

Al Romer was making discoveries of new faunas in South America. This entailed hard physical exertions and resulted in the discovery of extremely important Middle Triassic faunas (missing from the classical South African Karroo) including both synapsid reptiles, long needed to illustrate fully the origin of mammals, and of new early archosaurs. These explorations resulted in a series of clearly written papers, showing the balanced judgement which characterised Romer's writings throughout his long working life.

One of Romer's greatest calls to fame lies in his text books. His *Vertebrate Palaeontology*, published in 1933 when no other such work existed in the English language, was an immediate success. It surveyed the whole field of vertebrate palaeontology with balance and judgement and was excellently illustrated and it was of the greatest help to all students of the subject. The accompanying *Man and the Vertebrates*, of a lesser standard, was intended to protect the publishers against a loss on the main work—which never occurred. His famous book was republished in 1945 and was almost entirely rewritten and reillustrated again by the author in 1966, thirty three years after the publication of the first edition! He also published in 1949 a book on the comparative anatomy of the vertebrates, called *The Vertebrate Body*, of great value to students, dealing with the embryology, osteology and dentitions (he once remarked "I hate teeth"), the circulatory system, the CNS, the myology and the digestive systems. Not content with that he published in 1956 his famous *Osteology of the Reptiles*, to replace the largely out of date work by Williston. Here, as in his *Vertebrate Palaeontology*, his name will long remain a familiar one on the shelves of zoological libraries. His last book, *The Procession of Life*, was published in English in 1968; it was published also in French, German and Italian and these Continental editions are superbly illustrated with many coloured plates.

Romer became Director of the Museum of Zoology at Harvard in 1946, having been Professor of Zoology and Curator of Vertebrate Palaeontology since 1934. He was Alexander Agassiz Professor of Zoology from 1947 until 1965 and was then elected Emeritus Professor. He was held in the greatest respect all around the world, which he travelled extensively, and was honoured by the award of an immense number of medals and honorary degrees. He was a Member of the Academy of Sciences, a Past President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science a Foreign Member of the Royal Society and an honorary member of many others.

When his research work, his teaching and his books are considered together

his contribution to vertebrate zoology can only be described as formidable.

A host of friends were indebted to him and his charming wife for their never failing help, kindness and hospitality.

## Announcements

### Appointments

**P. C. Elwood** has been appointed **Director of the Medical Research Council Epidemiology Unit** (South Wales).

**Professor J. Heslop-Harrison, FRS**, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, has been elected **President of the Institute of Biology** for 1974.

**Professor J. H. Beynon**, senior research associate at ICI and professor of chemistry at Purdue University, Lafayette, has been appointed to a **Royal Society Research Professorship** at the **University College of Swansea, University of Wales**.

**Sir Owen Saunders, FRS**, Emeritus Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Imperial College, University of London, has been appointed **Royal Society Visiting Professor** at the **Engineering School of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro**.

### Awards

The first **Tribology Bronze Medals of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers** have been awarded to **D. R. Adams, D. R. Garner** and **R. A. Onions**.

**Aslib** (formerly the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux) is to mark its 50th anniversary in 1974 by the award of a prize of £250 and a piece of engraved silver for the best paper submitted in competition on *The Future Pattern of Information Services for Industry and Commerce*.

### International Meetings

March 1, **Biodegradation of Town Refuse and Farm Wastes** (Marian Honer, Assistant Information Officer, University of Aston in Birmingham, Gosta Green, Birmingham B4 7ET)

March 4, **Catalysis and Inhibition of Oxidation Processes** (Dr R. F. Greenwood, Hon. Secretary, London Section, Society of Chemical Industry, Chemistry Department, The City University, St John Street, London EC 1V 4PB)

March 4-6, **Interim Meeting of the Society of Clinical Pathologists and the College of American Pathologists** (Steven K. Herlitz, Inc., 850 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022)

March 4-8, **25th Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy** (Robert W. Baudoux, Exposition Chairman, U.S. Steel Corporation, Research Laboratory, M.S. 57, Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146)

March 5-6, **Noise Measurement and Control** (Course Organiser, Birmiehill Institute, National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QU)

March 6, **Meeting of the Particle Size Analysis Group of the Society for Analytical Chemistry** (Analytical Division, Chemical Society 9/10 Savile Row, London W1X 1AF)

March 6-8, **Minicomputers: Fundamentals and Applications** (Lisa Spaducci, Polytechnic of Central London, 115, New Cavendish Street, London W1M 8JS)

March 7, **Component Interactions in Fluid Flow Systems** (A. J. Tugwell, 1, Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London, SW1H 9JJ)

March 11-15, **Chemical Society Management Studies for Chemists** (Dr M. D. Robinson, The Chemical Society, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN)

March 13, **Prediction of Geological Hazards** (Professor B. M. Funell, Environmental Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich NOR 88C)

March 14-15, **Heat Pipes** (The Short Course Unit, The Polytechnic of Central London, 35, Marylebone Road, London NW1 5LS)

March 18, **Microcalorimetry in Biology** (The Assistant Secretary, Society of Chemical Industry, 14, Belgrave Square London SW1X 8PS)

March 18-22, **6th Semi-Annual Short Course on Laser Safety** (Laser Safety Course, CONMED, 114 Medical College, Cincinnati, Ohio 45229)

March 19, **Group Technology: A Method for Improving Productivity** (Course Organiser, Birmiehill Institute, National Engineering Laboratory, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0QU)

March 21, **General Meeting of the Institution of Mining and Metallurgy** (The Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0JU)

March 20-21, **Computers in Medicine** (The Secretary, World Organisation of General Systems and Cybernetics, Blackburn College of Technology and Design, Feilden Street, Blackburn BB2 1LH)

March 20-22, **Tetrahedrally Bonded Amorphous Semiconductors** (Marc H. Brodsky, Conference Chairman, IBM Thomas J. Watson Research Center P.O. Box 218, Yorktown Heights, New York 10598)