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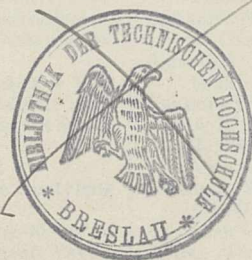
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*"To the solid ground  
Of Nature trusts the mind that builds for aye."*—WORDSWORTH.



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# INDEX

## NAME INDEX

- Abbot (Dr. C. G.), The Periodometer, 684  
 Abel (E.), and O. Smetana, The Periodate Potential, 915  
 Abel (Prof. J. J.), elected President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 127  
 Abetti (Prof. G.), elected an Associate of the Royal Astronomical Society, 894  
 Abraham (H.), The Maintenance of a Room at Constant Temperature, 214  
 Accra (Bishop of), Challenge to Witches in West Africa, 862  
 Ackerman (J. W.), [W. D. Bancroft and], The Fading of Lakes and Dyed Fabrics, 843  
 Adams, Jr. (Prof. N. I.), [Prof. L. Page and], Principles of Electricity: an Intermediate Text in Electricity and Magnetism (*Review*), 332  
 Adie (R. H.), [death], 786; [obituary article], 893  
 Adkin (R.), Microlepidoptera of Eastbourne, 467  
 Adler (S.), and O. Theodor, Mediterranean Kala Azar (6), 662  
 Adrian (Prof. E. D.), and others, Physiological Basis of Sensation, 67  
 Affel (H. A.), W. S. Gorton, and R. W. Chesnut, A Modern Telephone Cable, 274  
 Aitken (A. C.), On the Orthogonal Polynomials in Frequencies of Type B, 254  
 Aitken (Dr. R. G.), awarded the gold medal of the Royal Astronomical Society, 92  
 Albertus Magnus: His Scientific Views, 266  
 Albright (H. M.), The American National Park Service, 933  
 Aldington (Major), and others, Road Traffic Signalling, 163  
 Aldrich (C. R.), The Primitive Mind and Modern Civilization (*Review*), 79  
 Alessandro (B.), Oxidation of Strychnine, 905  
 Alexander (E.), [Prof. G. Hevesy and], Intensity Ratio of Fluorescent X-Ray Lines, 315  
 Alington (Rev. Dr. C.), The Education of the Average Man, 393  
 Allan [Hyde, Tomlinson, and], Performance of Gears, 538  
 Allcock (H.), Simpler British Coinage, 198  
 Allen (Prof. H. S.), Disintegration of Atomic Nuclei, 830  
 Allison, Bishop, Sommer, and Christensen, Elements 85 and 87, 657  
 Allmand (Prof. A. J.), The Drumm Traction Battery, 386  
 Allport (N. L.), and G. H. Skrimshire, Determination of Lead in Organic Substances, with Special Reference to Dyestuffs, 518  
 Allsop (C. B.), [Prof. T. M. Lowry and], Refractive Dispersion and the Problem of 'Optical Exaltation', 33  
 Ambarzumian (V.), Temperatures of the Wolf-Rayet Stars, 725  
 Amos (A.), and H. E. Woodman, Ensilage, 172  
 Ander (E.), [L. Bert and], A New Type of True Acetylene Compound, Phenoxypipine, 590  
 Anderson (C.), [C. Nicolle and], Individual Specificity of the Spirochaetes of Recurring Spanish-African Fever, 951; Sensibility of the Pig to African Strains of *Spirochaeta hispanicum*, 410  
 Andrade (Prof. E. N. da C.), The Cry of Tin, 651; Viscosity of Liquids, 125; Vortex Motion in Vibrating Columns of Air, 711  
 Andrewes (Sir Frederick William), [death], 338; [obituary article], 390  
 Andrews (F. W.), [R. E. Massey and], Leaf Curl Disease of Cotton, 656  
 Andrieux (L.), and D. Barbetti, The Alkaline Borides, 915  
 v. Angerer (Prof. E.), Wissenschaftliche Photographie: eine Einführung in Theorie und Praxis (*Review*), 814  
 Angus (Prof. R. W.), Hydraulics for Engineers: including Turbines and Pumps and Unsteady Motion (*Review*), 492  
 Antoniadi (E. M.), Mars during the Last Two Oppositions, 765  
 Appell (P.), et Prof. É. Goursat, Théorie des fonctions algébriques et de leurs intégrales. Deuxième édition. Tome 1 et 2 (*Review*), 600  
 Appleton (Prof. E. V.): and F. W. Chapman, The Collisional Friction experienced by Vibrating Electrons in Ionised Air, 553; and Prof. S. Chapman, Suggested Wireless Observations during the Solar Eclipse of August 31, 1932, 757; and R. Naismith, Some Measurements of Upper Atmospheric Ionisation, 841  
 Argue (G. H.), [Dr. E. H. Boomer, H. E. Morris, and], Apparent Formation of Copper Carbonyl, 438  
 Armellini (G.): A New Cosmogonic Interpretation of the Equipartition of Energy among the Stars, 215; and G. Conti, Variations of Atmospheric Absorption and various Observations, 807  
 Armstrong (Dr. E. F.): Hydrogen and its Uses, 825; and K. F. Armstrong, The Glycosides (*Review*), 886  
 Armstrong (G.), Electrochemical Periodicities, 613  
 Armstrong (Prof. H. E.), Back to the Land (*Review*), 112; Faraday at the Sign of the Hexagon, 787; Light and Sexual Periodicity, 906; The Mind Judicial (*Review*), 739; The Iron and Steel Industry, 268; Waste: in Education and Chemistry, 896  
 Armstrong (K. F.), [Dr. E. F. Armstrong and], The Glycosides (*Review*), 886  
 Arnaud (F. W. F.), elected President of the Society of Public Analysts, 433  
 Arnaud [Cuboni and], Vitamin B and Phytase, 101  
 Arnot (Dr. F. L.), Molecular Dissociation by Electron Impact, 617  
 Arup (P. S.), The Iodine and Thiocyanogen Value of Irish Butter, 806  
 Ashley (Muriel), [Dr. F. A. Jenkins and], Nuclear Spin of Phosphorus from the Band Spectrum, 829  
 Ashmore (S. E.), Occurrence of Fog with Unsaturated Air at Grayshott, Hants, 410  
 Ashworth (Miss Dorothy), *Puccinia Malvacearum*, a Homothallic Rust Fungus, 620  
 Askanian-Werke A.G., A Prismatic Derivator, 126  
 Askew (F. A.), R. B. Bourdillon, H. M. Bruce, R. K. Callow, J. St. L. Philpot, and T. A. Webster, Crystalline Vitamin D, 178  
 Astbury (W. T.), T. C. Marwick, and J. D. Bernal, X-Ray Analysis of the Structure of the Wall of *Valonia ventricosa* (1), 178  
 Aston (Dr. F. W.), Isotopic Constitution of Lead from Different Sources, 649; Measurements on Isotopes, 172  
 Athlone (Earl of), elected Chancellor of London University, 176  
 Atkins (Dr. W. R. G.), Preparation of Sulphuric Acid free from Nitric Acid, 98  
 Audubert (R.), and Mlle. Cécile Stora, The Photovoltaic Properties of Cadmium Sulphide, 734  
 Auger (V.), and Mme. Poulenc-Ferrand, Cupric Carbonate, 554



- Avrard (P.), [E. Chauvenet and], Determination of Barium Sulphate in Iron Ores, 770
- Awbery (J. H.): The Water-Content of Saturated Air at Temperatures up to 100° C., 254; and Dr. Ezer Griffiths, The Basic Law of the Wet-and-Dry-bulb Hygrometer, 254; The Specific Volumes of some Gaseous Refrigerants; The Latent Heat of some Refrigerants, 254
- Babbage (D. W.), awarded a Smith's Prize of Cambridge University, 445
- Baccaredda (M.), [L. Passerini and], Researches on Spinel (4), 142
- Bacharach (A. L.), Plant Chemistry (*Review*), 886
- Bagi (B. B.), Plane Trigonometry (*Review*), 44
- Bailey (C. R.), and A. B. D. Cassie, Infra-Red Absorption Spectra of the Oxides of Chlorine, 652
- Bailey (K. C.), [W. S. E. Hickson and], Inhibition of Chemical Reactions (5), 553
- Bailey (R. W.), and A. M. Roberts, Creep Tests on Steel for Steam Plant, 729
- Bailey (Prof. V. A.), Photoelectrons and Negative Ions, 166
- Bailly [Remlinger, Manouélian, and], The Nerve Centres of the Tortoise inoculated with the Rabies Bacillus, 69
- Baily (J. L.), Life History of a Fresh-water Snail, 907
- Bain (E. C.), [M. A. Grossmann and], High Speed Steel (*Review*), 529
- Bain (W. A.), [Sir E. A. Sharpey-Schafer and], Employment of Intra-cardiac Injections of Adrenaline in Asphyxia, 254
- Baker (E. C. Stuart), Protective Coloration of Birds' Eggs, 247
- Baker (J. N. L.), A History of Geographical Discovery and Exploration (*Review*), 43; The Climate of England in the Seventeenth Century, 698
- Baker (J. R.), and R. M. Ranson, Factors affecting the Breeding of the Field Mouse (*Microtus hirtus*), (1) Light, 253
- Bald and Geoffrey, Spotted Wilt of Tomatoes, 692
- Baldwin (E.), [D. M. Needham, Dr. J. Needham, J. Yudkin, and], A Comparative Study of the Phosphagens, 373
- Balfour (H.), Thorn-lined Traps, 511
- Ballance (Sir Charles), awarded the Lister Medal of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, 756
- Ballantine (Prof. J. P.), The Macmillan Table Slide Rule (*Review*), 9
- Ballard (Dr. P. B.), Teaching of Mathematics (*Review*), 742
- Balls (Dr. W. L.), Rapid Estimation of Water-Content in Undisturbed Soil and in Bales of Cotton, 505
- Balozet (L.), [C. Nicolle and], Swine Fever transmissible to Man, 915
- Bamber (Ruth C.), (Mrs. Bisbee), An Inherited Abnormality in Rhode Island Red Poultry, 762
- Banachiewicz (Prof. T.), Selenographical Tables and Coordinates, 208
- Bancroft (W. D.): and J. W. Ackerman, The Fading of Lakes and Dyed Fabrics, 843; and J. E. Rutzler, jr., Reversible Coagulation in Living Tissue (6 and 7), 291; Reversible Coagulation in Living Tissue (8), 483; R. S. Gutsell, and J. E. Rutzler, jr., Reversible Coagulation in Living Tissue (9), 591; R. S. Gutsell, and J. E. Rutzler, jr., Reversible Coagulation in Living Tissue (10), 734
- Band (W.), [Shih-Chen T'ao and], Some Thermomagnetic Effects in Nickel and Iron, 373
- Banerji (Dr. B. N.), Meteorology of the Persian Gulf and Mekran, 659
- Bannister (F. A.), Distinction of Pyrite from Marcasite in Nodular Growths, 625
- Bär (Prof. R.), Atoms and Molecules as Fitzgerald Oscillators, 505
- Baranov (V.), and L. Kurbatov, The Radium Content of the Petroliferous Waters in the Grozny District, 34
- Barbetti (D.), [L. Andrieux and], The Alkaline Borides, 915
- Barbieri (G. A.), Compounds of Bivalent and of Tervalent Silver, 70
- Barbour (Prof. G. B.), Pleistocene Climates of North China, 474
- Barclay (Dr. A. E.), appointed to the Morris Radiological Research Fellowship at the Mount Vernon Hospital, 92
- Bardet (J.), [C. Levaditi, A. Tchakirian, and A. Vaisman], The Therapeutic Properties of Indium in Trypanosomiasis and in Experimental Syphilis, 374
- Barger (Prof. G.), Ergot and Ergotism, 335
- Barker (Prof. A. F.), *Ovis astore*, a Three-Coated Sheep, 128, 436
- Barker (E. F.), Raman Lines and Infra-Red Bands in Nitrous Oxide, 132
- Barker (Dr. S. G.), Relation of Science to Industry, 933
- Barley (Major L. J.), The Riddle of Rationalisation (*Review*), 882
- Barlow (N.), The Voyage of the *Beagle*, 439
- Barnard (J. E.), A New Illumination Device for Microscopy, 199
- Barnes (A. A.), Rain-gaugings near Belper and Duffield, 68
- Barnes (Prof. H. T.), and T. C. Barnes, Biological Effect of Associated Water Molecules, 691
- Barnes (L. L.), and R. C. Gibbs, Positive Ions of Mass, 220, 946
- Barnes (T. C.), Physiological Effect of Trihydrol in Water, 735; [Prof. H. T. Barnes and], Biological Effect of Associated Water Molecules, 691
- Baroni (A.), Measurement of the Parachor applied to the Study of the Constitution of Polysulphides, Polyselenides, and Mixed Sulphur-Selenium Chains, 142; Solid Solutions between Alkali Halides, 375
- Barrett (C. S.), [Dr. R. F. Mehl, D. W. Smith, and], Segregation of Cementite from Austenite, 313
- Barrett (Sir James W.), Vocal Powers and Eyes of Kangaroos, 689
- Barrington (R. E. D.), 'Bullying' amongst Birds, 395
- Barrows (W. P.), [W. Blum, A. Brenner, and], Chromium Plating, 101
- Bass (Dr. L. W.), [Dr. P. A. Levene and], Nucleic Acids (*Review*), 44
- Bassindale (R.), [Dr. B. A. Southgate, F. T. K. Pentelow, and], Death of Fish in the Tees Estuary, 129
- Bassler (R. S.), [E. O. Ulrich and], Cambrian Conchostroma, 367
- Bastien (P.), [A. Portevin and], The Principal Factors affecting the Flow of Pure Metals, 519
- Bastow (S. H.), and F. P. Bowden, Contact of Smooth Surfaces, 438
- Basu (S.), [Dr. Sobhag Mal, B. N. Desai, and], Structure and Development of Temperature Inversions in the Atmosphere, 97
- Bateman (Prof. H.), Partial Differential Equations of Mathematical Physics (*Review*), 850
- Bather (Dr. F. A.), Protection of Herbarium Specimens, 655; re-elected President of the Palaeontographical Society, 827
- Batjer (L. P.), [J. W. Crist and], Stone Cells of Pear Fruits, 207
- Battegay (M.), and J. Meybeck, The Amino-Sulphon-Amides, 326
- Baudouin (Dr. M.), and C. B. Whelan, Diorite Axes from Ireland, 171
- Bauer (Dr. L. A.), [obituary article], 714
- Bawn, Adsorption, 320
- Bawn (C. E. H.), [Dr. W. Lochte-Holtgreven, E. Eastwood, and], Photochemical Dissociation of Carbonyl Sulphide, 869
- Beadle (L. C.), [Dr. E. B. Worthington and], Thermoclines in Tropical Lakes, 55
- Bearden (J. A.), X-Ray Wave-lengths, 404
- Beattie (Prof. J. M.), Medical Bacteriology (*Review*), 77
- Beauvais (G.), [C. Gutton and], The High Frequency Discharge, 410
- Beck (C.), elected President of the Royal Microscopical Society, 164
- Becker (F. E.) and Co., Supplementary Catalogue of Laboratory Equipment, 164
- Beckett (H. E.), Measurement of Reflection Coefficients for Radiation at Oblique Incidence, 806
- Becquerel (P.), The Latent Life of the Spores of Mosses at Low Temperatures, 842
- Bedell (Prof. F.), A 'Deaf Speaker', 826



