International Palæontological Union

The International Palæontological Union has hitherto functioned as a department of the International Geological Congresses, but at the 1956 Congress in Mexico it was decided to extend its activities, and it is now proposed to publish a directory to the palæontologists of the world. The expanding interests of the Union have necessitated arranging a meeting previous to the next Geological Congress, planned for 1960 in Copenhagen, and the president of the Union (Dr. Maldonado-Koerdell, Mexico City) has decided to call a meeting to coincide with the fifteenth International Congress of Zoology, and the preceding Colloquium on Zoological Nomenclature, to be held in London during July 9–23, 1958. During this session the Union will discuss and adopt a revised constitution, as modified from that first put forward in 1956 at Mexico. All interested palæontologists should write to the secretary for further particulars: Dr. Jean Roger, Service d'Information géologique, B.R.G.G.M., 74 rue de la Fédération, Paris XVe.

Physics in American Schools

The American Institute of Physics, in collaboration with the American Association of Physics Teachers and the American Physical Society, with the support of the Fund for the Advancement of Education and the National Science Foundation, is embarking on a programme to help improve the quality and quantity of physics taught in American high schools and colleges. This educational plan, which has important implications for the teaching of science in America, has the following objectives: (1) to make a basic course of physics obligatory for every secondary school student; (2) to encourage young qualified people to seek careers in physics; (3) to investigate the possibility of teaching physics to large numbers of students by the use of television and colour films in spite of the great shortage of science teachers; (4) to assess the increasing need for physicists in a technological society and to strengthen physics instruction in high schools and colleges for those not specializing in science. To assist with this work, the American Institute of Physics has added to its staff two visiting professors, namely, Prof. G. O. Gale, on leave from the Physics Department of Grinnell College, Iowa, who is working on the use of television and films in education, and Prof. W. C. Kelly, on leave from the Physics Department of the University of Pittsburgh, who administers a scheme whereby distinguished physicists visit colleges other than their own as guest lecturers.

Journal of Ultra-structure Research

The *Journal of Ultra-Structure Research* has been introduced as a medium for the publication of work dealing with the organization of biological materials as analysed by means of the electron microscope, X-ray diffraction techniques, X-ray microscopy and polarization, optical and infra-red analyses, etc. Papers dealing with techniques and instruments which are of importance in this field are also accepted. The field covered by the *Journal* extends from the structure of molecules of biological interest to the level of cell and tissue organization at the limit of the range of the optical microscope. Its editors are Fritiof S. Sjöstrand (editor-in-chief) and Arne Engström of Stockholm, but in accordance with the present practice of international journals it has a number of eminent scientists on its editorial board, and papers are accepted in French, German or English. This should ensure a high standard of published work. The first issue of the *Journal* contains two articles in French and five in English, describing work with a preponderance of electron microscope studies. Each paper has a summary in the language of the main article: probably such summaries would be of greater value if they were given in three languages. The title *Ultra-Structure Research* is adequate provided one is aware that the problems discussed are biological, but it is a question whether a title indicating the biological character of the papers might not have been an advantage. The editorial office, to which manuscripts should be sent, is in the Department of Anatomy, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm 60, Sweden. The *Journal* (subscription rate for the first volume of four issues is 15 dollars, current first issue, November 1957) is published by the Academic Press, Inc., 111 Fifth Avenue, New York, 3.

Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu

Annual reports of museums are increasingly departing from the formal types of even a decade ago, and the title "No Ivory Tower" is that adopted by the Bernice P. Bishop Museum for its annual statement for 1956 (Honolulu: Bernice P. Bishop Museum, 1957). An attractive cover in bold colour introduces a report written in a lively and entertaining style. The title emphasizes the present position of museums, for if an ivory tower implies an institution isolated from the community, then Bishop Museum is the direct negation of such an edifice. The very existence of this and other museums depends not on divorcing themselves from the life of our time, but on effective participation in community and world affairs. The goal of the Bishop Museum is to make a continuous contribution to knowledge by its studies of man and Nature in the fields of science and history. The whole report amplifies this basic idea in the realms of exhibition, guide service, relationship with other educational institutions, research, public relations and reserve collections. An eminently worth-while activity is the circulation to neighbouring centres of cases under the general title of "Museums in Miniature". The report is well illustrated, and soaring attendance figures—doubled since 1952—are a measure of the vitality of this well-known museum.

The Cave of Niah, Borneo

From the prehistorian's point of view there is nearly everything to learn about south-east Asia. Of course, the work of Dubois and of Movius must not be forgotten, nor must that undertaken by the authorities of the Raffles Museum. But even so, our knowledge is woefully slight, especially as regards cave sites. I. Evans collected a few stone tools from a cave, and recently the Sievekings have explored a possibly mesolithic cave site near Penang; but otherwise all is still a blank, particularly so as regards Borneo before the time when the island apparently became a factory for certain types of beads, some of which seem to have reached even the shores of eastern Africa. The illustrated article by Tom Harrisson which appears in *Man* of November 1957 will therefore be very welcome. The site, some 800 ft. wide and 200 ft. high, is truly magnificent. But it was only on excavation that industries were discovered. These seem to be of two sorts, those norm-