accepted classification of soil fungi into native or cosmopolitan species, and exotic fungi (soil invaders), is followed; but the author notes that the exotic organisms require further sub-division into two groups, namely, preferent species (*espèces préférentes*), implying having precedence or priority, and exclusive species. The nature of the vegetation, and the fruits, leaves and branches which fall from it to form the litter, carrying down air-borne organisms by which they have become infected, influences the nature of the exotic fungal flora. So also do rhizosphere relationships. Hence the author considers that the work of the soil mycologist must necessarily suffer limitations if it fails to take into account the nature of the vegetation and its litter; that is to say, properly envisaged, the phenomenon to be investigated is that of vegetation–litter–soil. In this initial study, some 251 species are listed, described and many of them illustrated. Of these, 191 came from the soil (13 Phycomycetes, 31 Ascomycetes, and 147 Deuteromycetes) and 60 were observed directly on debris. The Hyphomycetes have been classified according to Hughes's system (1953).

Precambrian Geology of South-western Australia

THE Precambrian geology of south-western Australia has recently been reviewed by A. F. Wilson (*J. Roy. Soc. Western Australia*, **41**, 57; 1958), who provides a new tectonic-geological map of a quarter of a million square miles of this region on a scale of 20 miles to the inch. This is the first attempt to integrate all known trends of granites, gneisses, and greenstones', and on the map these and charnockitic rocks are distinguished for the first time. The well-known north-north-westerly trend of the Goldfield areas is found to extend in a general way throughout much of the region. The strike of the granites conforms to the regional strike of the metamorphic rocks, but magmatic emplacement is suggested locally. Granitization contacts are also common, and filter-press differentiation phenomena are known. Geochemical and petrographic features suggest that many gneisses are similar in composition to greywacke rocks, but that the granites would need to have been subject to some *K*-metasomatism to have been produced from such a source. Charnockitic rocks are found over a very large area, and seem to have developed in at least four different ways, and in two main periods—one early and the other late Archæan. It would appear from radioactive age determinations that the bulk of south-western Australia is of early Archæan age, and that a late Archæan period of metamorphism has affected parts of the south and south-east, and also possibly the western margin of the shield which is down-faulted beneath the Perth basin.

Perkin Centenary Trust Awards

THE Perkin Centenary Fellowship has been awarded to Mr. Brian Whitear, a research chemist in the laboratories of Messrs. Ilford, Ltd. Mr. Whitear will work at the University of Southampton, under the supervision of Prof. R. C. Cookson, on photochemical reactions of coloured substances. Perkin Centenary Scholarships have been awarded to the following: Mr. Ronald R. Cox (tenable at the University of Birmingham); Mr. B. T. Lawton (tenable at the Royal Technical College, Salford); and to Mr. D. J. Pearson (tenable at the Bradford Institute of Technology).

University News: Hull

THE annual report, 1957–58, of the University of Hull notes the establishment of the grade of senior lectureship, to which eight lecturers have been promoted, and also another large deficit on the halls of residence. Residence fees have been assessed to provide a surplus, and if costs do not rise appreciably an overall deficit should be avoided during the next three years. The first stage of the new library building is expected to be completed in the summer of 1959 and a provisional building programme at an estimated capital cost of £949,000 has been approved by the University Grants Committee for the years 1960–63, including a new physics building, a hall of residence on the University site, an arts and social science building, and extensions to Ferens Hall. The completed programme will cost nearly £2 million and will provide places in Hull for about half the 2,000 students expected in the University in the '60's. The Senate's report includes brief notes on research work in progress, an account of the work of the Department of Adult Education and a list of publications during the year, arranged under departments.

Announcements

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH has accepted an invitation to become the first Honorary Fellow of the Illuminating Engineering Society.

PROF. J. H. MATHEWSON, of the Institution of Transportation and Traffic Engineering, University of California, will give two lectures at the Road Research Laboratory, Langley Hall, Langley, Slough, Bucks., on "Experiments on Automobile Collisions" (September 9); and "A Simulator for Research on Driver Behaviour" (September 16). Both lectures will commence at 3.30 p.m. Tickets can be obtained (free) on application to the Director of Road Research, Road Research Laboratory, Harmondsworth, West Drayton, Middlesex.

SIR JAMES DENBY ROBERTS has been appointed chairman of the Joint Committee of the Agricultural and Medical Research Councils and the Development Commission on Biological (Non-Medical) Problems of Nuclear Physics in succession to Lord Rothschild, who retired earlier this year. This Committee was formed to sponsor and co-ordinate research on the effects of radioactive substances on plants and animals, and is responsible for the supervision of monitoring fall-out in foodstuffs and other biological materials. Sir James is chairman of the Scottish Society for Research in Plant Breeding and is particularly interested in farming in the Highlands.

IT is announced that the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (Australia) has formed a new Division of Mineral Chemistry, replacing the Minerals Utilization Section of the Organization's Chemical Research Laboratories. The Division's research under the leadership of Mr. R. G. Thomas will be concerned with the chemical transformation of minerals into a wide variety of useful products.

A COLOURED wall-chart illustrating in section the Metro-Vickers Type *EM*6 electron-microscope has recently been produced primarily for the use of technical colleges and teaching institutions. Supplies have been reserved for lecturers and science teachers and requests for copies should be addressed to the Publicity Department of Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., Manchester.