

which he has undertaken, the Canadian Arctic is defined as including all the land area—some 900,000 sq. miles—which lies north of the treeline, the latter, broadly speaking, following the 10° C. isotherm for the warmest month.

A rather different work, issued by the United States National Museum, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., as U.S. National Herbarium, 33; 1957, is "The Bromeliaceae of Colombia", by L. B. Smith (pp. vi+311. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1957). This family is, of course, very abundantly represented throughout the American tropical and sub-tropical regions. Thus the author of the present monograph notes that, during the past twenty years, the record of known Colombian species has been practically doubled, some 372 species being now known. The Colombian Bromeliaceae fall into three groups: on the criteria of floral morphology, the Andean group is primitive, and the Guiana Highland and Amazonian groups are derivative. The rich representation of two species, *Tillandsia* and *Puya*, have led the author to the tentative conclusion that the family may have originated in Colombia.

#### Perkin Centenary Trust Awards

THE Perkin Centenary Fellowship has been awarded to Mr. Dennis Balmforth, of Messrs. Courtaulds, Ltd., Coventry, and will be tenable from October 1 in the Department of Colour Chemistry at the University of Leeds. Perkin Centenary Scholarships have been awarded to Mr. Brian Higginbottom, assistant chemist in the laboratories of the Bleachers' Association, Ltd., tenable at the College of Technology, Loughborough, and to Mr. W. K. McCourt, laboratory foreman with Messrs. Courtaulds, Ltd., Carrickfergus, tenable at The Queen's University, Belfast. Arrangements have also been made for a Perkin Exchange Lectureship whereby short visits will be exchanged between Prof. A. J. Birch, of the University of Manchester, and Prof. V. Prelog, of the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule, Zurich. Prof. Birch will visit Zurich in September 1958, and it is hoped that Prof. Prelog will return the visit in the following year. Each will deliver one or more lectures during the visit, which will last about two or three weeks.

The programme of awards for the year 1959-60 will include one Perkin Centenary Fellowship, valued at not less than £600 a year, which is available to a graduate for higher study, and two Perkin Centenary Scholarships, of £300 a year each, which are intended to give young persons employed in the industries concerned with the manufacture or the application of colouring matters the opportunity of full-time education at a university or technical college. Further nominations are not at present invited for the Perkin Exchange Lectureship. In the place of this award the Trustees will consider making one or more Perkin Centenary Trust Travel Grants to enable teachers concerned in the study of any aspect of the manufacture or application of colouring matters at a university or technical college to make short visits to comparable institutions overseas in order to widen their experience. The Perkin Centenary Trust was established as a memorial to the discovery in 1856 of the first important synthetic dyestuff, mauveine, by William Henry Perkin. The secretary to the Trustees is Dr. J. R. Ruck Keene, to whom inquiries relating to the awards should be addressed, at the Chemical Society, Burlington House, London, W.1.

#### Announcements

SIR JOHN STOPFORD, lately vice-chancellor of the University of Manchester and emeritus professor of experimental neurology, has been created a baron under the provisions of the Life Peerages Act.

PROF. O. T. JONES, emeritus professor of geology in the University of Cambridge, has been awarded the Liverpool Geological Society Medal in recognition of his varied contribution to and lasting influence on the science of geology over the past half century, and particularly of his illuminating work on the Silurian of North Wales.

THE Council of the British Institution of Radio Engineers has announced the award of a number of premiums for original publications and prizes for outstanding performances in the Institution's graduateship examinations in 1957. The Clerk Maxwell Premium—the premier award for the most outstanding paper published in the Institution's *Journal* during 1957—is to go to Dr. T. B. Tomlinson for his paper, "Principles of the Light Amplifier and Allied Devices", based on work carried out at the research laboratories of the General Electric Company; he is now with Computer Developments, Ltd.

THE work in progress at the National Chemical Laboratory may be seen during the open days to be held on October 21 and 22. Applications from firms for invitations to the sessions should be sent to the director not later than September 20. Firms already on the mailing list for invitations need not re-apply. Further information can be obtained from the National Chemical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex.

THE fourth International Conference on Electron Microscopy, organized by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Elektronenmikroskopie, will be held in Berlin during September 10-17. Further information can be obtained from Prof. E. Ruska, Berlin-Dahlem, Faradayweg 4-6.

THE Indian Central Fuel Research Institute is organizing a symposium on "The Nature of Coal" during February 9-11. Papers, not exceeding 3,000 words in length, with their abstracts, should reach the Director, Central Fuel Research Institute, P.O. Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad Dist., Bihar, India, not later than October 31.

An informal discussion on "Isotopic Exchange Reactions", sponsored by the Faraday Society, will be held in the School of Chemistry, University of Leeds, on September 25 and 26. The programme will include applications of radioactive and stable isotopes to the study of liquid, gaseous and solid-gaseous systems. Further information can be obtained from Dr. D. R. Stranks, School of Chemistry, The University, Leeds, 2.

A COURSE on the control and instrumentation of reactors is to be held at the Harwell Reactor School during October 6-11. The fee for the course will be 25 guineas exclusive of accommodation. Further information can be obtained from the Principal, Reactor School, Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell.

ERRATUM. In *Nature* of July 19, p. 158, under "University News: Bristol", for "Dr. J. W. F. McOmie" read "Dr. J. F. W. McOmie".