

occupied during every prehistoric period with the exception of the Palaeolithic, and the activity of archaeologists and archaeological societies has brought an increasing yield of displayable material from which a connected and absorbing story can be told. Latterly, too, the Museum staff has undertaken excavations which have made valuable contributions to the pre-history of Worthing. The theme of the new displays, therefore, is the habitation of the South Downs and coastal plain of West Sussex. Small models and diagrams were prepared to assist in the presentation of an easily assimilated visual story, and three more ambitious models and reconstructions were designed to focus attention and hold the interest of the casual visitor. The first of these is a copy of the geological relief map of the Weald in the Geological Museum, South Kensington—the first copy to have been attempted. The second is a large-scale model of a room in the Roman villa at Bignor, originally made for the Festival of Britain Exhibition, and the third is a reconstruction of a Roman cist burial from Avisford, complete with grave furniture. On March 1, Dr. W. E. Swinton, of the British Museum (Natural History), opened the sections already completed, containing material of the periods from Palaeolithic to Mediæval times. Cases have already been provided for a new geology bay, and work will commence shortly on a series of period rooms which will continue the sequence down to the nineteenth century.

#### Gas Chromatography Discussion Group

THE Gas Chromatography Discussion Group was formed in association with the Hydrocarbon Research Group of the Institute of Petroleum following the Symposium on Gas Chromatography in London, May 1956, and has the following objects: to promote interest in gas chromatography; to organize meetings devoted to gas chromatography; to compile and distribute gas chromatographic data. The expanding interest shown in the activities of the Group over the past year has necessitated some changes in the present organization. It is proposed to invite interested workers in the field to become members of the Group and to contribute to the planning and execution of its work in the future. The annual subscription will be 1 guinea, which will entitle members to vote at general meetings, attend the informal symposia organized twice yearly and receive such compilations of data or other information as may become available from time to time. The first annual general meeting will be held in London in the autumn of 1958 in conjunction with the next informal symposium. Further information can be obtained from the secretary, D. H. Desty, British Petroleum Co., Ltd., Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex.

#### Geological Society of Australia

The following officers of the Geological Society of Australia have been elected for the year 1957–58: *President*, Prof. A. R. Alderman (Adelaide); *Vice-President*, Prof. R. T. Prider (Western Australia); *Hon. Secretary*, Dr. N. H. Ludbrook (Department of Mines, Adelaide); *Hon. Treasurer*, Dr. O. A. Jones (Queensland); *Hon. Editor*, Dr. M. F. Glaessner (Adelaide).

The Geological Society of Australia was formally constituted in 1952. Developing originally from informal groups of geologists, it has attained in its sixth year about 470 members and 130 associates. The Society is organized on a Federal and State basis with seven

State Divisions. Plenary meetings of the Federal body are held with the meetings of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science. Until permanent headquarters are established, the headquarters of the Society move after each meeting to the place of the next plenary meeting. The *Journal of the Geological Society of Australia* has been published annually since 1953; Vol. 4, part 2, and two parts of Vol. 5 are due early in 1958. Inquiries regarding subscriptions to the *Journal* should be addressed to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. O. A. Jones, Department of Geology, University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Brisbane.

#### A Cytotaxonomic Study of *Carex*

Åskell and Doris Löve and Marcel Raymond have given a cytotoxic account of the *Capillares* section of *Carex* (*Canadian J. Bot.*, 35, 715; 1957). This section comprises nine distinct species, one of which (*C. boecheriana*) is raised to specific status in this paper. Three species include two distinct sub-species each; two varieties and three formæ are accepted for two species, respectively. The chromosome numbers of the taxa involved are  $2n = 18, 36, 38, 40, 54, 56$  and  $58$ . The authors point out that the chromosomes of *Carex* have a polycentric or diffuse kinetochore and that this explains the aneuploid variations in number known to be typical of the genus. Karyotypic analysis of the chromosome complements of the section *Capillares* revealed that in the basic diploid set of  $2n = 18$  chromosomes, four units are long, ten are medium and about half the length of the long ones, while four are small and about half the length of the medium ones. This frequency of size classes is also met with in the plants with  $2n = 36$  and  $54$  chromosomes. Those taxa with  $2n = 38, 40, 56$  and  $58$  chromosomes show, however, such a deviation in the frequency of the size classes that it seems logical that these numbers have been produced by a secondary fragmentation of the chromosomes. On the basis of karyotypic analysis of this section and other groups of the genus, it is concluded that the primary basic number for the genus *Carex* in particular, and the family Cyperaceæ in general, must have been  $x = 5$ , all other numbers having been derived mainly by fragmentation of chromosomes with a polycentric or diffuse kinetochore. This phenomenon of partial agmatoploidy is widespread in Cyperaceæ, whereas complete agmatoploidy is typical of the closely related Juncaceæ.

#### Spectrophotometric Study of Stars with High Velocities

MADELEINE CHOPINET has a paper with the title "Étude spectrophotométrique de quelques étoiles à grande vitesse", in *Publications de l'observatoire de Haute Provence* (3, No. 42; 1957), which analyses a number of spectra of stars taken with the 120-cm. Newtonian telescope at Haute Provence. The dispersion of this spectrograph with a flint prism was, unfortunately, rather low—about 50 Å./mm. towards 3900 Å. and 80 Å./mm. towards 4400 Å. All the photographs contained certain stars which were to be studied, together with several comparison stars. The deductions confirm the results of several other investigators, particularly of Keenan and Keller (*Astrophys. J.*, 117, 241; 1953). In the opinion of the author, however, they are not sufficiently characteristic to serve as criteria for stars with high velocities. She has searched the records of high-velocity stars the trigono-