

ally found in habitation sites and those occurring in cemeteries. Flaked stone tools and polished axes have been unearthed as well as pottery. According to carbon-14 dating, it would seem that the earlier levels must go back in time into the palaeolithic period. But this method of dating is only reliable when all the relevant factors are known. As we are dealing with a new region, it might be wiser to wait until a number of levels at various sites have been tested. Tom Harrison's explorations will doubtless be continued, and it is probable that very important discoveries will be made.

Cleansing of Oil-polluted Birds

THE Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has published a most useful pamphlet to help those who wish to help in the cleansing of oil-polluted birds. Whereas, for several decades, many thousands of birds yearly have been victims to oil-polluted sea water, the oiled swan is a more recent problem. Fortunately, this is a problem which appears to be much more readily soluble than that of the oil-polluted sea-bird. The principal and most harmful primary effects of oiling-up are heat loss due to loss of the heat-retaining air 'jacket' normally enmeshed in the swan's feathers. The pamphlet shows that products with strong irritant solvents like paraffin oil are lethal to birds and must never be used. Correct methods for catching and degreasing are described, as is the way in which the bird can be quickly and humanely killed when the pollution is too severe for recovery. The information in this pamphlet should be widely known. It may be obtained from the R.S.P.C.A., 105 Jermyn Street, London, S.W.1. Price 6d.

Leaf Shape, Nutrition and Temperature

E. NJOKU has described experiments in which plants of *Ipomoea* were grown at high night temperature and at higher nutrient-levels, with observation of leaf shape and rate of formation (*New Phytol.*, 56, 154; 1957). On a node-by-node comparison, the treated plants yielded less deeply lobed leaves than did the controls. Of the three mineral elements tested, nitrogen had the greatest main effect, while phosphorus and potassium had smaller but significant effects. The potassium-phosphorus interaction was unique in increasing rather than decreasing leaf lobing. In all the experiments, changes in leaf shape were highly correlated negatively with changes in the rate of leaf production ($r = -0.994$). It is suggested that the effects of high night temperature and mineral nutrition on leaf shape are exerted through their effects on the rate of leaf production. The results are discussed with reference to theories which have been put forward to explain heteroblastic development.

Geochemical Prospecting for Ores

In recent years much attention has been given to the development of geochemical methods of prospecting for mineral deposits, since in country covered by surface detritus these techniques sometimes provide a means of discovering ore occurrences that are otherwise masked from view. Although the literature on this topic is extensive, text-books (other than in Russian) have hitherto been lacking. This need has now been met by a publication entitled "The Principles of Geochemical Prospecting" (Bull.

U.S. Geol. Surv., 1957. No. 1000-F. Pp. 130. 40 cents), in which Dr. H. E. Hawkes summarizes the results and conclusions of world-wide researches conducted up to March 1954. Geochemical prospecting most commonly comprises the systematic chemical analysis of rock, soil, gossan, glacial drift, vegetation and water, with the view of discovering an 'anomaly' which reflects the presence of ore; and it is rapidly becoming essential for the economic geologist to have an understanding of the principles governing the evolution and distribution of such anomalies. Students will find that Dr. Hawkes's text deals with the fundamental concepts of this subject in a clear and comprehensive manner, with the bare minimum of technical jargon. A companion work is "Geochemical Abstracts" (Bull. U.S. Geol. Surv., 1953-7. No. 1000 A and G), of which the first part (151 abstracts) covers the period to June 1952 and the second (117 abstracts) from June 1952 to December 1954. It seems likely that this compilation will develop into an annual publication.

Zoological Nomenclature

THE International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature gives notice that, as from June 30, 1958, it will start voting on the following cases involving the possible use of its plenary powers for the purpose specified against each entry. Full details of these cases will be published on December 30 in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (13, Double-Part 10/11, and 16, Part 1): (1) *Selene* Lacépède, 1803; *rostrata* Lesueur, 1817 (*Muraena*); *latipinna* Lesueur, 1821 (*Mollienesia*); *fuscus* Storer, 1839 (*Syngnathus*): establishment of precedence of, over other names published in the same work and on the same date (Cl. Pisces); (2) *Monograptus fimbriatus* var. *similis* Elles (G. L.) and Wood (E. M. R.), 1913; *Monograptus triangulatus* var. *major* Elles and Wood, 1913; *Monograptus communis* var. *rostratus* Elles and Wood, 1913: designation of lectotypes for (Cl. Graptolithina); (3) *Calandra* (*Calendra*) Clairville and Schellenberg, 1798, suppression of, in favour of *Sphenophorus* and *Sitophilus*, both of Schoenherr, 1838, respectively, in interests of universality of nomenclature; *abbreviatus* Fabricius, 1787 (*Curculio*) and *oryzae*, emendation to of *oryza* Linnaeus, 1763 (*Curculio*), validation of (Cl. Insecta, Order Coleoptera). Comments should be sent as soon as possible in duplicate to Francis Hemming, Secretary to the Commission, 28 Park Village East, Regent's Park, London, N.W.1.

Whitworth Foundation Awards

THE following Whitworth Foundation Awards for engineers are to be offered for competition in 1958: (a) Whitworth Fellowships, not exceeding three in number, normally tenable for two years, and valued at £500 a year, which may be supplemented by dependants' allowances and allowances for travelling; (b) up to six prizes of £50 each to unsuccessful competitors whose work deserves recognition, to be spent on furthering the competitors' engineering education. Candidates must be British and have either an engineering qualification of university degree standard, or a Higher National Diploma or Higher National Certificate in Engineering with at least two distinctions. In exceptional circumstances, a candidate may be in the final year of study leading to one of these qualifications. Each candidate must also have