- de Beer (G. R.), Morphology and Evolution (*Review*), 490 ; [L. H. Dudley Buxton and], Neanderthal and Modern Man, 940
- Běhounek (Dr. F.), and Prof. J. Heyrovský, Úvod do Radioaktivit (*Review*), 816
- Behrend (B. A.), [death], 714
- Bekker (J. G.), [Dr. C. Rimington and], Is Preformed Cystine essential to Sheep for Wool Production ? 687
- Belgians (King of the), Natural Reserves in the Belgian Congo, 933
- Bell (Dr. J.), Photosynthesis of Carbohydrates *in Vitro*, 170
- Bell (R. M.), Broadcast Reception in the United States, 681
- Benedict (F. G.): and E. L. Fox, Body Temperature and Heat Regulation of Large Snakes, 291 ; E. L. Fox, and V. Coropatchinsky, The Incubating Python, 843
- Bengough (G. D.), and L. Whitby, Magnesium Alloy Protection by Selenium and other Coating Processes, 481
- Bennett (M. G.), The Visual Range of Lights at Night and its Relation to the Visual Range of Ordinary Objects by Day, 410
- Benson (S. B.), and A. E. Borell, Habits of Californian Red Tree Mouse, 99
- Bentham, Jeremy, Philosopher and Social Engineer, Centenary of the death of, 912
- Bentley (W. A.), and W. J. Humphreys, Snow Crystals (*Review*), 778
- Bergner (A. Dorothy), and A. F. Blakeslee, Cytology of the *Ferox-quercifolia-stramonium* Triangle in *Datura*, 843
- Berman (L.) The Star 70 Ophiuchi, 874
- Bernal (J. D.): Crystal Structures of Vitamin D and Related Compounds, 277 ; Properties and Structures of Crystalline Vitamins, 721 ; Rotation of Molecules in Crystals, 870 ; [W. T. Astbury, T. C. Marwick, and], X-Ray Analysis of the Structure of the Wall of *Valonia ventricosa* (1), 178
- Bernardini (G.), The Variation of Penetrating Radiation with Zenith Distance, 578
- Bert (L.), and E. Ander, A New Type of True Acetylene Compound, Phenoxypopine, 590
- Berthelot (A.), The Unit of Length employed in the First Measurements of the Earth's Circumference, 842
- Bertrand (G.), Can Gold be considered as one of the Elements of Living Matter? 447
- Beurlen (K.), Vergleichende Stammesgeschichte : Grundlagen, Methoden, Probleme unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der höheren Krebse (*Review*), 745
- Bhagavantam (S.): Oscillations of the Methane Molecule, 830 ; The Spinning Photon and its Scattering by Molecules, 167 ; [Sir C. V. Raman and], Experimental Proof of the Spin of the Photon, 22 ; The Spin of the Photon, 62 ; and S. Venkateswaran, Polarisation of Raman Scattering, 580
- Bhargava (Saligram), [Prof. M. N. Saha, J. B. Mukerji, and], Complex X-Ray Characteristic Spectra, 435
- von Biesbroeck (Prof. G.), Cometary Observations at Yerkes Observatory, 837
- Bigelow (Prof. H. B.), awarded the Agassiz medal of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, 92 ; Oceanography: its Scope, Problems, and Economic Importance (*Review*), 7
- Bigourdan (G.), [death], 570 ; [obituary article], 643
- Bilham (E. G.), Measuring Atmospheric Pollution, 103
- Billington (Prof. W.), [death], 270
- Bills (C. E.), and F. G. McDonald, Synthesis of Vitamin D, 50
- Birge (R. T.), Fundamental Physical Constants, 135
- Bischoff (Charitas), The Hard Road: the Life Story of Amalie Dietrich, Naturalist, 1821-1891 (*Review*), 455
- Bishop (R. A.), The Electric Trolley Bus (*Review*), 189
- Bishop [Allison, Sommer, Christensen, and], Elements 85 and 87, 657
- Bissonnette (Prof. T. H.), Light and Diet as Factors in Relation to Sexual Periodicity, 612 ; Modification of Mammalian Sexual Cycles, 253
- Black (Dr. D.), Palaeogeography and Polar Shift, 475
- Blackader (Prof. A. D.), [death], 427
- Blackett (P. M. S.), [E. J. Williams and], Passage of Ionising Particles through Matter, 512
- Blacktin (Dr. S. C.), Periodic Precipitation Structures, 401
- Blackwell (A.), The Geodesics in Epstein's Unified Field Theory, 914
- Blackwell (O. B.), Time Factor in Telephone Transmission, 800
- Blackwood (Miss Beatrice), Buka and Bougainville, 944 ; Psychology with an Anthropological Background (*Review*), 346
- Blades (H.), and A. C. MacQueen, Change-over from Direct to Alternating Current, 644
- Blaighan (Mlle. S.), [A. Damiens and], The Normal Bromine in Plants: Food Grains, Wheat, Bread, 254
- Blair (A. A.), [death], 391
- Blakeley (T. H.), elected Gas Research Fellow at Leeds University, 140
- Blakeslee (A. F.), Genetics of Sensory Thresholds: Taste for Phenyl Thio Carbamide, 735 ; and A. Dorothy Bergner, Cytology of the *Ferox-quercifolia-stramonium* Triangle in *Datura*, 843
- Blanford (H. R.), Germination of Teak, 134
- Blathwayt (T. B.), Sunset Glows and the Andean Eruptions, 932
- Blakney (W.), Heavy Isotope of Hydrogen, 800
- Blondel (A.), A New Algebraical Representation of Alternating Currents and of other Oscillatory Phenomena, 878
- Blum (W.), [W. P. Barrows, A. Brenner, and], Chromium Plating, 101
- de Böckh (Prof. H.), [obituary article], 15
- Bodenheimer (Dr. F. S.), Die Schädlingsfauna Palästinas: unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Grossschädlinge des Mittelmeergebietes (*Review*), 301
- Bodylevsky (W.), [D. Sokolov and], Spitsbergen Geology, 584
- Bohr (Prof. Niels), Atomtheorie und Naturbeschreibung, 343
- Bolaffi (Ada), The Lipoids of Human Tumours, 143
- Boll (M.), Chemical Kinetics in Receivers surrounded with a great Thickness of Mercury, 807
- Bolla (Dr. G.), The Raman Band in Water, 60
- Bollenrath (F.), Influence of Temperature on the Elastic Behaviour of Various Wrought Light Metal Alloys, 446
- Bond (G.), Effect of Malnutrition on Root Structure, 626
- Bond (Dr. W. N.), Fundamental Physical Constants, 135
- Bone (Prof. W. A.): A Century of Fuel Economy, 268 ; awarded the Melchett Medal, 92 ; Combustion of Hydrocarbons (Bakerian Lecture), 914 ; The British Iron and Steel Industry, 767 ; and R. E. Allum, and Dr. D. M. Newitt and A. E. Haffner, Mechanism of the Combustion of Methane, 551 ; and R. P. Fraser, Flame Movements in Gaseous Explosions, Parts 4, 5 and 6, 565
- Bonnardel (R.), and W. Liberson, Physiology of Human Work at High Altitudes, 807
- Bonnington (C. J.), Nicobarese Burial Customs, 907
- Bonwitt (W.), and G. Groetzinger, Thermal Conduction in an Electric Field, 100
- Boomer (Dr. E. H.), H. E. Morris, and G. H. Argue, Apparent Formation of Copper Carbonyl, 438
- Boothroyd (S. L.), [H. Shapley, E. J. Öpik, and], The Arizona Expedition for the Study of Meteors, 734
- Boratynski (K.), and A. Nowakowski, Researches by Means of X-Rays on the Modifications of Phosphoric Anhydride, 290
- Bordier, A New Helioactinometer, 34 ; Biological Effects of d'Arsonvalisation with Short Waves, 770
- Borell (A. E.), [S. B. Benson and], Habits of Californian Red Tree Mouse, 99
- Borloz (A.), Pickling of Copper-Silver Alloys in Dilute Sulphuric Acid, 771
- Borris (Christopher), Three Hundredth Anniversary of the Death of, 752
- Bose (Prof. D. M.), and S. Datta, Some Properties of Cerium Ions, 548
- Bossa (Dr. E.), [Dr. M. Cantone and], The Hall Effect in Weak Fields, 764
- Bouchard (J.), The Photosensitising Action of Colourless Fluorescent Materials on the Flocculation of Colloidal Solutions, 807
- Boulger (Prof. G. S.), [J. Britten and], A Biographical Index of deceased British and Irish Botanists. Second edition, revised and completed by Dr. A. B. Rendle (*Review*), 563



- Boulton (Prof. W. S.), The Rocks between the Carboniferous and Trias in the Birmingham District, 733
- Bourdillon (A. B.), [F. A. Askew, H. M. Bruce, R. K. Callow, J. St. L. Philpot, T. A. Webster, and], Crystalline Vitamin D, 178
- Bourguet (M.), [R. Lespiau, R. Wakemann, and], The Raman Effect and Chemistry, 69; and L. Piaux, The Raman Effect and Chemistry: the Allene Linkages, 178
- Boutarie (A.), and C. Tournier, Study of Colloidal Solutions by the Polarisation of the Light diffused by them, 34
- Bowden (B. V.), [Lord Rutherford and], Origin of the  $\gamma$ -Rays from Actinium Emanation, 873
- Bowden (Dr. F. P.), [S. H. Bastow and], Contact of Smooth Surfaces, 438; and Dr. C. P. Snow, Photochemistry of Vitamins A, B, C, D, 720, 943
- Bowden (Dr. S. T.), and T. John, Carbon Monoxide from Carbonates, 833
- Boyd (E.), The Pigmentary System and the Dopa Reaction, 626
- Boyd (Dr. Lucy), The Grass Embryo, 474
- Boylan (R. K.), Mobilities of Atmospheric Large Ions, 588
- Boyle (Dr. R. W.), G. S. Field, and D. K. Froman, Ultrasonic Waves in Liquid Columns, 693
- Boys (Prof. C. V.), Apparatus of, at the Science Museum, 339; Early History of the Physics Workshop at the Imperial College of Science, 138
- Brackett [Forbes], Constant Monochromatic Spark Illumination, 136
- Bradley (A. J.), and A. H. Jay, Formation of Super-Lattices in Alloys of Iron and Aluminium, 289
- Bradshaw, [Jones and], Transport Numbers, 404
- Bragg (Sir William), Physical Laboratories and Social Service, 495
- Bragg (Prof. W. L.), elected a Member of the Athenæum Club, 574
- Brainerd (J. G.), [K. McIlwain and], High Frequency Alternating Currents (*Review*), 187
- van Brandenstein (Dr. M.), and Dr. H. Klumb, Vacuum Pump Liquids, 620
- Brauman (P.), and S. Takvorian, Preparation of the Anhydrous Chlorides of the Metals of the Cerium Earths, 915
- Brauner (Prof. B.), and Dr. E. Švagr, Physico-Chemical Study of Rare Earth Sulphates, 620
- Breder (C. M.), Feeding Habits of the Zebra-fish, 763
- Brennan (L.), [obituary article], 227
- Brenner (A.), [W. Blum, W. P. Barrows, and], Chromium Plating, 101
- Brickwedde (F. G.), [H. C. Urey, G. M. Murphy, and], A Possible Hydrogen Isotope of Mass 2, 101
- Bridel (M.), [death], 123
- Bridgman [Prof. P. W.), presented with the Elliott Cresson Medal, 894; Vacuum Pump Liquids, 620
- Brierley (Dr. W. B.), appointed Professor of Botany in Reading University, 732; elected President of the Association of Economic Biologists, 343
- Briggs (Prof. H.), Graphical Classification of Carbonaceous Minerals: the Place of the Constituents of Common Coal, 254
- Briggs (Dr. W.), [death], 931
- Brigham (Dr. A. P.), [death], 751
- Brindley (G. W.), Intensity of Reflection of X-Rays by Perfect Crystals, 213; Refraction of X-Rays by Perfect Crystals, 733
- Briner (E.), H. Paillard, and R. Zurcher, An Internal Combustion Motor with Air mixed with Ozone, 34
- Briscoe (Prof. H. V. A.), appointed Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at Imperial College (Royal College of Science), 876; Dr. P. L. Robinson, and A. J. Rudge, The Highest Oxide of Rhenium, 618; Robinson, and Stoddart; Briscoe, Robinson, and Rudge, Rhenium Compounds, 63
- Britten (J.), and Prof. G. S. Boulger, A Biographical Index of deceased British and Irish Botanists. Second edition, revised and completed by Dr. A. B. Rendle (*Review*), 563
- Brodbeck (A.), Electric Equipment of the Dolomites Railway, 18
- de Broglie (Duc M.), Right Hon. Lord Rutherford of Nelson (Scientific Worthies, XLVI.), 665; elected an Honorary Member of the Cambridge Philosophical Society, 865
- Bronn (Dr. H. G.), Klassen und Ordnungen des Tierreichs, wissenschaftlich dargestellt in Wort und Bild. Band 3, Abteilung 3: Bivalvia (Muscheln). Bearbeitet von Dr. F. Haas. Lief. 1. Lief. 2: Schriftenverzeichnis. Lief. 3. Band 4: Vermes. Abteilung 2: Aschelminthen. Buch 1: Rotatorien, Gastrotrichen und Kinorhynchen. Bearbeitet von A. Remane. Lief. 1: Rotatorien (*Review*), 743
- Brontë (Dr. R. M.), [death], 570
- Brooke (Sir John), Future Methods of Charging for Electric Supply, 465
- Brooks (Dr. C. E. P.), and Theresa M. Hunt, The Zonal Distribution of Rainfall over the Earth, 806
- Brooks (F. T.), elected to a Reserved Official Fellowship at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, 176
- Brooks (Prof. S. C.), [A. C. Giese, R. I. Giese, and], Electrical Potential Differences across Onion Epidermis, 724
- Broquelet (A.), Dorure-encadrement: technique des différents genres de gravure, comment reconnaître les fausses estampes et les faux papiers (*Review*), 8
- Brown (G. B.), Sensitive Flames, 549
- Brown (G. Gordon), Bride Wealth among the Hehe, Tanganyika Territory, 872
- Brown (N. E.), conferment upon, of an Honorary Doctorate by the Witwatersrand University, 500
- Browne (C. O.), Multi-Channel Television, 124
- Browne (Sir George Buckston), elected a Member of the Athenæum Club, 396
- Bruce (Major-General Sir David), [obituary articles], 84, 86
- Bruce (H. A.), The Sources of American Discontent, 825
- Bruce (H. M.), [F. A. Askew, R. B. Bourdillon, R. K. Callow, J. St. L. Philpot, T. A. Webster, and], Crystalline Vitamin D, 178
- Bruce (J.), Boiler Plant in Power Stations, 608
- de Bruin (Dr. T. L.), Origin of the Coronal Lines, 468
- Brun (E.), and P. Vernotte, Heating of a Thermometer by a Gaseous Current, 519
- Brunt (D.), Radiation in the Atmosphere (1), 698
- von Bubnoff (Prof. S.), Die westfälische Sedimentation und die asturische Phase in der innersudetischen Mulde (*Review*), 189; Grundprobleme der Geologie: eine Einführung in geologisches Denken (*Review*), 420
- Bucciante (L.), Survival of Embryonic Tissues of the Hen kept in Ringer's Solution at Low Temperatures, 555
- Buchan (J. L.), Migration of Ions, 209
- Buell and Stewart, The Lunar Bright Rays, 909
- de Buen (Prof. R.), International Oceanography, 432
- Bulloch (Prof. W.) and others, A System of Bacteriology in Relation to Medicine. Vol. 8 (*Review*), 77
- Bunce (E. H.), Milk Standards under the Burma Food and Drugs Act, 518
- Burchell (J. P. T.), Artefacts of Upper Palaeolithic Facies from Coombe Deposits underlying the Gravels of the Flood Plain, 25; Geological Sequence of Coombe Deposits at Greenhithe, Kent, 96; Implements of Late Magdalenian Age underlying the Raised-Beach at Larne, Co. Antrim, 726
- Burfield (S. T.), Retrocerebral Organ of *Sagitta*, 796
- Burg, [Schlesinger and], Hydrides of Boron, 248
- Burgers (Dr. W. G.), Cause of Twinning of Crystals, 363; Crystal Structure of  $\beta$ -Zirconium, 281
- Burgess (R.), Bacterial Disintegration of the Wool Fibre, 691
- Burkitt (M. C.), Scottish Prehistory (*Review*), 347
- Burns (Dr. C. Delisle), Science and Disarmament, 834
- Burr (E.), Interference during Pairing in Birds, 126
- Burr (Dr. M.), and P. S. Nazaroff, Termites in the Formation of Spongy Ironstone in Africa, 27
- Burr (S.), [W. A. Millard, L. R. Johnson, and], Potato Sickness, 367
- Burrill (L. C.), awarded the premium of the Institution of Naval Architects, 199
- Burton (A. C.), [Prof. J. C. McLennan and]: Selective Heating by Short Radio Waves, 367; [Prof. J. C. McLennan, A. Pitt, J. O. Wilhelm, and], The Phenomena of Superconductivity with Alternating Currents of High-Frequency, 409



