

chief chemist, Birmingham Tame and Rea District Drainage Board; Dr. A. Key, senior chemical inspector, Ministry of Housing and Local Government; Dr. J. Longwell, senior principal scientific officer, Department of the Government Chemist; F. T. K. Pentelow, chief inspector of salmon and freshwater fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Dr. B. A. Southgate, director of water pollution research, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research; R. C. Tarring, manager of Detergents Department of Shell Chemicals, Ltd.; Dr. E. Windle Taylor, director of water examination, Metropolitan Water Board; *Secretary*: D. H. A. Price, Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

The Committee has the following terms of reference: "To keep under review the difficulties, or risks of difficulty, arising in sewage works, rivers and water supply as a result of the use of synthetic detergents; to encourage, and assist the co-ordination of, appropriate research by manufacturers of detergents and intermediate materials, and by suitable public bodies, into methods by which those difficulties, or risks of difficulty, could without an undue burden on public funds be avoided or overcome; and to report progress at least once a year."

Presentation of the Corner Collection to the British Museum (Natural History)

DR. C. T. TRECHMANN has recently purchased and presented to the British Museum (Natural History) the greater part of the late Dr. Frank Corner's collection of early human skulls and other skeletal remains, including the famous Galley Hill skeleton which has been the subject of controversy for nearly seventy years. The Galley Hill skeleton is that of a man of modern type, that is, *Homo sapiens*, but with certain so-called primitive traits; it was discovered in 1888 at a depth (it is said) of 8 ft. in the ancient gravels of the River Thames at Swanscombe near Dartford. These gravels contain flint hand-axes at the earliest stone age, and bones of extinct rhinoceros and elephant. If this human skeleton were really contemporaneous with the gravel as the original investigators claimed, it would be older than Neanderthal man, and by far the oldest known skeleton of our own species. After the Swanscombe skull was found during 1935-36 in the same gravels but at a depth of 24 ft., interest in the Galley Hill skeleton revived, for the new skull seemed to foreshadow modern man, and its antiquity was beyond doubt. However, in 1948, comparison of the fluorine content of the Galley Hill skeleton with that of extinct animal bones from the Swanscombe gravels left no doubt that it was an intrusive burial of comparatively late date, possibly Neolithic. The same test confirmed the antiquity of the Swanscombe skull. More recently these results were reinforced by measurements of nitrogen content.

Field Studies Council

IN order to meet the steady increase in the demand for places, the Field Studies Council has decided to open a fifth Field Centre at Preston Montford, near Shrewsbury. This Centre will be opened in the spring and is well situated to take full advantage of the many and varied opportunities for field work which Shropshire offers, not least in the geographical and geological spheres. The Council hopes that the opening of the Centre will be the means of enabling bookings to be offered to those who have so often,

in recent years, been unable to obtain all the places they require at existing Centres. Besides courses in geographical and geological studies, Preston Montford is offering special countryside courses for school and university groups as well as rural science courses for teachers. Among the many interesting courses at the five established Centres is one on insects at Malham Tarn and another on snails at Juniper Hall. Besides insect ecology, Flatford Mill offers, *inter alia*, interesting courses on animal life in the soil, landscape painting and spiders, while a course at Dale Fort in practical archaeological excavation which is to be led by Prof. W. F. Grimes should quickly be over-subscribed. Opportunities for bird studies are again being made available at Skokholm. Inquiries should be addressed to Ravensmead, Keston, Kent.

The National Museum of Canada

THE annual report of the National Museum of Canada for 1954-55 (pp. 180+20 plates. Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1956. 1.50 dollars) records that twenty-two field projects were undertaken during the summer season covering palaeontological, zoological, botanical, archaeological and ethnological studies. In addition, four Museum bulletins were issued, many exhibits were improved and two large murals, one of moose and the other of the barren ground caribou, were completed. As usual, the report includes several original papers and also embodies, as a special feature, a bibliography of Canadian anthropology, archaeology and ethnology for the year 1954.

Zoological Nomenclature

THE International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature gives notice that as from May 30 it will start voting on the following case involving the possible use of its plenary powers for the purpose specified; full details have been published in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (12, Pt. 11): Pieridae Duponchel, 1832, validation of family-group name (Cl. Insecta, Order Lepidoptera). In addition, applications for the use of the plenary powers in the following cases were published in the *Bulletin* (11, Pt. 12): (1) *Ptychopyge* Angelin, 1854, designation of type species (Cl. Trilobita); (2) *convexa* de Haan [1835] (*Ocypode* (*Chasmagnathus*)) validation (Cl. Crustacea, Order Decapoda). Comments should be sent as soon as possible and in duplicate to Francis Hemming, Secretary to the Commission, 28 Park Village East, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

Host-specificity and Parallel Evolution

A SYMPOSIUM on host-specificity and parallel evolution among parasitic insects and worms of vertebrates, under the chairmanship of Dr. Ernst Mayr (Harvard), will take place at Neuchâtel (Switzerland) during April 15-18. The aim is to bring together both parasitologists and specialists of the host groups to discuss the various problems that have been tentatively grouped under the following headings: adaptation, dispersal, speciation and phylogeny. The following have agreed to present reports or to take part in the discussion. On hosts: L. Harrison Matthews (London), Kuhn-Sehneider (Zurich), A. J. Marshall (London), B. Patterson (Harvard), E. Stresemann (Berlin); On parasites: J.-G. Baer (Neuchâtel), A. Chabaud (Paris), Th. Clay (London), G. Dubois (Neuchâtel), L. Euzet (Montpellier), Y. Golvan (Paris), G. Hopkins (Tring), W. Inglis (London), N. Kent (Baltimore), J. Llewellyn (Birmingham), H. W. Manter (Lincoln, Neb.), O.