

Ewaninga in Central Australia by C. P. Mountford, who has done so much work on this subject. The carvings are made by a pocking technique and consist of rough drawings of stylized figures and signs, consisting of spirals, circles, arrows, etc. The local native inhabitants apparently know nothing about them, and indeed frequently had not realized that they were the works of man. Rock carvings do not occur everywhere in Australia. They have not been found along the southern and south-eastern coasts, but have been found in Tasmania. In Central Australia they have been known for a long time; Mountford records that Miss Helen Teague gave him some photographs of carvings near Glen Helen as long ago as 1937. The signs are very varied in type, but are, of course, nowadays inexplicable.

### Fertility of Ewes

MARGARET RYLE, of the Department of Physiology, University of Queensland, has investigated the relationship between high temperature and vitamin A metabolism and the fertility of ewes (*Austral. J. Science*, 23, No. 2; August 21, 1960). The gross effects of vitamin A deficiency have much in common with those of high environmental temperatures. Partial inhibition of follicle development and of oestrus have been reported as a result of vitamin A deficiency in rats and rabbits and of high temperature in rats. Some of the available data on sheep suggest a similar vitamin A effect; the adverse consequences of high temperatures on conception-rate in sheep are reported by several authors. Increased embryonic mortality is described in rats, rabbits and sheep as a result both of vitamin A deficiency and high environmental temperatures. Vitamin supplements have been shown to reduce foetal resorptions in heat-treated rats. Failure of normal development of the maternal uterine epithelium as the immediate cause of foetal mortality is indicated both in vitamin A deficient rats and in heat-exposed rabbits. Changes have been described in the pituitary and thyroid glands both of vitamin A deficient animals and of animals exposed to high temperatures, but strictly comparable studies are required to determine whether or not they are of the same nature. In general, only further experimental work can decide whether the similar consequences of the two types of stress are merely coincidental, or whether they have a casual connexion such as the one suggested.

### Forthcoming International Scientific and Technical Conferences

A LIST, No. 28, has been issued by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research entitled *Forthcoming International Scientific and Technical Conferences*. The list, covering the period January 1961–December 1962, amends and amplifies the information contained in the previous lists on all scientific and technical conferences of an international character, held in the United Kingdom or elsewhere. The information is presented under four headings giving the subject of conferences, their dates, the convening bodies and/or organizers, and also the places where they are to be held. The subject index at the end does much to enhance the value of this publication. Copies can be obtained from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Charles House, 5–11 Regent Street, London, S.W.1.

### Announcements

SIR BRIAN WINDEYER, of the Meyerstein Institute of Radiotherapy, Middlesex Hospital, London, has been appointed chairman of the Radioactive Substances Advisory Committee in succession to Sir Charles Darwin, who has resigned.

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the War Office announce that Brigadier A. H. Dowson, director of military survey, War Office, has been appointed director general of the Ordnance Survey, with the rank of major general, in succession to Major General L. F. de Vic. Carey, C.B., C.B.E., who is retiring on June 30.

THE Jones-Bateman Cup, which is offered triennially by the Royal Horticultural Society for original research in fruit growing, has been awarded to Mr. A. Gavin Brown of the John Innes Institute, Bayfordbury, Herts, for his research work on the inheritance of susceptibility to diseases in apples and pears, the inheritance of shape, size and season of ripening in apples, and other matters relating to the breeding of fruits.

MR. P. LLOYD, deputy director of research and development at the National Gas Turbine Establishment, has been appointed director general of engine research and development in the Ministry of Aviation.

THE International Measurement Conference, IMEKO 1961, is to be held in Budapest during June 25–July 1, 1961, and will be accompanied by an exhibition. Further information can be obtained from the IMEKO Secretariat, Budapest, 5 (P.O. 3).

UNDER the sponsorship of Nato, a summer school will be organized at the University of Ghent during July 24–August 5. The subjects to be considered are the electrical, optical and mechanical properties of lattice defects. Information can be obtained from Prof. W. Dekeyser, Laboratorium voor Kristallografie en Studie van Vaste Stoffen, Rozier, 6 Ghent, Belgium.

THE first international congress on "Ergonomics" is to be held in Stockholm during August 20–23, 1961; the congress is being organized by the International Ergonomics Association. The programme will include the following subjects: speed of work and ergonomics; adjustment of work and working environment to the ageing population; ergonomical job analysis. Further information can be obtained from Prof. Sven Forssman, Svenska Arbetsgivareföreningen, P.O. 16120, Stockholm 16, Sweden, or the British representative on the provisional committee, R. G. Stansfield, D.S.I.R. Warren Spring Laboratory, Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage, Herts.

HANSOM BOOKS, LTD., under the title "Technical Books-in-Print", list and detail all technical and scientific books available in Britain, including books due for publication. In *Physics and Mathematics* of September 1960 the titles are arranged alphabetically under: physics—general; light and sound; electricity and magnetism; heat, radiation, thermodynamics; mechanics, dynamics, quantum theory; nuclear and atom physics; physics—miscellaneous; mathematics—general; applied mathematics; algebra; geometry, trigonometry; calculus, differential equations; statistics (Vol. 1, No. 8. Edited by W. G. Smith. Pp. 60. (London: Hansom Books, Ltd., 1960.) 6d.). From the October issues the price of each part is increased to 9d. (11s. per annum by post). *Books in Britain* will be 3s. per copy, 42s. per annum.