- Butler (Dr. J. A. V.), and G. Armstrong, Electrochemical Periodicities, 613
- Butler (J. B.), Determining the Depth of Penetration of Wood-boring Beetles in Structural Timber, 553; and Annie Humphries, On the Growth in Artificial Media of *Catenaria anguillulæ*, 553
- Buxton (L. H. Dudley), Ancient Gold and Enamel Work from Cyprus, 171; and G. R. de Beer, Neanderthal and Modern Man, 940
- Cadman (Dr. Elsie J.), Cytology of the Mycetozoa, 246
- Caglioti (V.), [N. Parravano and], Alloys of Zinc and Manganese, 375
- Cagnasso (A.), [L. Cambi and], Manganic Dithiocarbamates, 215
- Caldonazzo (B.), Vortex in a Field limited by a Cardioid, 69
- Caldwell (Prof. M. G.), and J. Calhoun, The Campas Indians, East Peru, 583
- Caldwell, [Roeser, Wensel, and], Freezing Point of Platinum, 136
- Calhoun (J.), [Prof. M. G. Caldwell and], The Campas Indians, East Peru, 583
- Callendar (late Prof. H. L.), The Revised Callendar Steam Tables (1931). Calculated by Dr. H. Moss from the new Data and Formulæ of (Review), 355
- Callow (R. K.), [F. A. Askew, R. B. Bourdillon, H. M. Bruce, J. St. L. Philpot, T. A. Webster, and], Crystalline Vitamin D, 178
- Cambi (L.), and A. Cagnasso, Manganic Dithiocarbamates, 215
- Cameron (Dr. A. E.), Progressive Entomology (Review), 150
- Cameron (H. K.), [W. J. Müller, W. Machu, and], The Theory of Passivity Phenomena (14), 179
- Cammiade (L. A.), Prehistoric Domestic Pottery from Southern India, 366
- Campbell (Alexandra Jean Robson), [Dr. A. N. Campbell and], Mechanism of Racemisation, 281
- Campbell (Dr. A. N.), and Alexandra Jean Robson Campbell, Mechanism of Racemisation, 281
- Campbell (J. S.), and W. V. Houston, *e/m* from the Zeeman Effect, 693
- Campbell (Sir Malcolm), New Land Speed Records, 342
- Campbell (Dr. N. R.), Leadership and the Royal Society, 362
- Canals (É.), M. Godchot, and Mlle. Germaine Cauquil, The Raman Spectra of some Cyclic Hydrocarbons, 915; The Raman Spectrum of some Cyclohexane Hydrocarbons, 326
- Cannon (Dr. Annie J.), awarded the Henry Draper Medal of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, 92
- Cannon (Prof. H. G.), The *Discovery* Nebulae, 908
- Cantone (Dr. M.), and Dr. E. Bossa, The Hall Effect in Weak Fields, 764
- Capatos (L.), [T. Karantassis and], Action of Ammonia and Amines on Germanium Tetriodide, 142
- Cappelletti (C.), Resistance of the Stolophyll of *Tulipa silvestris* L. to the Penetration of Mycelia, 107
- Carey (Gladys), The Leaf-buds of *Angophora*, 663
- Carmichael (H.), A New Tilted Electrometer, 769
- Carpenter (L. G.): Nature of Liquids, 60; and T. F. Harle, A Vacuum Calorimeter for High Temperatures, 769
- Carrière (E.), R. Lautié, Determination of Molybdenum by Potassium Permanganate, 770
- Carter (H. J.), A. M. Lea, 786
- Carus-Wilson (C.), Musical Sands, 798
- Case (Isobel M.), Development of the Sorus in some Species of *Nephrolepis*, 626
- Casimir (Dr. H.), Rotation of a Rigid Body in Quantum-mechanics (Review), 780
- Cass (W. G. L.), Plato and the Modern Age (Review), 381
- Cassie (A. B. D.), [C. R. Bailey and], Infra-Red Absorption Spectra of the Oxides of Chlorine, 652
- Castellani (A.), Biological Test for Rhamnose, 837
- Castle (Prof. W. E.), Genetics and Eugenics. Fourth edition (Review), 301
- Cauquil (Mlle. Germaine), [E. Canals, M. Godchot, and], The Raman Spectra of some Cyclic Hydrocarbons, 915; The Raman Spectrum of some Cyclohexane Hydrocarbons, 326
- Cavers (Dr. F.), Botany for Matriculation. Revised by L. C. Fox. Second edition (Review), 564
- Cawood (W.): [H. S. Patterson and], Atomic Weight of Fluorine, 794; [H. S. Patterson, Prof. R. Whytlaw Gray, and], Atomic Weight of Fluorine, 245
- Cayeux (L.), Interpretation of the Deposits of Calcium Phosphate dredged on the Agulhas Bank, to the South of the Cape of Good Hope, 662; Interpretation of the Deposits of Magnesium Limestone of Bimont (Oise) and of Étretat (Seine-Inférieure), 374; Numerous Quartz Grains, of Atmospheric Origin, in the Ordovician in the Neighbourhood of Leningrad, 914; The Secondary Origin of the Radiating Structure of Old Marine Oolites, 214
- Cecchini (G.), The Absolute Magnitude of the Cepheids, 70
- Čech (Prof. E.), [Prof. G. Fubini et], Introduction à la géométrie projective différentielle des surfaces (Review), 80
- Centnerszwer (M.), and J. Szper, The Electrolysis of Alkaline Cyanides, 842
- Chadwick (Sir David Thomas), elected a Member of the Athenæum Club, 396
- Chadwick (Dr. J.): Possible Existence of a Neutron, 312; and Dr. J. E. R. Constable, Artificial Disintegration by  $\alpha$ -Particles. (2) Fluorine and Aluminium, 289; Artificial Disintegration of Aluminium, 441
- Chahine (M. A.), [F. Maignon and], The Nitrogen Balances in White Rats submitted to Egg Albumin Fat and to Egg Albumin Glucide Regimes, 255
- Chaix (M.), [C. Courtot, L. Nicolas, and], Preparation of Diphenylene Sulphide, 951
- Chalklin (Dr. F. C.), A Displacement in the *N* Lines of Tungsten and Tantalum, 905
- Chalklin (Mrs. L. P.), A Displacement in the *N* Lines of Tungsten and Tantalum, 905
- Challansonnet (J.), Constitution, Spontaneous Graphitisation, and Thermal Hysteresis of Low Carbon Cast Iron containing Titanium, 374
- Chalmers (Dr. B.), The Cry of Tin, 650
- Chaloner (J. L.), Spontaneous Ignition Temperatures, 765
- Chaloner (D.), Atmospheric Ozone, 584
- Chambers (M. B.), Ancient Eskimo Art, 944
- Champetier (G.), and U. V. Thuau, The Dehydration of Cupric Hydroxide, 290
- Champion (H. G.), and Ishwar Das Mahendru, Volume Tables for Timber of *Acacia Catechu*, 404
- Champollion (Jean François), Centenary of the Death of, 307
- Chandler (C. L.), Early Shipbuilding in Philadelphia, 681
- Chanute (Octave), Centenary of the Birth of, 229
- Chao (C. Y.), Absorption of Hard  $\gamma$ -Radiation, 475
- Chapman (F.), Some Palæozoic Fossils from Deep Creek and Evan's Creek, Saltwater River, Victoria, 326
- Chapman (F. W.), [Prof. E. V. Appleton and], The Collisional Friction experienced by Vibrating Electrons in Ionised Air, 553
- Chapman (Prof. S.): Clouds High in the Stratosphere, 497; elected President of the Royal Meteorological Society, 164; Influence of a Solar Eclipse on the Ionisation of the Upper Atmosphere, 729; Polar Lights, 820; [Prof. E. V. Appleton and], Suggested Wireless Observations during the Solar Eclipse of August 31, 1932, 757
- Charles (E.), [Prof. L. Hogben, D. Slome, and], Influence of Pituitary on the Ovaries, 619
- Charlot (G.), The Catalytic Oxidation of Toluene, 411
- Charonnat (R.), [R. Delaby, M. Janot, and], Radioactivity of the Waters from some Summits of the Vosges, 214
- Charteris (Hon. Evan), The Life and Letters of Sir Edmund Gosse (Review), 739
- Chaudron (G.): [A. Girard and], Ferromagnetic Ferric Oxide, 214; [E. Herzog and], Methods of Testing the Corrosion of Metals, 326
- Chauvenet (E. and R.): Formation of Compounds in Aqueous Solution of Thoryl Chloride and Alkaline Chlorides, 807; and P. Avard, Determination of Barium Sulphate in Iron Ores, 770
- Chaux (R.), Influence of the  $\Delta_2$ -Cyclopentyl Radical in the Series of Barbituric Hyponotics, 770
- Cheel (E.): The *Pericalymnina* Section of the Genus *Leptospermum*, 179; and M. B. Welch, A New Species of Wattle, 843



- Chéneveau (C.), and C. Courty, The Direct Measurement of the Magnetic Susceptibilities of Liquids by the Curie-Chéneveau Magnetic Balance, 290
- Chesnut (R. W.), [H. A. Affel, W. S. Gorton, and], A Modern Telephone Cable, 274
- Chevallier (A.), and P. Dubouloz, Application of Fluorescence to Photometric Measurements in the Ultra-Violet, 326; Intensity Measurements in the Ultra-Violet Spectrum by means of Photoelectric Cells Sensitised by Sodium Salicylate, 447
- Cheveau (R.), The Red Spot on Jupiter, 368
- Cheyne, Bt. (Sir William Watson), [obituary article], 785
- Childe (Prof. V. Gordon), with chapters by Prof. T. H. Bryce and Prof. D. M. S. Watson, Skara Brae: Pictish Village in Orkney (*Review*), 347
- Chloupek (J.), and V. Daneš, Solubilities and Activity Coefficients of Silver Sulphate in certain Salt Solutions, 771
- Chodat (F.), and J. Landis, Nutrition of the Yeasts, 771
- Chopin (M.), Commercial Colloidal Complexes: Application to Indiarubber, 254
- Christiansen [Allison, Bishop, Sommer, and], Elements 85 and 87, 657
- Christy (Dr. C.), [death], 931
- Clark (C. H. Douglas), Spectroscopy and Valency (1), 734
- Claude (A.), [Mme. J. Goude-Axeos and], Bulbs with Rare Gases for the production of Ultra-Violet Radiations, 291
- Claxton (G.), [W. H. Hoffert and], Motor Benzole: its Production and Use (*Review*), 9
- Clayton (Dr. G. C.), re-elected President of the Institute of Chemistry, 393
- Clements (Dr. F. E.), Concepts of Disease, 799
- Cochrane (J. A.), Lavoisier (*Review*), 598
- Cockburn (R.), Gill-Morell and Barkhausen-Kurz Oscillations, 202, 542
- Cockerell (Prof. T. D. A.), Internationalism and Science, 831; Proper Name of the Amœba, 726
- Cockcroft (Dr. J. D.): Dr. C. D. Ellis, and H. Kershaw, A Large Permanent Magnet, 764; and Dr. E. T. S. Walton, Artificial Production of Fast Protons, 242; Disintegration of Lithium by Swift Protons, 649; Experiments with High Velocity Positive Ions (1 and 2), 841; [Prof. P. Kapitza and], Hydrogen Liquefaction Plant at the Royal Society Mond Laboratory, 224
- Coker (Prof. E. G.), and Prof. L. N. G. Filon, A Treatise on Photo-Elasticity (*Review*), 264
- Colbert (E. H.), [Prof. H. F. Osborn and], Gnomometric Method of Measuring Geological Time, 172
- Cole (Prof. F. J.), Goethe as Biologist, 423
- Colebrook (W. J.), presentations to, on his retirement, 137
- Colla (C.), [A. Ferrari and], Chemical and Crystallographic Investigations on Complex Nitrates (1), 591; Chemical and Crystallographic Investigations on Complex Nitrates (2), 627
- Collet (L.), and E. Paréjas, Results of the Geological Expedition of Harvard University in the Canadian Rockies, 1929, (4, 5), 734; (6, 7, 8), 771
- Collinson (Prof. W. E.), Esperanto in Scientific Literature, 232
- Comrie (Dr. J. D.), History of Scottish Medicine. 2 vols. (*Review*), 812
- Conant (Prof. J. B.), presented with the William H. Nichols Medal of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society, 540
- Conel (Prof. J. L.), The Genital System of the Myxinoidea, 623
- Conland [Thomas and], Apparatus for Blind Reading Print by Sound, 52
- Consiglio (A.), Power of a Translatory-Circulatory Current in Presence of a Joukowski Obstacle, 69
- Constable (Dr. F. H.), Light-Sensitive Cells, 804
- Constable (Dr. J. E. R.), [Dr. J. Chadwick and], Artificial Disintegration by  $\alpha$ -Particles. (2) Fluorine and Aluminium, 289; Artificial Disintegration of Aluminium, 441
- Conti (G.), [G. Armellini and], Variations of Atmospheric Absorption and Various Observations, 807
- Conway (Prof. A. W.): Radiation of Angular Momentum, 950; and A. J. McConnell, Determination of Hamilton's Principal Function, 950
- Cook (P. A. W.), Social Organisation and Ceremonial Institutions of the Bomvana (*Review*), 637
- Coombs (F. A.), [M. B. Welch, W. McGlynn, and], Wattle Barks (3), 843
- Coons (G. H.), and M. C. Strong, Diagnosis of *Fusarium* Species, 799
- Cooper (C. Forster), and Prof. D. M. S. Watson, The Oldoway Human Skeleton, 312, 903
- Copisarow (Dr. M.), Periodic Precipitation Structures, 400
- Cornee (E.), and H. Krombach, A Physical Method for the Determination of Potassium Chloride in Sylvinites, 554
- Cornish (Dr. Vaughan), The Royal Academy, 679
- Coropatchinsky (V.), [F. G. Benedict, E. L. Fox, and], The Incubating Python, 843
- Corset (Dr. J.), Les Coaptations chez les insectes (*Review*), 887
- Cossar (J.), awarded a Rayleigh Prize of Cambridge University, 445
- Costantin (J.), Mosaic Disease of the Sugar Cane, 951
- Coster (Prof. D.), and J. van Zuylen, Relative Excitation of the Three X-Ray L-Levels with Cathode Rays of Different Velocities, 942
- Cotton (A.), and H. Mouton, Optical Properties of a Thin Layer of Nitrobenzene submitted to Electrostatic Stress, 662
- Cotton (B. C.), and C. J. Gabriel, Australian Unionidæ, 627
- Courtot (C.), M. Chaix, and L. Nicolas, Preparation of Diphenylene Sulphide, 951
- Cowley (W. L.), British High-Speed Aircraft, 503
- Cox (A. B.), Elsie E. Wark, and Dr. I. W. Wark, Dependence of Angle of Contact on the Constitution of Adsorbed Organic Compounds, 871
- Cox (C. B.), [H. Finmore and], The Amount of Hydrocyanic Acid in *Sorghum* Sudan Grass and some Hybrids, 35
- Cox (E. G.), Crystalline Structure of Benzene, 213, 584
- Cox (H. L.), [H. J. Gough and], Behaviour of Single Crystal of Bismuth subjected to Alternating Torsional Stresses, 482
- Cox (L. R.), Lamellibranchia from the Karroo Beds of the Ruhuhu Coalfields, Tanganyika Territory, 481
- Coyne (A.), A New Method of Testing Concrete or Reinforced Concrete Works, especially Barrages, by means of Sound, 519
- Craft (F. A.), Physiography of the Shoalhaven River Valley. (6) Nerriga, 255
- Craigie (J.), and W. J. Tulloch, Further Investigations on the Variola-Vaccinia Flocculation Reaction, 226
- Crane (M. B.), and Dr. C. D. Darlington, Chromatid Segregation in Tetraploid *Rubus*, 869
- Crew (Prof. F. A. E.), Inheritance of Mental Defect, 474
- Crickmay (C. H.), Jurassic History of North America, 319
- Crist (J. W.), and L. P. Batjer, Stone Cells of Pear Fruits, 207
- Crocco (L.), A Maximum Value of the Coefficient of Heat-Transmission by a Plane Lamina to a Flowing Fluid, 627
- Crommelin (Dr. A. C. D.), Conjunction of Venus and Mars in A.D. 864, 476
- Crompton (Prof. H.), [obituary], 228
- Crookes (Sir William), Centenary of the Birth of, 860
- Crowther (J. G.), Industry and Education in Soviet Russia (*Review*), 525
- Cuboni, and Arnaudi, Vitamin B and Phytase, 101
- Culhane (K.), and Dr. S. W. F. Underhill, Estimation of Hormones, 769
- Cullis (Prof. G. C.), and others, Genesis of Ores in Relation to Petrographic Processes, 120
- Culpin (Dr. M.), Recent Advances in the Study of the Psychoneuroses (*Review*), 564
- Cumming (G. A.), The San Andreas Rift and Adjacent Features near Redlands, California, 553
- Cunningham (Dr. Brysson), Canadian Water Power Development in 1931, 854; Hydro-Electric Power Development in the Pyrenees, 11; The Thames Estuary (*Review*), 350
- Cunningham (J. T.), Light as a Factor in Sexual Periodicity, 543
- Cunningham (Dr. L. E.), [Dr. F. L. Whipple and], The Delporte Planet, 765



- Curie (Mme. Irène), and F. Joliot, Nature of the Penetrating Radiation Excited in Light Nuclei by the  $\alpha$ -Particles, 807
- Curie (Mme. P.), and S. Rosenblum, The Fine Structure of the Magnetic Spectrum of the  $\alpha$ -Rays of Radio-actinium, 807
- Curzi (M.), A New Species of *Helminthosporium* in a Disease of the Banana encountered in Italian Somaliland, 215
- Cuvier (Baron), centenary of the death of, 680
- Dadiou (A.), K. W. F. Kohlrausch, and A. Pongratz, The Raman Effect (18), 735
- Dahl (O.), [M. A. Tuve, L. R. Hafstad, and], Photographs of Fast Protons, 620
- Daking (C. W. G.), Meteorology of Kamaran Island (Red Sea), 698
- Dalby (Prof. W. E.), conferment upon, of the title of emeritus professor, 32
- Dallimore (W.), and A. B. Jackson, A Handbook of Coniferae: including Ginkgoaceae. Second edition (Review), 631
- Daly (Prof. R. A.), awarded the Hayden Memorial Gold Medal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, 342
- Damiens (A.), and Mlle. S. Blaignan, The Normal Bromine in Plants: Food Grains, Wheat, Bread, 254
- Daneš (V.), [J. Chloupek and], Solubilities and Activity Coefficients of Silver Sulphate in certain Salt Solutions, 771
- Darlington (Dr. C. D.), Chromosome Studies and Plant Breeding, 445; [M. B. Crane and], Chromatid Segregation in Tetraploid *Rubus*, 869
- Darmois (Prof. E.), Ortho- and Para-Hydrogen, 620; and Yeu-Ki-Heng, Influence of Thorium Salts on the Rotary Power of Tartaric Acid and the Tartrates, 554
- Darwin (Charles), fiftieth anniversary of the death of, 606
- Darwin (Prof. C. G.), The Theory of Radiation, 873
- Darwin (Miss Ruth), appointed a senior commissioner of the Board of Control of the Ministry of Health, 936
- Datta (A. K.), Heat of Dissociation of Nitrogen, 870
- Datta (S.), [Prof. D. M. Bose and], Some Properties of Cerium Ions, 548
- David (R.), [J. Régnier and], Microbial Multiplication, 69, 255
- David (Prof. W. T.), Specific Heat of Gases at High Temperatures, 942
- Davidson (Dr. J.), Resistance of the Eggs of Collembola to Drought Conditions, 867
- Davies (Dr. A. Morley), conferment upon, of title of Reader by London University, 177
- Davies (R. M.), Rapid Determination of the Moisture-content of Seeds, 553
- Davison (Dr. C.), The Eruptions in the Andes, 604
- Davy (M. J. B.), Henson and Stringfellow, their Work in Aeronautics: the History of a Stage in the Development of Mechanical Flight, 1840-1868 (Review), 456
- Dawson (Dr. H. M.), and A. Key, Determination of Ionisation Constants of Acids in Aqueous Alcoholic Solutions on the Basis of Catalytic Effects, 214; and G. V. Hall, Comparison of the Catalytic Effects produced by Acids in Aqueous and in Aqueous Alcoholic Solutions, 214; and W. Lowson, Catalytic Effect of Acids on the Rate of Ester Hydrolysis in relation to the Ester Concentration and the Nature of the Acid, 734
- Dawson (Dr. Shepherd), Intelligence and Fertility, 191
- Dean (Miss Laura M. I.), [Sir J. Arthur Thomson and], East-Indian Alcyonarians, 944
- Debenedetti (A.), A Method of Measuring the Maximum Birefringence of Biaxial Minerals with the help of the Federow Plate, 215
- Debenedetti (Prof. S.), L'ancienne civilisation des Barréales du nord-ouest Argentin (La Ciénega et la Aguada) d'après les collections privées et les documents de Benjamin Muniz Baretto (Review), 185
- Debye (Prof. P.), appointed Scott lecturer in Cambridge University for 1932, 252
- De Carli (F.), Viscosity of Mixtures of Stannic Chloride with aromatic Hydro-carbons, 215
- Deeley (R. M.), Viscosity and its relation to Temperature, 125
- De Graeve (P.), [R. Fosse, P. E. Thomas, and], A New Plant Principle: Uric Acid, 878
- Deighton (Dr. T.), Measuring the Surface Area of Living Animals, 281
- Delaby (R.), R. Charonnat, and M. Janot, Radioactivity of the Waters from some Summits of the Vosges, 214
- Delap (A. D.), and others, An Irish Bog-flow, 945; A. Farrington, R. Lloyd Praeger, and L. B. Smyth, the Recent Bog-flow at Glencullen, Co. Mayo, 106
- DeLury (J.), [H. V. Ellsworth and], A New Canadian Uraninite, 172
- Dengler (Prof. A.), Ökologie des Waldes (Review), 631
- Denigès (G.), The Direct Realisation of the Permanganate Reaction of Manganese even in Solutions containing as much Chloride as Sea Water, 290
- Densmore (Miss Frances), The Seminole, 935
- Derry (Dr. D. E.), and R. Engelbach, Akhenaton's Mummy, 51
- Desai (B. N.), [Dr. Sobhag Mal, S. Basu, and], Structure and Development of Temperature Invasions in the Atmosphere, 97
- Deshusses (J. and L.), An Anguillulosis of *Hortensia* (*Hydrangea hortensis*), 771; Some Insects Specially Harmful to French-Swiss Agriculture, 627
- Deslandres (Dr. H.), Simple Relations between the Molecular Spectrum and the Structure of the Molecule, 698
- Desmaroux, Mechanism of the Decomposition of the Nitro-celluloses, 951
- Despande (S. R.), [Dr. G. S. Ghurye and], Working-Class Conditions in Bombay, 160
- Devaux (J.), Infra-Red Radiation emitted by the Terrestrial Atmosphere, 142
- Devoto (G.), The Dielectric Constants of Liquids (6), 591
- Dewar (D.), Difficulties of the Evolution Theory (Review), 672
- Dewey (Prof. J.), Philosophy and Civilization (Review), 329
- Dewey (Dr. M.), [death], 15
- Dewrance (Sir John), elected President of the Association of Technical Institutions, 394
- Dhar (Prof. N. R.), and Atma Ram, Photoreduction of Carbonic Acid, Bicarbonates, and Carbonates to Formaldehyde, 205; and R. N. Mittra, Formation of Periodic Precipitates in the Absence of a Foreign Gel, 761
- Dickey (D. R.), [death], 751
- Dickinson (G. Lowes), After Two Thousand Years: a Dialogue between Plato and a Modern Young Man (Review), 381
- Dieke (Dr. G. H.), and J. W. Mauchly, Structure of the Third Positive Group of CO Bands, 546
- Dines (William Henry), Collected Scientific Papers of (Review), 811
- Dingle (Prof. H.), Origin of the Coronal Lines, 902; Science and Human Experience (Review), 147; The Origin of the Solar System, 333
- Dirac (Dr. P. A. M.), The Theory of Radiation, 874
- Dive (P.), and R. Wavre, The Newtonian Potential and Multiform Functions, 734
- Dixey (Dr. F.), A Practical Handbook of Water Supply (Review), 492
- Dixon (E. T.), Luminosity of Fire-Flies, 163
- Dixon (Prof. H. H.), Microscopic Measurements, 510
- Dixon (S. M.), and M. A. Hogan, Tests on Timber Pit Props, 319
- Doane (R. W.), Common Pests: How to Control some of the Pests that affect Man's Health, Happiness, and Welfare (Review), 637
- Dobson (D. P.), The Archæology of Somerset (Review), 924
- Doig (P.), Cepheids and Long-Period Variable Stars, 63
- Dole, Theory of the Glass Electrode, 283
- Dolk (H. E.), and K. V. Thimann, The Growth Hormone of Plants (1), 734
- Dollman (J. G.), Four-Tusked Elephants, 440
- Domange (L.), Action of Heat on Fluorspar, 951
- Donau (J.), A New Micro-Gravimetric Analytical Process, 699
- Donhoffer (C.), and J. J. R. Macleod, The Nervous Control of Carbohydrate Metabolism, 178



