

Kew, and the Natural History Museum, for a year from April 1957.

Rutherfordiana

WITH the permission of the Royal Society of London and the assistance of Dr. Ernest Marsden, the *New Zealand Science Review* has been enabled to reproduce in full in its August number (18, No. 8; 1956) the text of the Rutherford Memorial Lecture, entitled "The Discovery of Atomic Number", which Sir Charles Darwin delivered initially during the Nelson College centenary celebrations on April 5, 1956. Sir Charles gives a broad survey of the history of the outstanding contributions to the subject, including the leading part taken by Rutherford. He points out that with the discovery of the neutron and several more recent elementary particles, a fresh field of science has been opened up, demanding a wholly new kind of dynamics the principles of which have not yet been found, and he concludes by quoting words which Rutherford was fond of uttering in connexion with any subject he was working at: "I think this is a grand subject; there are so many things in it we don't know".

In addition to the Memorial Lecture, the August number contains a short article by Dr. Lyndon Bastings entitled "Rutherfordiana", in which he lists a number of extra items not noted in the bibliography of Rutherford's publications compiled by C. M. Focken and published in the *Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand* (68; 1938). Dr. Bastings has made a comprehensive collection of reprints of Rutherford's articles which has been accepted by the library of Canterbury University College for safe custody. Dr. Marsden in his introductory foreword mentions the existence of two more items of Rutherfordiana—a gramophone recording of a lecture given by Rutherford at Göttingen, and one of the earliest cinematographic records with sound film, made at the General Electric Company's laboratory in the United States in the early days of combined picture and sound track, of the actual spoken lecture delivered by Rutherford.

Institute of Personnel Management

REMARKABLE progress in the field of personnel management in industry is described in the annual report of the Institute of Personnel Management. Membership of the Institute is continuing to increase, and now consists of some four thousand members. Following the decision of the National Coal Board to develop its staff department, many personnel managers have been appointed throughout the coal industry. During 1955, the Institute's examination scheme was launched, and the first candidates have already been examined. A joint study undertaken with the British Institute of Management and the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants is being made into the cost of absence from work and labour turnover, as well as the most effective means of providing financial information to employees. In view of the considerable changes—economic, technological and social—which have marked the post-war period, a study group has been formed to examine the new conditions and other implications in personnel management thought and practice.

Living Conditions and Health

In 1951, a preparatory international conference of doctors discussed the possibility of an international

exchange of facts and opinions on the effects of living conditions on health, with the result that the World Congress of Doctors for the Study of Present-Day Living Conditions was established and held an international conference in Vienna in May 1953. A report of this conference, by Dr. Alice Stewart (Oxford), appears in the first issue of *Health and Living Conditions* (Vienna 1, Wollzeile, 29/3; English edition available from Dr. A. Ryle, The Caversham Centre, London, N.W.5. Annual subscription, 26s.; single copies, 6s.). The journal is to be published quarterly, in English, Chinese, French, German, Russian and Spanish. It is edited by Dr. F. Scholl (Austria) assisted by an international committee, the British representatives on which are Dr. P. D'Arcy Hart, Prof. L. Penrose and Dr. Alice Stewart. The articles in the first number reveal considerable breadth of outlook. There are also reports on various symposia and conferences.

The Gower Peninsula

MR. DUNCAN SANDYS, Minister of Housing and Local Government, has confirmed an Order establishing the Gower Peninsula, Glamorgan, as an area of outstanding natural beauty. In this area, which is the first of its kind under the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act, 1949, the local planning authorities have the special responsibility of preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the landscape for the enjoyment of this and future generations. The designated area, which is partly in the county of Glamorgan and partly in Swansea county borough, is known far beyond the boundaries of Wales for its beautiful coastline, its rocky limestone cliffs, sandy bays and coves, and for its delightful wooded ravines stretching inland. It is particularly important from the recreational point of view, because it is so close to Swansea and other industrial areas of South Wales, for the population of which it has long been a natural playground with its attractive coastline and inland walks, and facilities for boating, bathing and fishing. The designation does not automatically provide any additional freedom of access to private land.

Marginal Grazing Land in Britain

THE area of land used for hill and upland grazing in Great Britain is 14 million acres, or 31 per cent of all agricultural land in the country. The value of this marginal land is a much debated question, and in Report No. 3 in the series "Studies in Rural Land Use", B. R. Davidson and G. P. Wibberley have attempted to sort out the broad facts and put the discussion on a more rational basis ("The Agricultural Significance of the Hills". Pp. iv + 63. The Secretary, Wye College, Ashford, Kent, 1956. 5s. net). The important contribution made by hill sheep and wool to the national home supply is abundantly clear. The breeding flock of about 4.5 million head provides a flow of some 2.5–3 million sheep to the lowlands and accounts for one-third to one-half of the sheep slaughtered annually in Britain. It also provides about one-third of the yearly value of the home-produced wool clip. In contrast, the contribution in cattle and beef is small, amounting to only 5–7 per cent of the United Kingdom production of cattle for slaughter. The quantity of milk produced, however, though only 3 per cent of the total national milk sales, is of considerable monetary value, particularly to the small upland farmer. As regards the