

into the impact of television over as wide an area of inquiry as practicable in the fields of entertainment, politics, information and public affairs—and into its influence on public tastes, habits and outlook. Mr. Trenaman read English at King's College, London, and later graduated B.Litt. in the University of Oxford. In 1945 he was appointed head of analysis in the B.B.C. Audience Research Department, and in 1948 became research officer to the B.B.C. Further Education Experiment exploring the use of broadcasting as a medium of education. He has since held the post of further education liaison officer to the B.B.C.

“Fuel and Power in British Industry”

MR. A. M. WANDLESS, of the Scientific Department, National Coal Board, writes: “In the article under this title which appeared in *Nature* of December 20, I am reported as having stated in my address to the Manchester Joint Research Council's Symposium on Fuel and Power that the workable reserves of coal in Britain are of the order of 1,000 million tons. This, of course, is an absurdly low figure. In dealing with the difficult and necessarily uncertain business of attempting to predict workable or economic reserves of coal, I said that figures as low as 44,000 million tons (that is, 200 years life at the present rate of extraction) had been computed, but that this estimate was almost certainly too low. I suggested an upper ceiling of 100,000 million tons, but I pointed out that it all depends how much we are going to need coal in the future, and what we are prepared to pay for it. There is probably something of the order of 170,000 million tons lying in the ground in seams more than 1 ft. in thickness”.

Birds and Mammals of Canada

REFERENCE was made in *Nature* of November 15, p. 1347, to two recent publications from the National Museum of Canada, namely, “Quelques Oiseaux du Canada” and “Canadian Mammals”. We are informed that the first of these is available also in English under the title “Some Canadian Birds”, this being the original version. The price is the same as that of the French edition, 35 cents.

Announcements

AN honorary degree of doctor of technical science was conferred on Sir John Cockcroft by the Technical University of Delft on January 10.

PROF. J. M. YOFFEY, professor of anatomy in the University of Bristol, has been appointed Knight first class of the Order of the Dannebrog for his services to the Medical Schools of the Universities of Copenhagen and Aarhus.

MR. GUSTAVUS GREEN, known for his work on the design and development of the early Green aero-engines, has been made an honorary companion of the Royal Aeronautical Society; Mr. Green was born in 1865 and designed the 60-h.p. engine used in a Short No. 2 biplane flown in 1909.

SIR RUSSELL BRAIN, president during 1950–57 of the Royal College of Physicians, will give the Eddington Memorial Lecture for 1959 in Cambridge, at the Arts School Lecture Theatre, Bene't Street, on

February 24, at 5 p.m. The title of the lecture will be “Science, Philosophy and Religion”.

THE Czechoslovakian Academy of Sciences and the Purkyne Medical Society have arranged a symposium on antibiotics, to be held in Prague during May 18–23. The symposium will be divided into three sections on: problems of the biosynthesis of antibiotics; the scientific pathophysiological basis of antibiotic therapy; and the problems of fermentation engineering and the non-medical uses of antibiotics. Summaries of papers covering new and unpublished results, to be read in English, German, Russian or Czech, should be received by the secretary, Dr. M. Hermansky, Antibiotics Research Institute, Rostoky, near Prague, not later than February 15.

THE third conference on Electronic Digital Computers and their Industrial Applications will be held in the Department of Mathematics, College of Technology, Birmingham, on February 25, when members of the English Electric Co. will deliver talks on the installation, operation and maintenance of digital computers; programming strategy and techniques, including automatic programming; engineering and scientific problems; the use of a computer system in commercial organization; and the mortgage problem. Applications can be made to the Registrar, College of Technology, Gosta Green, Birmingham 4.

AN international symposium under the auspices of the Centro per la Vaccinazione Antitubercolare of the Istituto d'Igiene dell'Universita di Pisa, devoted to the topic of vaccination against tuberculosis with non-living vaccines, will be held in Florence during April 5–7. The organization of the meeting has been undertaken by the director of the Centre, Prof. Giulio Buonomini, from whom further information can be obtained. The symposium is intended to provide an opportunity for the exchange of information, experiences and ideas by investigators actively engaged in attempts to produce a safe and effective non-living vaccine against tuberculosis. To assure a maximum degree of informality and freedom of discussion, participation in the symposium has been limited to about twenty invited workers.

THE National Academy of Sciences with the joint sponsorship of the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research has arranged an international seminar on “The Atomic Mechanisms of Fracture”, to be held at the New Ocean House, Swampscott, Massachusetts, during April 12–14. The central theme of the conference is the basic atomic mechanism by which fracture occurs in metals, ceramics and polymers; emphasis is placed on fundamental studies of the basic mechanisms of cleavage and of ductile, fatigue and high-temperature fractures. The programme will consist of a series of invited papers, which will be circulated in advance. Further information and forms of application can be obtained from Prof. B. L. Averbach, chairman, or Dr. D. K. Felbeck, secretary, Conference on Fracture, National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington 25, D.C.

MR. W. A. FERGUSON, who has been appointed secretary of the British Museum (Natural History), is at present in the Director's office, British Museum (Bloomsbury), and not at South Kensington, as stated in *Nature* of January 3, p. 18.