- Dorabalska (Mlle. A.), Microcalorimetric Measurements of the Period of Polonium, 106
- Dornie (Smyth, Wilson, and), Electric Moment and Temperature, 283
- Dörr (J. N.), Migration of Birds and Moonlight, 879
- Douglas (C. K. M.), Structure and Development of Temperature Inversions in the Atmosphere, 245
- Douglas (G. V.), General Geology of a Portion of Northern Rhodesia, 590
- Douglas (Vice-Admiral H. P.), FitzRoy's Hydrographic Surveys, 200
- Douvillé (H.), The Formation of Flints, 841
- Dowson (Sir Ernest), Land Tenure and Related Questions, 826
- Drachman (J. M.), Studies in the Literature of Natural Science (*Review*), 263
- Dragoni (G. S.), a Theorem of Rosenblatt, 142
- Drevermann (Prof. F.), [death], 822
- Dreyfus (R.), La téléphonie (*Review*), 600
- Driberg (J. H.), Marriage in Africa, 727
- Drishch (N.), [C. Dufraisse and], The Dissociable Organic Oxides, 290
- Dřizá (G.), [V. Prelog, V. Hanousek, and], The bis- $\beta$ -Halogenethylamines, 771
- Dron (Prof. W. R.), [death], 606
- Druce (Dr. G. C.), [death], 338; [obituary article], 426
- Drummond (Sir David), [death], 714
- Drummond (Miss I. M.), Science in a Girl's Education, 518
- Drummond (Prof. J. C.), Isolation of Vitamin A, 88
- Dry (Dr. F. W.), The Shedding of Certain Fibres in the Coat of the Lamb, 904
- Dubar (L.), Constitution of the Oxide of Rectifiers and of Photoelectric Cells using Cuprous Oxide, 842
- Dubois (P.), A Recording Apparatus for Potentiometric Determinations, 770
- Dubouloz (P.), [A. Chevallier and], Application of Fluorescence to Photometric Measurements in the Ultra-Violet, 326; [A. Chevallier and], Intensity Measurements in the Ultra-Violet Spectrum by means of Photoelectric Cells sensitised by Sodium Salicylate, 447
- Dubrisay (R.), A Phenomenon of Capillary Chemistry, 698
- Duckham (Sir Arthur), [death], 270; [obituary article], 338
- Dufay (J.), and R. Gindre,  $\alpha$ -Herculis, a Variable Star of very small Amplitude, 34
- Duffieux and G. Trollet, The Luminous Phenomena produced by the Rolling of Amalgams on Glass in a Vacuum, 214
- Dufraisse (C.), and Daib Nakaé, Catalysis of Autoxidation: the Antioxygen Properties of Cobalt, 590; and N. Drishch, The Dissociable Organic Oxides, 290
- Duke-Elder (Dr. W. S.), Text-Book of Ophthalmology. Vol. 1 (*Review*), 706
- Duncan-Jones (A.), Can Nature be Explained? (*Review*), 452
- Duncan (Rev. J. G.), Teleilat Ghassul, 403
- Duncan (R. L.), Foundations of Radio (*Review*), 595
- Duncan (Dr. W. J.), [R. A. Frazer and], The Flutter of Monoplanes, Biplanes, and Tail Units, 20
- Dunn (E. J.), The Bushman (*Review*), 383
- Dunn (E. R.), Origin of the American Fauna, 727
- Dunn (Prof. L. C.), A New Series of Allelomorphs in Mice, 130
- Dunncliff (H. B.), and H. D. Suri, The Phloroglucinol Method for the Determination of Mechanical Wood-pulp in Paper, 518
- Dunstan (Dr. W. R.), Pigmentation of Sussex School Children, 547
- Dupaix (A.), [P. Lasseur, M. Grojean, and], Factors of Stability of Bacterial Suspensions heated to 80° C., 447
- Du-Plat-Taylor (Major F. M.), The Reclamation of Land from the Sea (*Review*), 384
- Dupré la Tour (F.), [J. Thibaud and], Penetrating Power of the Radiation (Neutrons) excited in Beryllium by the  $\alpha$ -Rays, 951
- Durand (P.), and J. Laigret, Pustular Fever and 'Mar-seilles Fever', 554
- Durell (C. V.), The Teaching of Elementary Algebra (*Review*), 742
- Durst (C. S.), Formation of Alto-cumulus Clouds, 475; [W. C. Kaye and], Some Examples of the Development of Depressions which Affect the Atlantic, 68
- Dutta (A. K.), Heat of Dissociation of Oxygen, 317
- Dye [Dr. W. D.), [death], 307; [obituary article], 337
- Dyer (E.), The Finance of Public Elementary Education, 100
- Dykes (R.), The Amateur Cinematographer's Handbook on Movie Making (*Review*), 814
- Dymond (T. S.), Types of Iridescent Clouds, 798
- Dyson (Sir F. W.), G. Bigourdan, 643
- Earhart (Miss Amelia), (Mrs. Putnam), New Atlantic Flight, 790
- Earl (J. C.), and C. H. Wilson, The Condensation of  $\alpha$ - $\beta$  Dibromocarboxylic Acids with Benzene in the Presence of Aluminium Halides, 35
- Eastman Kodak Co., Abridged Scientific Publications. Vol. 14, 126; List of Eastman Organic Chemicals, 241
- Eastwood (E.), [Dr. W. Lochte-Holtgreven, C. E. H. Bawn, and], Photochemical Dissociation of Carbonyl Sulphide, 869
- Eberson (Prof. F.), Germ of Infantile Paralysis, 54
- Eccles (J. C.), and H. E. Hoff, The Rhythmic Discharge of Motoneurons, 373
- Eckel (O.), Radiation Climate of the Kanzel Peak (Carinthia), 915
- Eckersley (T. L.), Facsimile Radio Transmission, 694
- Eddington (Sir Arthur), The Decline of Determinism, 228, 233; The Expanding Universe, 161, 421
- Eder, Späth, and Wegscheider, The Discovery of Red Phosphorus, 520
- Edrige-Green (Dr. F. W.), Central and Peripheral Vision, 943; Physiology and the 'Aura', 275
- Edwards (A. B.), Geology and Petrology of Warburton, 627; The Dacite-granodiorite Contact Relations in the Warburton Area, 326
- Edwards (J.), Inheritance of Milking Capacity, 437, 867
- Eggleton (Dr. P.), awarded the William Julius Mickle fellowship of the University of London, 324
- Einstein (Prof. A.), Rouse Ball Lecture, 716
- Elam (C. F.), Some Bronze Specimens from the Royal Graves at Ur, 482
- Elderton (W. Palin), elected President of the Institute of Actuaries, 504
- Ellis (Dr. C. D.), Absolute Energies of the Lines in  $\beta$ -Ray Spectra, 691; Nomenclature for Lines in the  $\beta$ -Ray Spectra of Radioactive Bodies, 276; Structure of Atomic Nuclei, 674; [Dr. J. D. Cockcroft, H. Kershaw, and], A Large Permanent Magnet, 764
- Ellis (L. B.), Ancient Egypt and Medieval Europe, 763
- Ellsworth (H. V.): and J. S. DeLury, A New Canadian Uraninite, 172; [H. V. Spence and], Uraninite from Henvey Township, Ontario, 367
- Elmer (Dr. O. H.), Inhibition of Potato Sprouting by Ripe Apples, 620
- Elmhirst (R.), Zoning of Amphipod Species, 318
- Emden (Prof. R.), elected an Associate of the Royal Astronomical Society, 894
- Emerson (Dr. B. K.), [death], 751
- Emschwiler (G.), The Mechanism of the Photolysis of the Alkyl Iodides, 34
- Enderlin (L.), Chemistry of the Rubrenes, 214
- Eng (Helga), translated by H. S. Hatfield, The Psychology of Children's Drawings: from the First Stroke to the Coloured Drawing (*Review*), 745
- Engelbach (R.), [Dr. D. E. Derry and], Akhenaton's Mummy, 51
- Enthoven (R. E.), The Lime, Rice-Straw, and Convolvulus in India, 656
- Epstein (P. S.), The Air Resistance of Projectiles, 70
- Errera (J.), The Electrometric Titration of the Proteins, 179
- Escherich (Prof. K.), Die Forstinsekten Mitteleuropas: ein Lehr- und Handbuch. Band 3, Spezieller Teil, Abt. 2: Lepidopteroidea: Die "Schnabelhafte" (Panorpatæ); die "Kocherfliegen" (Trichoptera); die "Schmetterlinge" I (Lepidoptera I); Allgemeines, Kleinschmetterlinge, Spinner und Eulen (*Review*), 260



- Esclançon (E.), elected an Associate of the Royal Astronomical Society, 894; Talking Clocks designed for the Telephonic Distribution of the Time, 662
- Esclançon (F.), The Realisation of Monochromatic Sources of Red and Yellow Light, 374
- Estermann (I.), R. Frisch, and O. Stern, Monochromatic Atomic Waves, 548
- Evans (B. S.), A Rapid Method of Dissolving Lead Alloys preparatory to the Determination of Tin and Antimony, 518; Some Analytical Applications of Sodium Hydrosulphide, 518
- Evans (Dr. Griffith Ifor), awarded the Gold Medal of the Hunterian Society, 272
- Evans (R. E.), Geology of the Glass Mountains, 474
- Everingham (E. T.), and Dr. W. H. Pearsall, Effects of Tartaric Acid and of Glucose on the Metabolism of Vine Leaves, 214
- Evers (N.), [L. G. Haddock and], Determination of Minute Amounts of Copper in the Presence of Iron and certain other Metals, 806
- Ewart (Prof. A. J.), Stock Diseases and Poisonous Plants, 371
- Ewing (Sir J. Alfred), Photo-Elasticity (*Review*), 264
- Ewles (J.), Measurement of Ionisation Currents by Means of an Alternating Current Bridge and Valve Amplifier, 213
- Page (A.), and H. C. H. Townend, Examination of Turbulent Flow with an Ultramicroscope, 728
- Faguet (M.), Microbial Multiplication (*Bacterium coli*), 663
- Falke (R.), [L. Schmid and], Action of Sodium Trityl on Insulin in Liquid Ammonia, 915
- Fallows (Rev. Fearon), The Work of, 136
- Famiani (V.), The Beri-beri Quotient (*Qb*) in Nutrition with Polished Rice and Autoclaved Grain, 375; the Nutritive Values of certain Cereals, 483
- Farquharson (Dr. J.), Diamagnetism of Liquid Mixtures, 25
- Farrington (A.), [A. D. Delap, R. Lloyd Praeger, L. B. Smyth, and], The recent Bog-flow at Glencullen, Co. Mayo, 106
- Fauvel (Prof. P.), Swarming of the Palolo Worm in March, 944
- Feather (N.), and H. O. W. Richardson, Beta-Rays of Radium-D, 314
- Fenn (L. A.), National Needs, 98
- Fenneman (Prof. N. M.), Physiography of Western United States (*Review*), 564
- Fenton (C. L.), Studies of Evolution in the genus *Spirifer* (*Review*), 383
- Fenton (Dr. J.), appointed a Lecturer on Public Health Administration and Practice at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 105
- Ferguson (Dr. A.), Colloids (*Review*), 299; Lorentz's Vorlesungen über theoretische Physik an der Universität Leiden, Band 5 (*Review*), 672; Physics in the Making (*Review*), 352; Sir Ambrose Fleming and the Physical Society of London, 323; The Metallic State (*Review*), 116; Young, Champollion, and Hieroglyphics, 638
- Fermor (Dr. L. L.), The Geological Exploration of the Salt Range, India, 898
- Fernbach (E.), The Period of Preservation of Solutions of Tuberculin, 255
- Ferrar (Dr. H. T.), [obituary article], 751
- Ferrari (A.), and C. Colla, Chemical and Crystallographic Investigations on Complex Nitrates (1), 591; (2), 627
- Ferrié (General G.), [death], 338
- Fersmann (A. E.), Пегматиты: их научное и практическое значение. Том 1: гранитные пегматиты. (Pegmatite: Eigenschaften, Geochemie, Verbreitung, Verwendung. Band 1: Granitpegmatite) (*Review*), 384
- Field (Dr. G. S.), [Dr. R. W. Boyle, Dr. D. K. Froman, and], Ultra-sonic Waves in Liquid Columns, 693
- Figour (H.), and P. Jacquet, Comparison of the Electrolytic Deposits of Zinc and Cadmium, 879
- Filipjev (N.), Lepidopterological Notes (10), 411
- Filon (Prof. L. N. G.), [Prof. E. G. Coker and], A Treatise on Photo-Elasticity (*Review*), 264
- Finch (Dr. G. I.), conferment upon, of title of Reader by London University, 177; and R. W. Sutton, A Cathode-ray Oscillographic Method of Measuring Inductance, 373
- Findlay (Prof. A.), Prof. Wilhelm Ostwald, 750
- Findlay (J. A.), On the Edge of the Etheric (*Review*), 562
- Finlay (C. L.), Screen-Plate Colour Photography, 566
- Finlay (W.), [J. Lyons and], Accuracy of Fat Determinations in Butter-milk, and the Effect of the Presence of Lecithin, 290; Influence of Heating and Agitating Milk before Separation on the Fat Loss in Skim Milk, 106
- Finlayson (H. H.), Rediscovery of *Caloprymnus campestris* (Marsupialia), 871; Vocal Powers of Kangaroos, 131
- Finnemore (H.), and C. B. Cox, The Amount of Hydrocyanic Acid in *Sorghum* Sudan Grass and some Hybrids, 35
- Fischer (Prof. E.), elected a foreign member of the Linnean Society of London, 753
- Fischer (Prof. O.), [obituary article], 822
- Fisher (Dr. R. A.), A New Series of Allelomorphs in Mice, 130; The Social Selection of Human Fertility (Herbert Spencer Lecture), 896
- Fisk (Emma L.), The Chromosomes of *Lathyrus tuberosus*, 70
- Flerov (C.), Craniology of the Family Equidae, 448
- Fletcher (A.), Orbit of 61 Cygni, 476
- Fletcher (G. H.), Regenerative Braking on Trains, 864
- Fletcher (T. B.), Catalogue of Indian Insects. Part 20, 199; and S. K. Sen, Indian Horse Flies, 61
- Fletcher (Sir Walter Morley), The Scope and Needs of Medical Research, 822
- Flett (Sir John S.), Prof. J. W. Gregory, 930
- Fleury (P.), The Glycerophosphomolybdates, 179
- Flint (Dr. H. T.), The Uncertainty Principle in Modern Physics, 746
- Florentin, [C. Matignon, Kling, and], Transformation of Saturated Acyclic Hydrocarbons into Ethylenic Hydrocarbons, 698
- Florentin (D.), [A. Kling and], Mode of Action of Scission Catalysts in Hydrogenation Cracking of Hydrocarbons with a Polycyclic Nucleus, 142
- Florisson (C.), Acoustic Testing by Echoes at the Edge of Noisy Aeroplanes, 770
- Focken (Dr. C. M.), Behaviour of Pyroelectric Crystals, 168
- Fontaine (M.), and P. Portier, Proportion of Calcium in the Blood of Marine Fishes, 142
- Foord (F. A.), Spontaneous Ignition Temperatures, 764
- Foord (S. G.), [E. J. B. Willey and], Determination of Nitrogen Peroxide, 475
- Forber (Dr. Janet) [Lane-Claypon], Cancer in East London, 91
- Forbes (A. C.), Some Legendary and Historical References to Irish Forests and their Significance, 430
- Forbes and Brackett, Constant Monochromatic Spark Illumination, 136
- Ford (J.), [death], 88
- Forde (Prof. C. Daryll), Yuma Ethnography, 318
- Forge (A.), and H. C. H. Townend, An Examination of Turbulent Flow with an Ultramicroscope, 409
- Forrest (G.), [obituary article], 270
- Forrest (J. S.), Constants of High Voltage Lines, 197
- Forsythe (Dr. W. E.), Measurement of High Temperatures, 207
- Fortescue (Prof. C. L.), Frequency Range of Broadcast Receivers, 340
- Fortescue (C. Le G.), presented with the Elliott Crasson Medal, 895
- Fortune (Dr. R. F.), Sorcerers of Dobu: the Social Anthropology of the Dobu Islanders of the Western Pacific (*Review*), 669
- Fosse (R.), P. De Graeve, and P. E. Thomas, A New Plant Principle: Uric Acid, 878
- Fourtiet (G.), [P. Jolibois and], The Photographic Registration of pH during Reactions in Solution, 698; The Photographic Registration or Reactions between Electrolytes, 590
- Fowler (Sir Henry), Presidential Address to the Institute of Metals, 429
- Fowler (R. H.), appointed John Humphrey Plummer Professor of Mathematical Physics, 140
- Fox (A. L.), Relationship between Chemical Constitution and Taste, 735
- Fox (E. L.), [F. G. Benedict and], Body Temperature and Heat Regulation of Large Snakes, 291; [V. Coropatchinsky and], The Incubating Python, 843



