periodicity is determined by the alternation of day and night.

The Mithras Head of the City of London

In the April number of the *Museums Journal*, Dr. H. J. Plenderleith, of the British Museum Laboratory, describes the treatment and restoration of the marble head of Mithras found in the City of London during excavations in the Walbrook Mithraeum. The head came from a moist clayey site, was in a damp and muddy condition and bore a dark granular incrustation of iron compounds. The stone was found to be weakened by a form of sugary decomposition which might have resulted from intense heat. The marble was allowed to dry out and much of the incrustation was removed by pointed matchsticks. Sequestration of the iron was carried out by using 'Versenol' as a complexing agent. The sugary areas of the marble were treated by applications of lime water which, in time, filled the pores of the stone with carbonate of lime. Finally, two coats of soluble 10 per cent casein were applied which had a marked

effect in reinforcing the surface. This meticulous work was carried out in the British Museum Laboratory, and details of the process are given in the paper quoted.

Royal Society and Nuffield Foundation Commonwealth Fellowships

AWARDS under the Royal Society and Nuffield Foundation Commonwealth bursaries scheme have been announced as follows: Prof. N. P. Badenhuizen, professor of botany, University of the Witwatersrand, to enable him to study the application of radioactive isotopes to problems of starch granule growth, at the Postgraduate Medical School, London (September-November 1955); Mr. D. H. Colless, lecturer in parasitology, University of Malaya, to enable him to study mosquito collections at the British Museum (Natural History) and elsewhere to solve certain problems in Culicine systematics (July-December 1955); Dr. M. Davies, senior lecturer in chemistry, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, to enable him to visit Sydney (January-September 1956) to work in the field of molecular structure, infra-red spectroscopy and dielectric absorption; Dr. A. A. Kinnear, Institute for Pathology, University of Pretoria, to enable him to study endocrinological techniques at Birmingham (July-September 1955); Dr. J. H. D. Millar, consulting neurologist, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, to enable him to study electrocorticography at the Montreal Neurological Institute (September-November 1955); Prof. S. R. Palit, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Calcutta, to enable him to study the use of radioactive compounds and photochemical techniques in polymerization at Birmingham and other centres in Great Britain (July-August 1955); Prof. M. Sharif, professor of zoology, University of the Punjab, Lahore, to enable him to study ecological and insecticidal techniques practised at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (July-September 1955); Prof. P. A. Sheppard, professor of meteorology, Imperial College of Science and Technology, to enable him to visit Melbourne and Sydney (September 1955-January 1956) for investigation of the interaction between atmosphere and ocean in relation to the general circulation of the atmosphere; Prof. J. B. Warren, Physics Department, University of British Columbia, to enable him to visit Canberra (August 1955-August 1956) to study the photodisintegration of nuclei. This is the third group of awards under the scheme which was instituted in 1953 to provide facilities for increasing the efficiency of scientists of proved ability by enabling them to pursue research, learn techniques or follow other forms of study in natural science in countries other than their own in the Commonwealth where the physical or personal environment, or both, are peculiarly favourable.

Leverhulme Research Awards, 1955

THE following Leverhulme Research Awards, among others, have been made for work on the subjects indicated. *Fellowships*: R. B. Benson (principal scientific officer, Department of Entomology, British Museum (Natural History)), comparison of the northern sawfly fauna of Canada with that of Europe; Dr. H. O. Foulkes (senior lecturer in pure mathematics, University College, Swansea), symmetric functions and group theory; Prof. C. F. C. Hawkes (professor of European archaeology, University of Oxford), the Mediterranean relations of