the intermediate state appears to be more fruitful in the rationalization of observed effects of configuration on reactivity than are similar considerations based on the conformation of the reactant in the ground state.

The use of proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy for establishing the conformations of sugar acetates was briefly discussed.

The symposium altogether was a lively and stimulating affair, and in the closing remarks the chairman commented on the increasing importance of applications of these newer interpretations of carbohydrate reactions in the ever-widening field of biochemistry.

ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETIES

EIGHTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION, 1956

THE eighth annual exhibition of the Association of School Natural History Societies was held at the British Museum (Natural History) on October 20. Mr. Eric Hosking, who is a founder-member of the Association, gave a lecture on "Birds in Action" before an audience of 150 children. This was illustrated by a selection of magnificent photographs of birds, for which Mr. Hosking is rightly famous. By means of electronic flash and occasionally with the use of a specially designed photo-electric camera release, some remarkable pictures had been obtained.

After the lecture, the exhibition was opened to members and to the public. A notable feature of this year's exhibition was the reduction in the number of charts and diagrams coupled with an increase in live exhibits. While it is true that the tabulation of results and their presentation in graphic form is an admirable, if not essential, way of summarizing field work, it is also true that this practice often makes a dull exhibit. Nine out of the twelve items displayed by Bishop's Stortford College were living exhibits, including an elaborate reconstruction of a portion of a refuse dump. In another exhibit were specimens of the white-lipped hedge snail (*Cepea nemoralis*), showing the many variants of shell-marking. African clawed frogs, reared at the school, made an interesting contrast to familiar British amphibians. Other examples of living freshwater animals were shown by Oundle School, Felsted School and Lord Wandsworth College, Hants. The latter school displayed also a home-made portable instrument for the field measurement of salinity in salt marshes. This operated by measuring the electrical conductivity of the water contained in a long polythene tube. The study of the natural history of mammals is a subject which has been sadly neglected by the majority of naturalists. It was therefore encouraging to see that Kimbolton School, Hunts, had begun a scheme of trapping and marking small mammals. A number of living small rodents was displayed.

Marine studies had been undertaken by Dulwich College, which displayed a large collection of marine algae and a shore transect illustrating the zonation of these species on the sea-shore. Similar work was described by Ackworth School, Yorkshire.

A pupil of Bishop's Stortford College had prepared a model to illustrate the trapping of moths at a mercury-vapour light trap. A relief model of an area

of countryside, above which bird flight-lines were indicated, showed that whereas some species of bird preferred to fly along the valleys, other species tended to fly in a direction perpendicular to the contour lines. Limehurst Natural History Society (Garendon School, Loughborough, Leics.) displayed models, photographs and charts which described their island nature reserve and the wild life found there.

Lepidoptera were not so prominent in the exhibition as they were last year. Several schools showed a few in connexion with their other exhibits, but the collection shown by Tonbridge School was the most comprehensive.

Geology was represented by a soil profile across an area of poor fen, exhibited by Cranbrook School, and a selection of rock samples and fossils from an ironstone cutting brought by Uppingham School. Also included in their exhibits were owl pellets and kestrel pellets, whole and dissected. Owl pellets were featured in the displays by Oundle School, and the William Grimshaw School, London. The latter school had prepared a complete demonstration of the various stages in the dissection of a pellet, culminating in the 'reconstruction' of most of the skeleton of an individual vole from bones found in a single pellet.

It was announced that further exhibitions have been arranged in Leicester (November 24) and Leeds (May 11, 1957). Other meetings are being planned to take place in Exeter and Manchester. Further details of these meetings can be obtained from O. N. Bishop, Hon. General Secretary, A.S.N.H.S., 115 Shelly Road, Exmouth, Devon. A special edition of the Exhibition Catalogue is available (10d., including postage), which contains a full list of exhibits, a list of members and their addresses, and the annual reports of the committee.

In addition to those displays put on by member schools there were a number of guest exhibitors. The Amateur Entomologists' Society, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the School Nature Study Union and the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare displayed their publications. The Children's Centre showed material illustrating their Saturday morning activities; a scale-model of a small portion of Epping Forest was particularly noteworthy.

O. N. BISHOP

EXPEDITION TO THE SALMON AND LEDUC GLACIERS

AN expedition to the Salmon and Leduc Glaciers was organized in 1956 by the University of Toronto under the leadership of Prof. J. A. Jacobs at the request of the Defence Research Board and the National Research Council of Canada. Eleven men took part, and the expedition lasted from the middle of May until the end of August.

The Salmon and Leduc Glaciers, which are situated near the coast of British Columbia opposite the southern tip of Alaska (approximately lat. 56° 10' N., long. 130° 15' W.), were chosen since they lie between the glaciers from the Juneau ice field to the north and those of the Washington Cascade and Olympic Mountains to the south, on which a considerable amount of work has already been done. The area is also interesting since the Granduc ore body lies in the mountains surrounded by these and other glaciers.