- Fox (Dr. J. J.), [Sir Robert Robertson, A. E. Martin, and], Photo-Conductivity of Diamonds, 579
- Foyn (E.), [Mlle. Ellen Gleditsch and], Determination of Actinium in Uranium Minerals, 915
- François (Mlle. M. T.), The Anomalies observed when using Benzene and Nitrobenzene in Cryoscopy, 34
- Franke (A.), A. Kroupa, and Theodora Panzer, Ring Contraction in the Formation of Internal Ethers (Oxides) from Glycols, 735
- Frankfort (Dr. H.), India and Babylonia, 501
- Franklin (Dr. E. C.), awarded the Willard Gibbs Medal, 791
- Franzini, Absorption of Hydrogen by Metals, 404
- Fraprie (F. R.), and W. E. Woodbury, Photographic Amusements: including Tricks and Unusual or Novel Effects obtainable with the Camera. Tenth edition (*Review*), 814
- Fraser (K. M.), Growth of Wool in Australian Merino Sheep, 511
- Fraser (Lilian R.), *Lobelia gibbosa* and *Lobelia dentata*, 663; Reaction of *Viminaria denudata* to increased Water Content of the Soil, 255
- Fraser (R. P.), [Prof. W. A. Bone and], Flame Movements . . . in Gaseous Explosions. Parts 4, 5, and 6, 565
- Fraser-Harris (Prof. D. F.), Biology in Shakespeare, 232; Physiology and the 'Aura', 197
- Frazer (R. A.), and Dr. W. J. Duncan, The Flutter of Monoplanes, Biplanes, and Tail Units, 20
- Frazer (S. W.), and G. F. Stine, A Treatise on the Air Brush: with Progressive Lessons (*Review*), 8
- French (R. C.), Polish on Metals, 169
- Frerichs (Dr. R.), Origin of the Coronal Lines, 901
- Freymann (R.), and S. Takvorian, The Absorption Spectra of the Rare Earths in the Infra-Red, 662
- Friedheim (E.), Pyrocyanine and Biological Oxidations, 627
- Friend (H.), Soap Plants, 52
- Friend (Dr. J. Newton), Molecular Refraction of Nitrobenzene, 471; The Relative Corrodibilities of Ferrous and Non-ferrous Metals and Alloys (3), 446; and R. H. Vallance, Periodic Precipitation, 205
- Fries (Prof. K. R.), elected a foreign member of the Linnean Society of London, 753
- Frisch (R.), [I. Estermann, O. Stern, and], Monochromatic Atomic Waves, 548
- Froggatt (W. W.), The Gall-making Coccids of the Genus *Apiomorpha*, 663
- Froman (Dr. D. K.), [Dr. R. W. Boyle, Dr. G. S. Field, and], Ultra-sonic Waves in Liquid Columns, 693
- Frost (Miss W. E.), The Reproduction of *Nyctiphanes couchii* (Bell) and *Meganyctiphanes norvegica* (Sars) off the South Coast of Ireland, 141
- Fubini (Prof. G.), et Prof. E. Čech, Introduction à la géométrie projective différentielle des surfaces (*Review*), 80
- Fukutomi (T.), Vibrations of a Lofty Building, 693
- Gabiano [R. de Mallemann and], The Magnetic Rotatory Power of Argon, 214; [F. Suhner and], The Magnetic Rotatory Power of Neon, 590
- Gabreau (J.), A Simple Thermo-electric Pile, 657
- Gabriel (C. J.), [B. C. Cotton and], Australian Unionidæ, 627
- Gait (Sir Edward), British Research in India in Archaeology, Philology, and Ethnology, 18
- Gale (H. D.), [U. S. Grant and], Pliocene and Pleistocene Mollusca of California, 135
- Galerkin (B.), Flexion of Thick Elastic Plates, Rectangular and Triangular, poised on their Contours, 448
- Galois (Evariste), Centenary of the death of; the work of, 786
- Gamow (G.), Radioactive Disintegration and Nuclear Spin, 470
- Gandillon, Project for utilising the Lake Maracaibo Region in Venezuela, 482
- Ganesan (Dr. A. S.), and V. N. Thatte, The NO<sub>3</sub> Frequency in Organic Nitrates, 905
- Gann (T.), and J. E. Thompson, The History of the Maya: from the Earliest Times to the Present Day (*Review*), 637
- Ganster (Mlle. Emilie), [P. Woog, J. Givandon, and], Neutralising Varnishes, 34
- Gard, Autumn Frosts, Oxidising Diastases, and Death of Plants in Full Growth, 770
- Gardiner (C. I.), and Prof. S. H. Reynolds, Loch Doon 'Granite' of Galloway, 836
- Gardiner (Prof. J. Stanley), Ant-Lions and Worm-Lions (*Review*), 39; The Great Barrier and the Formation of Coral Reefs, 748
- Garner (Prof. W. E.), Errors in Thermal Measurements, 832
- Garrick (F. J.), Use of Acidimetric Indicators in Argentometry, 214
- Garrod (Miss D. A. E.), Early Man in Palestine, 898
- Garson (Dr. J. G.), [obituary article], 931
- Garwood (Prof. E. J.), conferment upon, of the title of Emeritus Professor, 32; Ice and the Formation of Alpine Scenery, 443
- Gaskin (J. G. N.), Periodic Passivity of Iron, 210
- Gates (Prof. R. R.), Heterosporry and the Angiosperms, 793; Structure of the Cell Nucleus, 161
- Gatti (D.), [L. Mascarelli and], Diphenyl and its Derivatives (8), 70; (11), 952
- Gavrilescu (N.), A. P. Meiklejohn, R. Passmore, and R. A. Peters, Carbohydrate Metabolism in Birds, 733
- Gayler (Dr. Marie L. V.), and G. D. Preston, Age-hardening of some Aluminium Alloys of High Purity, 482
- Geddes (Sir Patrick), [death], 606; [obituary article], 713
- Gemmell (W.), appointed joint Professor of Surgery in the University of Birmingham, 876
- Geoffrey, [Bald and], Spotted Wilt of Tomatoes, 692
- Gesell (A.), The Developmental Morphology of Infant Behaviour Pattern, 843
- Gessner (Dr. O.), Die Gift- und Arzneipflanzen von Mitteleuropa: mit besonderer Berücksichtigung ihrer Wirkungen (*Review*), 456
- Geyer (E.), Anthropological Results of the Lapland Expedition of 1913-14, 879
- Gheury de Bray (M. E. J.), La vitesse de la lumière, 573; The Expanding Universe, 368
- Ghiron (M.), Enzymes and Immunity, 142
- Ghose (R. L. M.), [F. K. Jackson and], Protection of Herbarium Specimens, 402
- Ghurye (Dr. G. S.), and S. R. Despande, Working-Class Conditions in Bombay, 160
- Gianfranceschi (Prof.), Quantity of Matter in the Universe, 19
- Gibbs (R. C.), [L. L. Barnes and], Positive Ions of Mass, 220, 946
- Gibson (Prof. C. S.), Organic Chemistry: General and Specialised (*Review*), 40
- Gibson (R. O.), [A. Michels and], Viscosity of Nitrogen at High Pressure, 27
- Giese (A. C.), R. I. Giese, and Prof. S. C. Brooks, Electric Potential Differences across Onion Epidermis, 724
- Giese (R. I.), [A. C. Giese, Prof. S. C. Brooks, and], Electric Potential Differences across Onion Epidermis, 724
- Gifford (E.), Refractive Indices, 625
- Gilbert (T. C.), Animals and Electric Shocks, 754
- Gilson (H. C.), British Palmate Orchids, 282
- Gill (Dr. Hope), (with Dr. E. C. Smith), awarded the Langley Prize by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 241
- Gill (N.), The Phloem of Ash, *Fraxinus excelsior*, Linn., 734
- Gindre (R.), [J. Dufay and], *o*-Herculis, a Variable Star of very small Amplitude, 34
- Girard (A.), and G. Chaudron, Ferromagnetic Ferric Oxide, 214; G. Sandulesco, A. Fridenson, C. Gaudefroy, and J. J. Rutgers, The Crystallised Sexual Hormones extracted from the Urine of Pregnant Mares, 663
- Gire (G.), Reduction of Magnesia by Silicon, 590
- Girsavicius (J. O.), appointed Benn W. Levy research student in biochemistry in Cambridge University, 372
- Givandon (J.), [P. Woog, Mlle. Emilie Ganster], Neutralising Varnishes, 34
- Giulietti (Prof. G.), New Microphone and Loud-Speaker, 800
- Glasstone (Dr. S.): Recent Advances in Physical Chemistry (*Review*), 354; and A. Hickling, Hydrogen Peroxide and the Kolbe Reaction, 616
- Glazebrook (Sir R. T.), Dr. E. H. Griffiths, 461; Leadership and the Royal Society, 434



- Gleditsch (Mlle. Ellen), and E. Foyn, Determination of Actinium in Uranium Minerals, 915
- Goblet d'Alviella (Comte), Histoire des bois et forêts de Belgique (*Review*), 631
- Goche (O.), [E. Henriot and], Cathodic Sputtering in a Magnetic Field, 326
- Godehot (M.), E. Canals, and Mlle. Germaine Cauquil, The Raman Spectrum of some Cyclohexane Hydrocarbons, 326; The Raman Spectra of some Cyclic Hydrocarbons, 915
- Goldschmidt (Prof. R.), Die sexuellen Zwischenstufen (*Review*), 3
- Goldsmith (Mlle. M.), The Proportion of the Sexes in *Galleria melonella*, 554
- Göllner (S.), [J. Kisser, R. Stasser, E. Kiffe, and], Bending due to Wounds in Dicotyledon Seedlings and their Material Causes, 627
- Golse (J.), The Reduction of Mercuric Cyanide by Tin in the Presence of certain Metallic Salts, 34
- Gomme (A.), Ancient Windmills, 439
- Goodacre (W.), Geological Study of the Moon, 442
- Goodman (R. A.), [H. Kingsbury and], Cable Telegraphy, 90
- Goodrich (Prof. E. S.), Nephridiostome of the Earthworm, 619; selected as recipient of the Linnean Medal of the Linnean Society of London, 467
- Goranson (R. W.), Water in Granitic Magmas, 100
- Gordon (F. G.), Through Basque to Minoan: Transliterations and Translations of the Minoan Tablets (*Review*), 262
- Gore (H. K.), [Prof. T. M. Lowry and], Optical Rotatory Power of Vapours, 33, 213
- Gorton (W. S.), [H. A. Affel, R. W. Chesnut, and], A Modern Telephone Cable, 274
- Goude-Axelos (Mme. J.), and A. Claude, Bulbs with Rare Gases for the Production of Ultra-Violet Radiations, 291
- Gough (H. J.): and H. L. Cox, Behaviour of Single Crystals of Bismuth subjected to Alternating Torsional Stresses, 482; and D. G. Sopwith, Corrosion Fatigue of an Aluminium Crystal, 621
- Goursat (Prof. É.), [P. Appell et], Théorie des fonctions algébriques et de leurs intégrales. Deux. édition. Tome 1 et 2 (*Review*), 600
- Gowen (J. W.), Body Pattern as related to Mammary Gland Secretion, 70
- Graber (H.), [L. Moser and], Determination and Separation of Rare Metals from other Metals (21), 179
- Gracie (D. S.), Reactions of Horizons in Tropical Soils, 248
- Gracy (J.), Reconstruction of Tokyo and Yokohama, 684
- Graff (K.), Distribution of Brightness in the Sky at Full Moon, 735; Night Measurements of the Transmissivity Coefficients of the Atmosphere in Mallorca in Winter, 735
- Graham (D. C.), Cave Exploration in Western China, 754
- Graham (M.), Herring Behaviour, 171
- de Gramont (A.), The Factors of Reflection and Transmission of some Metals deposited by Cathode Sputtering, 553
- Granqvist (Dr. Hilma), Marriage Conditions in Palestine, 835
- Grant (R.), [F. R. Morrison and], Chemistry of the Fruit obtained from the White Cedar Tree, etc., 35
- Grant (U. S.), and H. D. Gale, Pliocene and Pleistocene Mollusca of California, 135
- Grasset (E.), and A. Zoutendyk, Immunology in Reptiles, 619
- Gray (Dr. L. H.), and G. T. P. Tarrant, Supposed Spontaneous Transformation of Helium into Radiation, 620
- Greaves (H. R. G.), The League Committees and World Order (*Review*), 882
- Green (T. L.), Function of the Spiracles of Insects, 582
- Greenberg (L.), [Prof. C. B. Lipman and], A New Autotrophic Bacterium which Oxidises Ammonia directly to Nitrate and Decomposes Petroleum, 204
- Greene (Dr. R.), Oxygen and Everest, 94
- Greenwood (Dr. A. W.), awarded the Keith Prize of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, 685
- Greenwood (H.), [H. O'Neill and], Pressure of Fluidity of Annealed Metals, 482
- Greenwood (Prof. M.), Medical Statistics (*Review*), 188
- Greenwood (Dr. T.), Albertus Magnus: His Scientific Views, 266
- Greer (E. N.), and B. Topley, Attack of Oxygen Molecules upon Highly Crystalline Graphite, 904
- Grégoire, Individuality of Chromosomes, 656; The Nature of Carpels, 501
- Gregory (Capt. C. E. C.), The Shyok Ice Barrier, 873
- Gregory (Prof. J. W.), Expedition to Peru and the Andes, 16; Race as a Political Factor (*Review*), 188; The Story of the Road: from the Beginning down to A.D. 1931 (*Review*), 380; [death], 894; [obituary article], 930
- Griffin and Tatlock, Ltd., Catalogue of New Physical Apparatus, 574
- Griffith (G.), [Prof. F. Hardy and], Carbon/Nitrogen Ratios in Cacao Soils, 132
- Griffith (Dr. R. H.), [H. Hollings and], Activated Adsorption of Hydrogen, 834
- Griffiths (Prof. E. H.), [death], 391; [obituary article], 461
- Griffiths (Dr. Ezer), [J. H. Awbery and], The Basic Law of the Wet-and-dry-bulb Hygrometer, 254; The Specific Volumes of some Gaseous Refrigerants; The Latent Heat of some Refrigerants, 254
- Grimmett (L. G.), A Direct Reading  $\gamma$ -Ray Electroscope, 806
- Groetzinger (G.), [W. Bonwitt and], Thermal Conduction in an Electric Field, 100
- Grojean (M.): [P. Lasseur, A. Dupais, and], Factors of Stability of Bacterial Suspensions Heated to 80° C., 447; and J. J. Pittard, The Rapid Determination of Minerals, 627
- Gross (E.), Modification of Light Quanta by Elastic Heat Oscillations in Scattering Media, 722
- Grossmann (M. A.), and E. C. Bain, High Speed Steel (*Review*), 529
- Grumbach (J.), [E. Lobstein and], Study of an Alkaloid extracted from the Root of *Stemona tuberosa*, a Chinese-Annamese Drug, 411
- Guedalla (P.), elected a Member of the Athenæum Club, 396
- Gueritte (T. J.), Esperanto in Scientific Literature, 170
- Guild (J.): Colour Standardisation (*Review*), 453; [T. Smith and], The C.I.E. Colorimetric Standards and their Use, 770
- Guillemin (Prof. E. A.), Communication Networks. Vol. 1: The Classical Theory of Lumped Constant Networks (*Review*), 301
- Guillot (M.), Reade's Iriscope and the Aptitude of Solid and Liquid Surfaces to be moistened by Water, 326
- Gulatee (B. L.), Stokes's Formula in Geodesy, 279
- Gulland (Dr. J. M.), conferment upon, of title of Reader by London University, 176
- Gurney (R.), Discovery of *Eurytemora thompsoni* at Lancing, 98
- Gusinde (M.), and V. Lebzelter, Somatology of the Indians of Tierra del Fuego, 699
- Guthrie (W. G.), Pressure Effects in the Secondary Spectrum of Hydrogen, 914
- Gutsell (R. S.), [W. D. Bancroft, J. E. Rutzler, Jr., and], Reversible Coagulation in Living Tissue, (9), 591; (10), 734
- Gutton (C.), and G. Beauvais, The High Frequency Discharge, 410
- Gye (Dr. W. E.), and W. J. Purdy, The Cause of Cancer (*Review*), 302
- Hackford (J. E.), Algal Origin of Petroleum, 248
- Hackhofer (H.), [L. Moser and], Determination and Separation of Rare Metals from other Metals (20), 179
- Hadamard (Prof. J.), elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society, 865
- Haddock (L. G.), and N. Evers, Determination of Minute Amounts of Copper in the Presence of Iron and certain other Metals, 806
- Haddon (Dr. A. C.), New Guinea Sorcerers (*Review*), 669; The Evolution of Culture (*Review*), 779
- Hadfield, Bt. (Sir Robert A.), Faraday and his Metallurgical Researches: with Special Reference to their Bearing on the Development of Alloy Steels (*Review*), 259; Metallurgical Researches of Michael Faraday, 46; World Production of Metals and Coal, 861



