

facts presented in the paper are of importance in selecting suitable occasions for spraying locust swarms with insecticide and also, to an extent restricted by the little-understood coherency property of a swarm, in the study of convection currents. The paper contains two photographs vividly illustrating the difference between locust swarms in convective and stable atmospheres.

### New Guinea

A RECENT issue of the *Australian Museum Magazine* is devoted almost entirely to New Guinea (12, No. 12). The physical geography is described by D. F. McMichael and the geology by G. A. U. Stanley. J. S. Womersley discusses the vegetation of the island, while other contributors provide details about the mammals, birds, fishes and insects. Until the early 1930's it was thought that the central region of New Guinea was uninhabited and uninhabitable. Since that time it has become known that about 600,000 people live in the Australian territories alone. These, and others of the many different types of natives, are described by A. P. Elkin. This issue is also of interest for its reference to the discovery of a rare animal in Australia, the potoroo (*Potorous tridactylus*). This animal, which is related to the rat-kangaroos, is now rare in New South Wales, not having been recorded in the State since 1913. It is still common in Tasmania. The specimen obtained by the Museum was killed by a dog near Gosford, New South Wales.

### "Chlorothiazid in Diabetes Insipidus"

Drs. John D. Crawford and G. C. Kennedy write: "We have recently reported that chlorothiazide has an antidiuretic action in experimental and clinical diabetes insipidus, both of the pituitary deficiency and nephrogenic varieties (*Nature*, March 28, p. 891). It has been brought to our notice that Drs. H. Reerink, Eveline E. Brongers and H. Schouten reported on the use of chlorothiazide in the treatment of three cases of nephrogenic diabetes insipidus before the Dutch Organization for Paediatrics at Eindhoven on June 15, 1958. Their rationale was 'to impede the (renal) tubular reabsorption of Na and Cl in order to induce the excretion of these ions into the urine for the purpose of regulating the level of these electrolytes in the blood'. We would like to acknowledge their priority in the successful use of chlorothiazide for amelioration of symptoms in nephrogenic diabetes insipidus".

### Announcements

THE Challenger Society is prepared to make small grants for research in marine biology or oceanography at a recognized laboratory during the year June 1959-60. Applications, accompanied by details of the proposed research, should reach the Hon. Secretary, Challenger Society, National Institute of Oceanography, Wormley, near Godalming, Surrey, not later than May 30.

FOR a number of years the directors of the Associations of Chemical Manufacturers in western Europe have found it useful to meet from time to time to examine together questions of common interest. In view of the number and scope of the problems facing the chemical industries of these countries at the present time, the Austrian, Belgian, British, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Swedish and Swiss Chemical Manufacturers Associations have decided to improve

their collaboration and contacts by setting up a Centre Européen des Federations de l'Industrie Chimique, the secretarial services of which are to be entrusted to the Swiss Association in Zurich.

A MEETING of the members of the Co-operative Research Project on Trace Elements of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, organized by An Foras Talúntais (The Agricultural Institute, 33 Merrion Road, Dublin), will be held in Dublin during May 20-23. The results of the recent survey of trace-element research problems made by Prof. T. Wallace of Long Ashton Research Station, Bristol, co-ordinator of the project, will be discussed at the meeting. Other subjects for discussion will be the evaluation of trace-element deficiencies in Europe; the status of research on trace elements; methods of trace-element analysis and methods of strengthening research and collaboration on trace elements.

THE Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations will offer ten or twelve André Mayer Fellowships in 1959. These awards will be made in the following two groups: (A) *Research*. For unusually promising persons with research experience behind them who would offer a guarantee to carry out independent research work. (B) *Research training*. For younger and promising individuals who have demonstrated an inclination towards, and an aptitude for, research work. The subjects presented must be related to the Organization's activities. Further information can be obtained from the Secretariat of the Food and Agriculture Organization, National Committee for the United Kingdom, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Whitehall Place (East Block), London, S.W.1.

THE Summer Meeting of the Photoelectric Spectrometry Group will be held in Nottingham on June 12. Further information can be obtained from K. A. Macdonald, Unicam Instruments, Ltd., Arbury Works, Cambridge.

THE seventeenth International Congress of Pure and Applied Chemistry will be held in Munich during August 30-September 6. Further information can be obtained from Dr. R. Morf, c/o Sandoz, S.A., Basle 13, Switzerland.

THE Scientific and Technical Group of the Royal Photographic Society is holding a symposium on Photography in the International Geophysical Year on June 6 in the Adam House Theatre, Chambers Street, Edinburgh 1. Further information can be obtained from Mr. D. Brownbill, Technical Service Department, Ilford, Ltd., Ilford, Essex.

THE Eastern New York Chapter of the American Society for Metals will sponsor a conference on the Fracture of Engineering Materials during August 23-25 at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York. Further information can be obtained from Richard W. Hardt, General Engineering Laboratory, General Electric Company, 1 River Road, Schenectady, N.Y.

THE summer courses of the Italian Physical Society's International School of Physics will be held in the Villa Monastero, Varenna, during June 15-September 15. Courses will be held on thermodynamics of irreversible processes; weak interactions; solar radio-astronomy; physics of plasma; experiments and techniques. Further information can be obtained from the Società Italiana di Fisica, Via Saldini, 50, Milano.