- Hafstad (L. R.), [M. A. Tuve, O. Dahl, and], Photographs of Fast Protons, 620
- Hahn (Prof. O.), Investigations of Isotopes in 1931, 231
- Haldane (Mrs. Charlotte), Dr. Huxley and Mr. Arnold (*Review*), 597
- Haldane (Prof. J. B. S.), A Programme for Human Genetics (*Review*), 345; Determinism, 315; Eland-Ox Hybrid, 906; The Hereditary Transmission of Acquired Characters, 817, 856
- Haldane (Prof. J. S.), The Philosophical Basis of Biology: Donnellan Lectures, University of Dublin, 1930 (*Review*), 524
- Hall (Sir A. Daniel), Digressions of a Man of Science (*Review*), 888; Senile Degeneration in Plants, 795; The Soil: an Introduction to the Scientific Study of the Growth of Crops. Fourth edition (*Review*), 706
- Hall (G. V.), [H. M. Dawson and], Comparison of the Catalytic Effects produced by Acids in Aqueous and in Aqueous Alcoholic Solutions, 214
- Hall, Bt. (Sir James), Centenary of the Death of, 895
- Hammick, Aromatic Nitroso-Compounds in Solution, 249
- Handley (W. S.), The Genesis of Cancer (*Review*), 420
- Handy (Dr. E. S. Craighill), Society Islands' Canoes, 692
- Hanousek (V.), [V. Prelog, G. Dřiza, and], The bis- $\beta$ -Halogenethylamines, 771
- Hanson (D.), and C. E. Rogers, The Thermal Conductivity of some Non-ferrous Alloys, 446
- Hanson (J.), [S. M. Neale and], The True Weight of Benzopurpurin 4B, and the Electrical Conductivity of its Aqueous Solutions, 761
- Hanstock (R. F.), Transmission of Light in diffusing Media, 878
- Harbottle (H. R.), Acoustic and Telephone Measurements, 731
- Harding (D. W.), Rhythmisation in a Motor Task, 61
- Hardy (Prof. F.), and G. Griffith, Carbon/Nitrogen Ratios in Cacao Soils, 132
- Harland (Dr. S. C.), Fertility in Hybrids between New and Old World Cottons, 398
- Harle (T. F.), [L. G. Carpenter and], A Vacuum Calorimeter for High Temperatures, 769
- Harmer (Sir Sidney F.), elected President of the Ray Society, 433
- Harned and Samaras, Reaction Velocity, 320
- Harrison (H. T.), Modern Street Lighting, 934
- Harrison (John), The Marine Timekeepers of, 897
- Harrison (Prof. J. W. Heslop), Breeding Insects, 936
- Harrisson (T. H.), and J. A. Moy-Thomas, St. Kilda House Mouse, 131
- Hartley (Sir Harold), Michael Faraday and Electrochemistry, 392
- Hartridge (Prof. H.), Theories of Hearing, 682
- Harvey (Prof. J. W.), appointed Professor of Philosophy in Leeds University, 480
- Harwood (H. F.), [L. Hawkes and], The Changed Composition of an Anorthoclase-bearing Rock-glass, 625
- Hastings (Prof. C. S.), [death], 751
- Haughton (S. H.), Karroo Vertebrates from Tanganyika Territory, 481
- Hawker (Lilian E.), Perception of Gravity by Roots of *Vicia Faba*, 364
- Hawkes (L.), and H. F. Harwood, The Changed Composition of an Anorthoclase-bearing Rock-glass, 625
- Haworth (Prof. W. N.): Hexuronic Acid as the Antiscorbatic Factor, 576; Molecular Structure of Cellulose and of Amylose, 365; and Sir James Irvine, jointly awarded the Longstaff Medal of the Chemical Society, 865
- Hay (Dr. A.), [death], 606
- von Hayek (Dr. F. A.), appointed Tooke Professor of Economic Science and Statistics at the London School of Economics, 32, 876
- Hayes (Nancy), [J. A. C. Teegan and], Application of the Electrometer Triode to the Measurement of High Resistance, 508
- Hazlitt (Dr. Victoria), [death], 714
- Hedayetullah (Dr. S.), Structure and Division of Chromosomes, 547
- Hedges (Dr. E. S.), Colloids (*Review*), 299; Electrochemical Periodicities, 870; Periodic Precipitation Structures, 400
- Heilbron (Prof. I. M.), and Dr. R. A. Morton, Photochemistry of Vitamins A, B, C, D, 866
- Heimer (A.), [Prof. E. Hulthén and], Spectrum of Bismuth Hydride, 399
- Heintz (L.), Tannins and Fatty Acids in Hops, 368
- Heinze (Dr. H.), Das Wasser in der Natur und im Dienste des Menschen (*Review*), 223
- Henderson (F.), The Economic Consequences of Power Production (*Review*), 882
- Henderson (Prof. G. G.), Presidential Address to the Chemical Society, 516
- Henderson (G. H.), Purification of Radon, 101
- Henderson (Prof. Yandell), Oxygen and Everest, 649
- Henrici (Prof. A. T.), Molds, Yeasts and Actinomycetes: a Handbook for Students of Bacteriology (*Review*), 223
- Henriot (E.), and O. Goche, Cathodic Sputtering in a Magnetic Field, 326
- Henry (G. M.), Diving Powers of the Pelagic Insect, *Halobates*, 907
- Henry (P.), [G. Ranque and], Determination of the Characteristics of the Viscous Elongation of Hot Metals, 69
- Henry (P. S. H.), Specific Heats of the Diatomic Gases, 200
- Henshall (A. E.), Presidential Address to the National Union of Teachers, 517
- Herbert (E. G.), Hardening of Metals in a Magnetic Field, 31
- Hervieux (C.), The Search for Indoxyl (Indican) in the Milk of Cows and Goats, 255
- Herzberg (Luise), A New Band System of Beryllium Oxide, 653
- Herzog (E.), and G. Chaudron, Methods of Testing the Corrosion of Metals, 326
- Hevesy (Prof. G.): and E. Alexander, Intensity Ratio of Fluorescent X-Ray Lines, 315; und Prof. F. Paneth, Lehrbuch der Radioaktivität. Zweite Auflage (*Review*), 560
- Hewett (D. F.), Ore Deposits of Nevada, 548
- Hey (M. H.), Studies on the Zeolites (3), 410
- Heyrovský (Prof. J.), [Dr. F. Běhounek and], Úvod do Radioaktivity (*Review*), 816
- Hickling (A.), [Dr. S. Glasstone and], Hydrogen Peroxide and the Kolbe Reaction, 616
- Hickson (W. S. E.), and K. C. Bailey, Inhibition of Chemical Reactions (5), 553
- Hilger, Ltd. (Adam), Absorption Spectrophotometry, 685; Apparatus for Absorption Spectrophotometry, 231
- Hill (Prof. A. V.), A Closer Analysis of the Heat Production of Nerve, 733; Adventures in Biophysics (*Review*), 353
- Hill (Sir Arthur), Botanic Gardens in South Africa, 343
- Hill (G. F.), Australian Termites (Isoptera), 627
- Hill (Sir Leonard), Oxygen and Everest, 93, 398
- Hiller (R.), and P. v. Neugebauer, A New Canon of Ancient Solar Eclipses, 208
- Hills (E. S.), Upper Devonian Fishes from N.S.W., 373
- Hindle (Dr. E.), A New Kidney Virus, 796
- Hirata (M.), [T. Terada, R. Yamamoto, and], Microscopic Cracks produced by Electric Spark, 168
- Hirst (Dr. E. L.), and R. J. W. Reynolds, Hexuronic Acid as the Antiscorbatic Factor, 576
- Hirst (Mercia C.), [Dr. J. B. Speakman and], Constitution of the Keratin Molecule, 938
- Hlasko (M.), and W. Klimowski, The Conductivity of certain Mineral Acids and the Mobility of the Hydrogen Ion, 106
- Ho (T. L.), High Vacuum Pressure Control Apparatus, 70
- Hoare (Sir Samuel), re-elected President of the British Science Guild, 824
- Hobson (Prof. E. W.), The Theory of Spherical and Ellipsoidal Harmonics (*Review*), 357
- Hobson (S. G.), The House of Industry: a New Estate of the Realm (*Review*), 420
- Hocart (A. M.), Warfare in Eddystone Island, 872
- Hocart (R.), and Mlle. A. Serres, The Magnetic Properties and Crystalline Structure in the Different Varieties of Anhydrous Cobalt Sulphate, 141



- Hodge (F.), appointed Director of the South-west Museum, Los Angeles, 20
- Hodgson (J. L.), The Problem of Industrial and Communal Waste, 444
- Hodgson (T.), Applied Mathematics for Engineers. Vol. 3: Differential Equations with Applications (*Review*), 9
- Hodsman (H. J.), Atmospheric Pollution, 460
- Hoff (H. E.), [J. C. Eccles and], The Rhythmic Discharge of Motoneurons, 373
- Hoffert (W. H.), and G. Claxton, Motor Benzole: its Production and Use (*Review*), 9
- Hoffmann (J.), Behaviour of Alkali Glasses containing Chlorine, Fluorine, and Sulphate Ions, etc., 735
- Hogan (M. A.), [S. M. Dixon and], Tests on Timber Pit Props, 319
- Hogarth (T. W.), The Coloured and Colour Breeding (*Review*), 925
- Hogben (Prof. L.): Genetic Principles in Medicine and Social Science (*Review*), 345; E. Charles, and D. Slome, Influence of Pituitary on the Ovaries, 619; R. L. Worrall, and I. Zieve, The Genetic Basis of Alcaptonuria, 914
- Holland (J. H.), Ledger Bark and Red Bark, 413
- Holland (Sir Thomas), elected President of the Geological Society of London, 396
- Holland (Dr. W. J.), The Butterfly Book: a Popular and Scientific Manual, describing and depicting all the Butterflies of the United States and Canada (*Review*), 703
- Holleman (Dr. L. W. J.), [Dr. R. S. Tjaden Modderman and], Coacervation, 654
- Hollings (H.), and Dr. R. H. Griffith, Activated Adsorption of Hydrogen, 834
- Holmes (Prof. A.), Lead Content of Rocks, 20; The Geochemistry of Igneous Rocks (*Review*), 261
- Holmyard (Dr. E. J.), Inorganic Chemistry: a Textbook for Colleges and Schools (*Review*), 919; Lavoisier (*Review*), 598; Science as one of the Humanities (*Review*), 418; The Assembly of the Sages (*Review*), 670
- Holter (H.), [Linderström-Lang and], Enzyme Distribution in Growing Tissues, 764; Micro-Methods and Enzyme Studies, 729
- Hooton (Prof. E. A.), The American Criminal, 864
- Hopkins (Sir Frederick Gowland), Problems of Specificity in Biochemical Catalysis (Robert Boyle Lecture), 322
- Hornby (A. J. W.), Reactions of Horizons in Tropical Soils, 58
- Horne (A. R.), Graphical Analysis of Internal Combustion Engine Indicator Diagrams, 914
- Hough (Dr. W.), Decorative Motives in Celebes, 799
- Houston (W. V.), [J. S. Campbell and],  $e/m$  from the Zeeman Effect, 693
- Houstoun (Dr. R. A.), Absorption of Light, 625
- Hromatka (O.), [E. Späth and], Dehydration of Sapogenin, 915
- Hubert (Prof. E. E.), An Outline of Forest Pathology (*Review*), 631
- Hückel (Dr. E.), and Prof. W. Hückel, Theory of Induced Polarities in Benzene, 937
- Hückel (Prof. W.): Theoretische Grundlagen der organischen Chemie. 2 Band (*Review*), 40; [Dr. E. Hückel and], Theory of Induced Polarities in Benzene, 937
- Hudson (H.), [Prof. T. M. Lowry and], Absorption and Circular Dichroism of Optically Active Substances, 33
- Hudson (O. F.), and J. McKeown, Properties of Copper in Relation to Low Stresses (1), 446
- Hughes (A.), J. Schulman, and Prof. E. K. Rideal, Examination of Protein Films, 21
- Hughes (A. R.), [Rev. William Hughes and], Liquid Drops on the same Liquid Surface, 59
- Hughes (H. W. McKenny), Induced Melanism in Lepidoptera, 662
- Hughes (Rev. William), and A. R. Hughes, Liquid Drops on the same Liquid Surface, 59
- Hulthén (Prof. E.): Nuclear Spin and Hyperfine Structure in Band Spectra, 56; and A. Heimer, Spectrum of Bismuth Hydride, 399
- Hume-Rothery (Dr. W.), The Metallic State: Electrical Properties and Theories (*Review*), 116
- Humphrey (C. J.), Wood Decay in Motor Cars in the Tropics, 431
- Humphreys (Dr. W. J.): Atmospheric Changes and Climate, 368; [W. A. Bentley and], Snow Crystals (*Review*), 778
- Humphries (Annie), [J. B. Butler and], On the Growth in Artificial Media of *Catenaria anguillulae*, 553
- Hunt (Theresa M.), [Dr. C. E. P. Brooks and], The Zonal Distribution of Rainfall over the Earth, 806
- Hurst (Dr. C. C.), The Wild Roses of Central Europe (*Review*), 488
- Huskins (Prof. C. L.), Chromosomes of an Unfixable Dwarf Wheat, 134; [and Stanley G. Smith], Chromosomes of *Sorghum*, 835
- Hutchinson (A.), and C. C. Lucas, The Epithalassa of the Strait of Georgia, 466
- Hutchinson (Dr. A. G.), appointed University Demonstrator in Mineralogy and Petrology in Cambridge University, 408
- Hutton (Dr. R. S.), appointed Goldsmiths Professor of Metallurgy in Cambridge University, 408
- Huxley (Aldous), Brave New World: a Novel (*Review*), 597; T. H. Huxley as a Man of Letters (Huxley Memorial Lecture), 715
- Huxley (Prof. J. S.): Antlers of Deer, 26; Field Studies and Physiology: a Correlation in the Field of Avian Reproduction, 166; Problems of Relative Growth (*Review*), 775; What Dare I Think? The Challenge of Modern Science to Human Action and Belief (*Review*), 295; and A. Wolsky, Structure of Normal and Mutant Eyes in *Gammarus chevreuxi*, 242
- Hyde, Tomlinson, and Allan, Performance of Gears, 538
- Ibbs (T. L.), and A. C. R. Wakeman, Nature of the Carbon Dioxide Molecule, 248
- Idrac (P.), A Submarine Temperature Recorder, 214
- Ilford, Ltd., New Emulsion Sensitive to the Infra-Red, 500
- Illing (V. C.), conferment upon, of title of Reader by London University, 177
- Imms (Dr. A. D.), Les Coaptations chez les insectes (*Review*), 887; Recent Advances in Entomology (*Review*), 150; Social Behaviour in Insects (*Review*), 153
- Infeld (L.), [S. Szczeniowski and], Effect produced by a Cloud of Electrons on the Structure of the De Broglie Wave, 106
- Innes (Dr. R. T. A.), Atmospheric Changes and Climate, 368
- Ionescu (T. V.), and C. Mihul, Ionised Gases in the Magnetic Field: Proof of the Existence of the Spinning Electron, 290
- Ireton (H. J. C.), [Prof. J. C. McLennan, H. S. Wynne-Edwards, and], Auroral Heights in Canada, 135
- Irvine (Sir J. C.): Molecular Structure of Polysaccharides, 470; and Prof. W. N. Haworth jointly awarded the Longstaff Medal of the Chemical Society, 865
- Isaacs (Dr. Susan), The Children we Teach: Seven to Eleven Years (*Review*), 673
- Itô (Kyôzi), [Torahiko Terada, Sin Tanaka, and], Water-Jet affected by Tobacco Smoke, 615
- Ives (H. C.), Natural Trigonometric Functions to Seven Decimal Places for every Ten Seconds of Arc, together with Miscellaneous Tables (*Review*), 9
- Iwanenko (D.), The Neutron Hypothesis, 798
- Iyer (Waksman and], An Artificial Humus, 800
- Izikowitz (Dr. K. G.), The Drum in South America, 547
- Jackson (A. B.), [W. Dallimore and], A Handbook of Coniferae: including Ginkgoaceae. Second edition (*Review*), 631
- Jackson (F. K.), and R. L. M. Ghose, Protection of Herbarium Specimens, 402
- Jackson (F. W.), and O. Jones, Water-Protein Ratio of Lean Meat, etc., 770
- Jackson (G. C. A.), Geology of the N'Changa District, Northern Rhodesia, 589
- Jacqué (L.), Action of Petrols arising from the Catalytic Hydrogenation of Coal-Tar as Stabilisers, 141
- Jacquet (P.), [H. Figour and], Comparison of the Electrolytic Deposits of Zinc and Cadmium, 879
- von Jaczewski (Prof. A. A.), [death], 894



- Jakob (Dr. Max), Steam Research in Europe and America, 163
- James (Dr. W. O.), An Introduction to Plant Physiology (*Review*), 887
- Janot (M.), [R. Delaby, R. Charonnat, and], Radio-activity of the Waters from some Summits of the Vosges, 214
- Jarrett (Y. H. C.), Further Spread of the Land-Snail *Achatina fulica*, 692
- Jarry, Extraction of the Phenols in Tar Oils by Liquid Ammonia, 519
- Jars (Gabriel), Bicentenary of, 160
- Jay (A. H.), [A. J. Bradley and], Formation of Super-Lattices in Alloys of Iron and Aluminium, 289
- Jeans (Sir James), elected an Honorary Member of the Washington Academy of Sciences, 540; The Expanding Universe (Ludwig Mond Lecture), 787; traduit de l'anglais par A. Sallin, Les étoiles dans leurs courses (*Review*), 925
- Jeavons (A.), [E. W. Thompson and], Boilerworks' Practice, 209
- Jedrejowski (H.), The Mobility of Radioactive Atoms on the Surfaces of Solid Bodies, 842
- Jeffcott (H. H.), The Performance of a Reservoir sub-jected to Flood, 106
- Jeffreys (Dr. H.), Seismology (*Review*), 487
- Jellinek (A.), Training Experiments with Long-tailed Monkeys, *Cercopithecus* (1) and (2), 591
- Jenkin (Prof. C. F.), Mechanics of Shifting Sand, 309; Pressure on Retaining Walls, 585
- Jenkins (Dr. E. H.), [death], 88
- Jenkins (Dr. F. A.), and Muriel Ashley, Nuclear Spin of Phosphorus from the Band Spectrum, 829
- Jensen (H. L.), The Actinomycetales (2), 70
- Jensen (H. R.), The Chemistry, Flavouring, and Manufacture of Chocolate Confectionery and Cocoa (*Review*), 189
- Jevons (Dr. W.), The Auroral Spectrum in the Infra-Red, 759
- Johannsen (Prof. A.), A Descriptive Petrography of the Igneous Rocks. Vol. 1 (*Review*), 636
- John (C. C.), New Observations on *Cephalodiscus*, 763; Origin of Erythrocytes in Herring (*Clupea harengus*), 253
- John (T.), [Dr. S. T. Bowden and], Carbon Monoxide from Carbonates, 833
- John (W. J.), Bushings for Outdoor Transformers, 173
- Johnson (A. E.), [H. J. Tapsell and], Properties of Copper in Relation to Low Stresses (2), 446
- Johnson (L. R.), [W. A. Millard, S. Burr, and], Potato Sickness, 367
- Johnson (M. C.), Surface Heating by Neutralised Positive Rays, 553
- Joicey (J. J.), [obituary article], 535
- Jolibois (P.), and G. Fouriet, The Photographic Registration of pH during Reactions in Solution, 698; The Photographic Registration or Reactions between Electrolytes, 590
- Joliot (F.), [Mme. Irène Curie and], Nature of the Penetrating Radiation excited in Light Nuclei by the  $\alpha$ -Particles, 807
- Jolles (Z.), The Oxidising Properties of Normal Diazo-Hydrates, 215
- Jolly (M. S.), [Dr. E. Philip Smith and], Stomatal Movement and Hydrogen Ion Concentration, 544
- Jones (A. Bassett), [Ll. J. Llewellyn and], Physiology of Rheumatism, 247
- Jones (B.), Geology of the Fairbourne-Llwyngwrl District, Merioneth, 698
- Jones (E. Gwynne), [Dr. H. Schüler and], Isotopic Constitution of Lead, 833
- Jones (E. T.), Fatuoids or False Wild Oats, 617
- Jones (H. Chapman), [death], 391; [obituary article], 570
- Jones (Dr. H. Spencer), Parallax of Eros, 208
- Jones (Prof. Ll. Rodwell), The Geography of London River (*Review*), 350
- Jones (O.): Nitrite in Cured Meats, 770; [F. W. Jackson and], Water-Protein Ratio of Lean Meat, etc., 770
- Jones (Tudor), Behaviour of Bielchowsky-stained Neuro-fibrillæ between Crossed Nicols, 506
- Jones and Bradshaw, Transport Numbers, 404
- Jordan (Dr. K.), The Butterflies of America (*Review*), 703
- Jost (Prof. L.), elected a Foreign Member of the Linnean Society of London, 753
- Jung (C.), Calculation of the Ureo-secretory Coefficient considering the Two Kidneys separately, 734
- Kadam (B. S.), Mutation in Rice, 616
- Kahane (E.), The Possibility of destroying considerable quantities of Organic Substances by Means of Per-chloric Acid, 34
- Kamienski (Prof. B.), An Electrostatic Explanation of the Phenomenon of Flotation, 59
- Kapitza (Prof. P.): Magnetostriction in Strong Fields, 728; and Dr. J. D. Cockcroft, Hydrogen Liquefaction Plant at the Royal Society Mond Laboratory, 224
- Kapp (R. O.), and C. G. Carrothers, and H. Pearce and T. T. Evans, Breaking Circuits and Clearing Faults on Large Networks, 658
- Kappers (Dr. C. U. Ariëns), Some Correlations between the Brain and the Skull (David Ferrier Lecture), 878
- Karandikar (J. V.), [U. R. Ramanathan and], Non-polar Auroral Light from the Night Sky in the Tropics, 545
- Karantassiss (T.), and L. Capatos, Action of Ammonia and Amines on Germanium Tetriodide, 142
- Karl (A.), Estimation of Radium in the Presence of the Sulphates of the Alkaline Earths, 519
- Karrer (Prof. P.), Isolation of Vitamin A, 88
- Kaye (W. C.), and C. S. Durst, Some Examples of the Development of Depressions which affect the Atlantic, 68
- Keen (Dr. B. A.), Soil Physics in Relation to Meteorology (G. J. Symons Memorial Lecture), 463
- Keenan (P. C.), Photographic Photometry, 100
- Keith (Sir Arthur), Can Race Progress be Rationalised? 572; Human Skulls from South Africa, 90; Some Aspects of the Modern Conflict between Sentiment and Reason (Stephen Paget Memorial Lecture), 948; The Aryan Theory as it stands To-day (Frazer Lecture), 392; The Constitution of the Human Body (*Review*), 115
- Keller (Dr. R.), Synopsis Rosarum Spontanearum Europæ Mediæ: Übersicht über die mitteleuropäischen Wild-rosen mit besonderer Berücksichtigung ihrer schweizerischen Fundorte (*Review*), 488
- Kelly (M. A. E.), Reindeer Ranching in Northern Canada, 609
- Kemp (C. F. B.), Some Properties of the Sound emitted by Airscrews, 253
- Kemp (Dr. S.): The South Sandwich Islands, 282; and A. L. Nelson, *Discovery Reports. The South Sandwich Islands, with a Report on Rock Specimens*, by Dr. G. W. Tyrrell, 731
- Kennedy (R. J.), and E. M. Thorndike, A Search for an Electrostatic Analogue to the Gravitational Red Shift, 484
- Kennedy-Fraser (Dr. D.), Education of the Backward Child (*Review*), 673
- Kerr (Prof. Graham), *Spirula* from the Dana Expeditions, 403
- Kershaw (H.), [Dr. J. D. Cockcroft, Dr. C. D. Ellis, and], A Large Permanent Magnet, 764
- Key (A.), [H. M. Dawson and], Determination of Ionisation Constants of Acids in Aqueous Alcoholic Solutions on the Basis of Catalytic Effects, 214
- Khan (Col. Nawab Malik Sir Umar Hayat), Hawks as Decoys, 91
- Kiaer (Prof. J.), [obituary], 88
- Kiffe (E.), [J. Kisser, R. Stasser, S. Göllner, and], Bending due to Wounds in Dicotyledon Seedlings and their Material Causes, 627
- Kikoin (I.), and B. Lasarew, Hall Effect and Supercon-ductivity, 57
- King (A. T.), Sulphur Assimilation in Wool Growth, 938
- King (Prof. E. S.), [obituary], 159
- Kingsbury (H.), and R. A. Goodman, Cable Telegraphy, 90
- Kipping (Dr. F. B.), [Prof. F. S. Kipping and], Perkin and Kipping's Organic Chemistry. New edition (*Review*), 331



- Kipping (Prof. F. S.), and Dr. F. B. Kipping, Perkin and Kipping's Organic Chemistry. New edition (*Review*), 331
- Kirchner (Prof. F.), Polish on Metals, 545
- Kirkaldy (Prof. A. W.), [obituary article], 122
- Kirrmann (A.), and R. Rambaud, A New Example of the Allyl Transposition, 770
- Kisser (J.), and M. Lorenz, Chemical Stimulation of the Germination of *Pisum* and *Triticum* under Optimum Germination Conditions, 628; R. Stasser, E. Kiffe, and S. Göllner, Bending due to Wounds in Dicotyledon Seedlings and their Material Causes, 627
- Kistiakovsky (V.), The Problem of Corrosion of Metallic Parts of Oil Tankers, 411
- Kitajima, Ammonium Phosphomolybdate, 172
- Kitirô (Prof. T.), Orthographical Relief, 683
- Kling (A.), and D. Florentin, Mode of Action of Scission Catalysts in Hydrogenation Cracking of Hydrocarbons with a Polycyclic Nucleus, 142; [C. Matignon, Florentin, and], Transformation of Saturated Acyclic Hydrocarbons into Ethylenic Hydrocarbons, 698
- Klinkerfues (W.), Possible Early Observation of the Bielid Meteors, 101
- Klimowski (W.), [M. Hlasko and], The Conductivity of Certain Mineral Acids and the Mobility of the Hydrogen Ion, 106
- Glumb (Dr. H.), [Dr. M. von Brandenstein and], Vacuum Pump Liquids, 620
- Knapp (W.), Action of *o*-Phthalyl Chloride on the Methyl Ethers of  $\beta$ -Naphthol and of  $\beta$ -Thionaphthol, 915
- Kneser (H. O.), Vibrational Specific Heat of Carbon Dioxide, 797
- Knight (Dr. Margery), and Mary W. Parke, Manx Algæ: an Algal Survey of the South End of the Isle of Man (*Review*), 744
- Knox-Shaw (Dr. H.), Double-Star Astronomy, 272; re-elected President of the Royal Astronomical Society, 275
- Kohlrausch (Prof. K. W. F.): The Raman Effect and Chemical Structure, 802; [A. Dadiou, A. Pongratz, and], The Raman Effect (18), 735
- Kolhörster (Prof. W.), Vertical Tube Counter- and the Barometric-Effect of Cosmic Radiation at Sea-level, 471
- Koller (P. Ch.), Constitution of the X-Chromosome in *Drosophila obscura*, 616
- Komlev (L.), The Radium Content in the Water of Oil Wells in the Novo-Grozny District, 35
- Kopfermann (H.), Spectra of Lead Isotopes, 946
- Körber (Dr. F.), Plastic Deformation of Metals, 717
- Körner (Prof. O.), Die homerische Tierwelt. Zweite Auflage (*Review*), 221
- Kotila (J. E.), Tuber Indexing for Controlling Potato Virus Diseases, 100
- Kotter (E.), [L. Schmid and], Chemical Investigation of Verbascum Flowers, 915
- Kramer (Dr. J. B.), The Early History of Magnetism, 428
- Krawczynski (A. M.), [A. Perret and], Some Complex Peroxides of Hexamethylene-tetramine, 411
- Krejci and Schacherl, The Flow of Phosphorus, 657
- Křepelka (Prof. H.), and Dr. B. Rejha, Anhydrous and Hydrated Manganese Sulphate, 284; The Anhydride and Hydrates of Manganese Sulphate, 771
- Krieger (H. W.), West Indian Prehistoric Pottery, 656
- Krishnan (M. S.), and C. Mahadeven, Giant Pleochroic Haloes, 135
- Krogh (A.), Secretion of Salt through the Gills of Fishes, 626
- Krombach (H.), [E. Cornec and], A Physical Method for the Determination of Potassium Chloride in Sylvinites, 554
- Kroupa (A.), [A. Franke, Theodora Panzer, and], Ring Contraction in the Formation of Internal Ethers (Oxides) from Glycols, 735
- Kryloff (Prof. P. N.), [obituary article], 534
- Kudo (Prof. R. R.), Handbook of Protozoology (*Review*), 563
- Kühn (Prof. A.), Grundriss der allgemeinen Zoologie. Vierte Auflage (*Review*), 925
- Kuhn (Prof. R.), Induced Molecular Asymmetry, 512
- Kurbatov (L.), [V. Baranov and], The Radium Content of the Petroliferous Waters in the Grozny District, 34
- L. (W. W.), The Revival of Scholasticism, 508
- Laby (Prof. T. H.): Geophysical Prospecting, 579; Physical Research in Melbourne University, 715
- Lacoss (D. A.), [A. W. C. Menzies and], Allotropy of Liquid Benzene, 843
- de Lagaye (J.), Visibility of Mont Blanc at the Summit of the Puy de Dôme, 142
- Lagron (L.), Translated by R. C. Simpson and Dr. M. G. Say. Polyphase Induction Motors: their Theory, Calculation, and Application (*Review*), 708
- Laigret (J.): [P. Durand and], Pustular Fever and 'Marseilles Fever', 554; [C. Nicolle and], A Bacterium analogous with *Rickettsia* in the Vaginal Tunic of Guinea-pigs and Rats, 590; [A. W. Sellards and], Vaccination of Man against Yellow Fever, 915
- Lake (H. C.), Mummer's Plays, 835
- Lakhovsky (G.), A New Method of Filtration and Sterilisation Permitting the Production of a Bactericidal Water, 291
- Laland (P.), [O. Rygh, A. Rygh, and], Origin of Vitamin C, 283
- Lallemant (A.), Preparation of Two Types of Aqueous Solutions of Cobaltous Salts, 178
- Lambert (P.), and J. Lecomte, The Infra-red Absorption Spectra of Hydrocarbons with Nucleus, 662
- Lambert (W. D.), Stokes's Formula in Geodesy, 831
- Lammert and Morgan, The Quinhydrone Electrode, 728
- Lampadarios (Prof. D.), Aerial Phototriangulation, 207
- Lampariello (G.), Levi-Civita's Differential Equations in the Problem of Liquid Jets, 807; Waves of Discontinuity in the more general Elastic Media, 554
- Lamb (Miss Winifred), Troy, 511
- Lander (Prof. C. H.), Oil and Petrol from Coal, 640, 676
- Landis (J.), [F. Chodat and], Nutrition of the Yeasts, 771
- Landreth (Prof. O. H.), [death], 88
- Lane-Poole (Dr. S. E.), [obituary article], 122
- Lang (H. B.), and J. A. Paterson, Functional Psychoses, 483
- Langdon-Davies (J.), Science and Common Sense (*Review*), 331
- Lapworth (Prof. A.), and Prof. R. Robinson, Distribution of Electrons in the Aromatic Nucleus and the Early Stages of Aromatic Substitutions, 278
- Lasarew (B.), [I. Kikoin and], Hall Effect and Superconductivity, 57
- Lasseur (P.), A. Dupaux, and M. Grojean, Factors of Stability of Bacterial Suspensions heated to 80° C., 447
- Laufer (B.), Cormorant Fishing in China, 231
- Lautié (R.), [E. Carrière and], Determination of Molybdenum by Potassium Permanganate, 770
- Lawrence (Miss E. M.), Inheritance of Intelligence, 247
- Lawrence (E. O.), [D. H. Sloan and], High Speed Ions, 319
- Lawrence (W. J. C.), Genetics of the Dahlia, 99; Interaction of Flavones and Anthocyanins, 834
- Lea (A. M.), [obituary article], 786
- Leach (E. P.), [H. F. Witherby and], British Migration elucidated by Ringing Methods, 282
- Leakey (Dr. L. S. B.), Early Man in East Africa, 607; Presentation of Implements from the Oldoway Bed to the British Museum, 537; The Oldoway Human Skeleton, 715, 721
- Leask (Dr. H. L. G.), elected Vice-President of the Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow, 504
- Lebard (P.), Influence of Altitude on the Tuber Formation of the Potato, 326
- Le Bon (Dr. G.), [obituary article], 49
- Lebzelter (V.), [M. Gusinde and], Somatology of the Indians of Tierra del Fuego, 699
- Leclère (M. and Mme.), Separation of the Thiophene Hydrocarbons contained in Oils with High Sulphur, 374
- Lecomte (J.), [P. Lambert and], The Infra-Red Absorption Spectra of Hydrocarbons with Nucleus, 662
- Lee (Col.), The Brothers Varley, 752
- Leeman (Dr. A. C.), Active Plant Immunity, 908
- Legge (Sir Thomas), [death], 751; [obituary article], 821
- Legroux (R.), Transmissible Bacterial Lysis, 326
- Leitz (E.), The Leica Camera, 765
- Lemarchands and Sirot, Determination of Barium as Chromate, 915



- Lemesle (R.), A Structural Peculiarity in the Various Species of *Kadsura*, 326
- Le Mesurier (L. J.), Spontaneous Ignition Temperatures, 765
- Lenard (Dr. P.), presented with the Franklin Medal, 894
- Leonard (J. H.), [obituary article], 15
- Le Rolland (P.), and Tchang Te Lou, A New Electrical Method for the Determination of the Dew Point, applicable to Thermal Machines, 374
- Lespieau (R.), A Method of Preparation of True Acetylenic Primary Alcohols, 374; M. Bourguet, and R. Wake-mann, The Raman Effect and Chemistry, 69
- Leulier (A.), and F. Postic, Influence of Nitration and of Amination on the Physical and Physiological Properties of Methylphenylmalonyl Urea, etc., 255
- Levaditi (C.), J. Bardet, A. Tehakirian, and A. Vaisman, The Therapeutic Properties of Indium in Trypano-somiasis and in Experimental Syphilis, 374
- Levene (Dr. P. A.), and Dr. L. W. Bass, Nucleic Acids (*Review*), 44
- Lewis (Dr. E. O.), and others, Mental Deficiency, 287
- Lewis (F.), Vanishing Life of Australia, 724
- Lewis (K. G.), [A. J. Sidery, H. Sutton, and], Inter-crystalline Corrosion of Duralumin, 446
- Lewis (W. B.), and C. B. Wynn-Williams, Origin of the  $\gamma$ -Rays from Actinium Emanation, 873
- Leyshon (W. A.), Periodic Movements of the Negative Glow in Discharge Tubes, 373
- Liberson (W.), [R. Bonnardel and], Physiology of Human Work at High Altitudes, 807
- Liengme (A.), Study of the Human Blood Groups in Hæmophilia, 627
- Lighthall (Dr. W. D.), Iroquoian Origins, 474
- Linderström-Lang (K.), and H. Holter, Enzyme Distribu-tion in Growing Tissues, 764; Micro-Methods and Enzyme Studies, 729
- Lindsay (H. A. F.), Modern Trade Tendencies and Where they are Leading, 551
- Lindsey (Prof. A. W.), The Problems of Evolution (*Review*), 9
- Ling-Chao (Chien), [Ny Tsi-Ze and], Photographic Effect of Pressure, 951
- Lipman (Prof. C. B.), and L. Greenberg, A New Auto-trophic Bacterium which Oxidises Ammonia directly to Nitrate and Decomposes Petroleum, 204
- Lipman (C. L.), Electrical Protective Devices, 319
- Lippay (F.), Contraction of Skeletal Muscle during Deficient Formation of Lactic Acid, 879
- Lippert (J.), Translated and Edited by Prof. G. P. Murdock, The Evolution of Culture (*Review*), 779
- Lister (Miss G.), Cytology of Mycetozoa, 131
- Liu (Ch'eng-Chao), Sexual Behaviour in Frogs and Toads, 403
- Llewellyn (F. H.), [H. R. Nettleton and], The Measurement of Electrical Resistance in Terms of a Mutual Inductance and a Period, 373
- Llewellyn (Ll. J.): Light and Sexual Periodicity, 868; and A. Bassett Jones, Physiology of Rheumatism, 247
- Lloyd (Dr. Ll.), Biological Estimation of the Quality of Sewage Effluents, 577
- Lobstein (E.), and J. Grumbach, Study of an Alkaloid extracted from the Root of *Stemona tuberosa*, a Chinese-Annamese drug, 411
- Lochte-Holtgreven (Dr. W.), C. E. H. Bawn, and E. Eastwood, Photochemical Dissociation of Carbonyl Sulphide, 869
- Lockyer (Dr. W. J. S.), The Corona in the Eclipse of October 1930, 801
- Lockwood (H. C.), The Freezing Point of Milk, 770
- Lodge (Sir Oliver), awarded the Faraday Medal of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, 199; Past Years: an Autobiography (*Review*), 74; presented with the Faraday Medal of the Institution of Electrical Engi-neers, 643; Science and Human Experience (*Review*), 147; The Expanding Universe, 434
- Lorentz (Prof. H. A.), Vorlesungen über theoretische Physik an der Universität Leiden. Band 5: Die Maxwell'sche Theorie (1900-1902). Bearbeitet von Dr. K. Bremekamp (*Review*), 672
- Lorenz (M.), [J. Kisser and], Chemical Stimulation of the Germination of Pisum and Triticum under Optimum Germination Conditions, 628
- Loria (Prof. G.), Il passato e il presente delle principali teorie geometriche; storia e bibliografia. Quarta edizione (*Review*), 44; Storia delle matematiche. Vol. 2 (*Review*), 44
- Lotka (A. J.), The Mathematical Theory of Capture (1), 843
- Lotsy (Dr. J. P.), [obituary article], 14
- Lou (Tchang Te), [P. Le Rolland and], A New Electrical Method for the Determination of the Dew Point, applicable to Thermal Machines, 374
- Lovern (J.), Halibut Liver Oil as a Source of Vitamin A, 726
- Low (A. J.), Climate and Parent Material in Soil Forma-tion in South-West England, 655
- Low (B. B.), Mathematics: a Text-book for Technical Students (*Review*), 358
- Lowndes (A. G.), The Elutriator in Biology, 440
- Lowry (Prof. T. M.): Catalysis in an Inert Solvent, 510; Inorganic Chemistry. Second edition (*Review*), 704; and C. B. Allsop, Refractive Dispersion and the Problem of 'Optical Exaltation', 33; and H. K. Gore, Optical Rotatory Power of Vapours, 33, 213; and H. Hudson, Absorption and Circular Dichroism of Optically Active Substances, 33
- Lowson (W.), [Prof. H. M. Dawson and], Catalytic Effect of Acids on the Rate of Ester Hydrolysis in Relation to the Ester Concentration and the Nature of the Acid, 734
- Lowther (A.), Turkey Crosses, 799
- Lucas (A. H. S.), Australian Marine Algæ (6), 255
- Lucas (C. C.), [A. Hutchinson and], The Epithalassa of the Strait of Georgia, 466
- Ludendorff (Prof. H.), elected an Associate of the Royal Astronomical Society, 894
- Ludlam (E. B.), [H. W. Melville and], Oxidation of Phos-phorus, 585
- Lukens (Lieut.-Commr. R. R.), Submerged Canyon of the Hudson River, 464
- Lundell (C. L.), Discovery of a New Mayan Site in Yucatan, 789
- Lundmark (Dr. K.), The Light Variation of Cepheids, 249
- Lüschen (Dr. F.), Modern Communication Systems, 682
- Lusk (Prof. G.), elected a foreign member of the Royal Society, 865
- Lydall (F.), Electrification of the Great India Peninsula Railway, 935
- Lyon (Dr. D. O.), Das periodische System in neuer An-ordnung: mit Tabellen über Fünfzehn physikalische Konstanten in Anordnung nach der Ordnungszahl der Elemente und nach der Grösse der Konstanten. Zweite Auflage (*Review*), 707
- Lyons (J.), and W. Finlay, Accuracy of Fat Determinations in Butter-milk, and the Effect of the Presence of Lecithin, 290; Influence of Heating and Agitating Milk before Separation on the Fat Loss in Skim Milk, 106
- Lyot (B.), Photography of the Solar Corona apart from Eclipses, 141; Study of the Solar Corona with the Spectro Heliograph otherwise than during an Eclipse, 447
- Maberly (Dr. F. H.), A Symbol of the Space-Time Con-tinuum, 317
- McAlpine (Miss J.), Blanching of a Bay Horse, 683
- MacBride (Prof. E. W.), Development of the Vertebral Column, 872; Inheritance of Acquired Characters, 900; Methods of Birth Control (*Review*), 922; Migratory Impulse of Birds (*Review*), 561
- McCance (D.), Weathering of the Older Basalt of Royal Park, Melbourne, 326
- McConnell (Prof. A. J.), Applications of the Absolute Differential Calculus (*Review*), 223; [Prof. A. W. Conway and], Determination of Hamilton's Principal Function, 950
- McCown (T.), Discovery of Neanderthal Man in Palestine, 790
- MacCurdy (G. G.), Use of Rock Crystal by Palæolithic Man, 591
- McDonald (F. G.), [C. E. Bills and], Synthesis of Vitamin D, 50



- MacDonald (Mr. Ramsay), Speech at Opening of Extension of Geology and Engineering Departments of Edinburgh University, 211
- McDougall (Prof. W.), World Chaos: the Responsibility of Science (*Review*), 295
- Macfarlane (P. R. C.), Salmon of the West Coast of Scotland, 835
- McGlynn (W.), [M. B. Welch, F. A. Coombs, and], Wattle Barks (3), 843
- MacGregor-Morris (Prof.), and H. Wright, Cathode-Ray Oscillographs, 475
- McGuire (Dr. L. P.), [Dr. C. W. Wardlaw and], Transport and Storage of Bananas, 172
- Machu (W.), [W. J. Müller, H. K. Cameron, and], The Theory of Passivity Phenomena (14), 179
- Mellvain (K.), and J. G. Brainerd, High Frequency Alternating Currents (*Review*), 187
- Mackay (E.), Jemdet Nasr, 26; Prehistoric Sind and Sumeria, 61
- Mackay (Dr. Helen M. M.), assisted by L. Goodfellow, with a Statistical Appendix by A. B. Hill, Nutritional Anæmia in Infancy: with Special Reference to Iron Deficiency, 156
- McKay (R.), [P. A. Murphy and], The Compound Nature of Crinkle and its Production by Means of a Mixture of Viruses, 625
- Mackenzie (Sir Leslie), A Health Administrator's Attitude to Geography, 139
- McKeown (J.), [O. F. Hudson and], Properties of Copper in Relation to Low Stresses (1), 446
- Mackintosh (N. A.), Whales in the Antarctic, 806
- McLachlan (Dr. N. W.): Air Column Resonances and Symmetrical Modes of Truncated Conical Shells (Loud Speaker Diaphragms), 202; Discs and Conical Diaphragms in Sound Reproduction, 549; Moving Coil Reproducers and Flexible Disks, 441; The Symmetrical Modes of Vibration of Truncated Conical Shells with Applications to Loud-Speaker Diaphragms, 769; and G. A. V. Sowter, Conical Diaphragms and Sound Reproduction, 62
- McLean (L.), General Expression for Intensity of Hydrogen Lines, 25
- McLennan (Prof. J. C.): Electrical Conductivity of Metals at the Lowest Temperature, 858; retirement; the work of, 123; and A. C. Burton, Selective Heating by Short Radio Waves, 367; and others, Superconductivity for Alternating Currents, 836; H. S. Wynne-Edwards, and H. J. C. Iretton, Auroral Heights in Canada, 135; A. C. Burton, A. Pitt, and J. O. Wilhelm, The Phenomena of Superconductivity with Alternating Currents of High-Frequency, 409
- Macleod (Dr. D. B.), Demonstration of Wave Groups, 836
- Macleod (J. J. R.), [C. Donhoffer and], The Nervous Control of Carbo-Hydrate Metabolism, 178
- Macmillan (Capt. H.), Tariff Commission and a Scientific Policy, 271; The State and Industry in 1932, 557
- MacMillan (Prof. W. D.), Velocities of the Spiral Nebulæ, 93
- Macnaughton (D.), Planetary Positions on Medieval Maps, 725
- McNeil (J.), Nickel in Marine Engineering, 503
- MacQueen (A. C.), [H. Blades and], Change-over from Direct to Alternating Current, 644
- Madsen (K.), Inheritance of Milking Capacity, 165
- Maeterlinck (M.), translated by B. Miall, The Life of the Ant (*Review*), 79
- Magnus (Laurie), Plato and the Modern Age, 473
- Mahadeven (C.), [M. S. Krishnan and], Giant Pleochroic Haloes, 135
- Mahajan (Prof. L. D.), Effect of Light on the Surface Tension of Boys's Soap Solution, 133
- Mahendru (Ishwar Das), [H. G. Champion and], Volume Tables for Timber of *Acacia Catechu*, 404
- Maignon (F.), and M. A. Chahine, The Nitrogen Balances in White Rats submitted to Egg Albumin Fat and to Egg Albumin Glucide Regimes, 255
- Maille (A.), and Renaudie, Transformation of Ketones into Liquid Hydrocarbons, 447
- Mair (Miss L. C.), awarded a Rockefeller Fellowship for Research Work in Africa, 311
- Makemson (Dr. Maud W.), Atmosphere Changes and Climate, 368
- Mal (Dr. Sobhag), S. Basu, and B. N. Desai, Structure and Development of Temperature Inversions in the Atmosphere, 97
- Malcolm (L. W. G.), appointed a Lecturer on Racial Hygiene at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 105
- de Malleman (R.), and P. Gabiano: The Magnetic Rotatory Power of Argon, 214; and F. Suhner, The Magnetic Rotatory Power of Neon, 590
- Mallet (L.), Ionisation Chambers of Very Small Dimensions, etc., 410
- Mallett (Dr. E.), conferment upon, of title of Reader by London University, 177
- Malurkar (S. L.), [Dr. L. A. Ramdas and], Surface Convection and the Distribution of Temperature near a Heated Surface, 201
- Manarini (M.), A Theorem of Staude-Wan der Woude relating to the Motion of a Heavy Body about a Fixed Point, 807
- Mangelsdorf (P. C.), Modification of Mendelian Ratios in Maize by Mechanical Separation of Gametes, 592
- Mangelsdorf and Reeves, Maize Hybrids with *Tripsacum*, 583
- Manouélian [Remlinger, Bailly, and], The Nerve Centres of the Tortoise inoculated with the Rabies Bacillus, 69
- Margaria (Prof. R.), Oxygen and Everest, 397
- Margenau (H.), Quantum Dynamical Correction for the Equation of State of Real Gases, 735
- Marrian (Dr. G. F.), presented with the Meldola Medal of the Institute of Chemistry, 393
- Marsh (Dr. C. D.), [death], 931
- Marshall (A.), Chemical Warfare and Disarmament, 906; Horrors of the Next World War (*Review*), 219
- Marshall (Prof. D. H.), [death], 427
- Marshall (Dr. F. H. A.), Light as a Factor in Sexual Periodicity, 344
- Marshall (Miss S. M.), [A. P. Orr and], Habits and Physiology of *Calanus*, 511; Sedimentation in Coral Reef Regions, 441
- Martin (A. E.), [Sir Robert Robertson, Dr. J. J. Fox, and], Photo-Conductivity of Diamonds, 579
- Martin (A. J. P.), [Nora Wooster and], Preparation and Mounting of Deliquescent Substances, 582
- Martineau, Oxidation of Ethyl Alcohol by Air in the Presence of Carbon-Copper Catalysts, 142; Oxidation of Ethyl Alcohol by Air in Presence of Various Binary or Tertiary Catalysts, 842
- Martinelli (Prof. G.), [death], 427
- Martynov (A.), The Suborder *Permanisoptera*, nom. n. (Odonata), and its Systematic Position, 411
- Marvin (Prof. F. S.), A New History of the Middle Ages (*Review*), 417; Science and Society (*Review*), 329; The Philosophy of Science (*Review*), 42
- Marwick (T. C.) [W. T. Astbury, J. D. Bernal, and], X-Ray Analysis of the Structure of the Wall of *Valonia ventricosa* (1), 178
- Mascarelli (L.), and D. Gatti, Diphenyl and its Derivatives (8), 70; (11), 952
- Mason (Dr. J.), Thermal Chlorination of Methane, 97
- Mason (J. A.), Colombian Archaeology, 282
- Mason (Major Kenneth), appointed Professor of Geography in the University of Oxford, 517
- Mason, Smale, Thompson, and Wheeler, Chlorination of Benzene and Toluene, 172
- Mason (W. W.), Trevithick's First Rail Locomotive, 681
- Massey (Dr. H. S. W.): Passage of Neutrons through Matter, 469; Passage of Neutrons through Matter: a Correction, 691; and C. B. O. Mohr, The Collision of Slow Electrons with Atoms (1), 325
- Massey (R. E.), and F. W. Andrews, Leaf Curl Disease of Cotton, 656
- Masson, A Compound of Nitrobenzene and Sulphuric Acid, 249
- Massy, Warren, and Wolfenden, Physical Properties of Nitrobenzene, 442
- Masters (Dr. W. E.), The Alcohol Habit and its Treatment (*Review*), 222
- Mathieu (J. P.), Influence of the Nature of the Chemical Linkages on the Production of Circular Dichroism, 69; Rotation of Naphthylene-Bisiminocamphor and the Theory of Werner Kuhn, 410



- Mathieu (M.), [D. Rosenthal and], Mild Steel Welds made with the Electric Arc, 807
- Mathur (R. N.), Leaf Curl of Cotton in Garden Zinnias in North India, 797
- Matignon (C.), Kling, and Florentin, Transformation of Saturated Acyclic Hydrocarbons into Ethylenic Hydrocarbons, 698
- Matousek (Prof. O.), Geological Study of the Moon, 442
- Matsuda, Kolbe's Reaction, 442
- Matthews (B. H. C.), appointed Assistant Director of Physiological Research in Cambridge University, 949
- Matuyama (E.), [Prof. J. Okubo and], Fluted Band at  $\lambda 3900$  Å. in the Spectrum of Mercury, 853
- Mauchly (J. W.), [Dr. G. H. Dieke and], Structure of the Third Positive Group of CO Bands, 546
- Maulik (S.), Structure of Larvæ of Hispine Beetles, 206
- Mayne (W. Wilson), Physiological Specialisation of *Hemileia vastatrix* B. and Br., 510
- Mayr (K.), Definite Integrals and Hypergeometric Functions, 915
- Mead (J. P.), Overseas Forestry Officers and Home Appointments, 906
- Mecke (Prof. R.), Spectra of Negative Ions, 27
- Mees (Dr. C. L.), [death], 822
- Megaw (E. C. S.), Gill-Morrell and Barkhausen-Kurz Oscillations, 542
- Mehl (Dr. R. F.), C. S. Barrett, and D. W. Smith, Segregation of Cementite from Austenite, 313
- Meiklejohn (A. P.), [N. Gavrilescu, R. Passmore, R. A. Peters, and], Carbohydrate Metabolism in Birds, 733
- Meillet (A.), Contact Modifications in Language, 440
- Meissner (W. W.), Chemischer Handatlas (*Review*), 851
- Mellon (A.), Work of, for the Promotion of Scientific Research, 571
- Melville (H. W.): Photochemical Decomposition of Phosphine, 546; and E. B. Ludlam, Oxidation of Phosphorus, 785
- Mendes-Corrêa (Prof. A.), Criminal Anthropology, 863
- Mennesson (M.), A Method of Measuring Lengths and Thicknesses with High Precision, 878
- Menzies (A. W. C.), and D. A. Lacoss, Allotropy of Liquid Benzene, 843
- Mercer (Dr. J.), [death], 307
- Merfield (C. J.), [obituary article], 228
- Merrill (P. W.), Spectrum of XX Ophiuchi, 909
- Metcalfe (C. R.), A Fungus Disease of Lavender, 511
- Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., Electrical Conveyors in Mines, 502
- Meybeck (J.), [M. Battegay and], The Amino-Sulphonamides, 326
- Meyer (A.), and R. Vittenet, Preparation of Homophthalic Acid by the Oxidation of Indene, 807
- Meyer (S.), Proton Numbers, Atomic Numbers, and Range of  $\alpha$ -Radiators, 735
- Meyerson (É.), Du cheminement de la pensée. Tome 1, 2, 3 (*Review*), 42
- Mezzadrolì (G.): Action of Italian Radioactive Soils on the Germination of Seeds and on the Growth of Plants, 591; Action of Ultra-Short Electromagnetic Waves on Silkworms irradiated prior to Incubation, 591; and E. Vareton, Action exerted on the Development of Silkworms by an Open Oscillating Circuit of Copper and Zinc, 142; Influence of Italian Radioactive Soils on the Development of Silkworms, 375; The Development of Silkworms, 483
- Michels (A.), and R. O. Gibson, Viscosity of Nitrogen at High Pressure, 27
- Middleton (G.), Chemical Assay of Thyroid Gland, 770
- Middleton (Sir Thomas H.), Sir William Somerville, 389
- Miesowicz (M.), [C. Zakrzewski and], Feebly Damped Short Electric Waves, 842
- Mihul (C.), [T. V. Ionescu and], Ionised Gases in the Magnetic Field: Proof of the Existence of the Spinning Electron, 290
- Miles (W. R.), Measures of Certain Human Abilities throughout the Life Span, 591
- Millar (A.), Displacement Pumping of Oil-wells, 441
- Millard (W. A.), S. Burr, and L. R. Johnson, Potato sickness, 367
- Miller (Dr. G. S.), Human Hair and Primate Patterning, 440
- Miller (J. C. P.), A New Kind of Eclipse Map, 729
- Millikan (R. A.), Cosmic Rays, 657
- Milne (Prof. E. A.), White Dwarf Stars (Halley Lecture), 803
- Milne-Thomson (Prof. L. M.), Die elliptischen Funktionen von Jacobi (*Review*), 853; Mathematics for the Practical Man (*Review*), 358; The Zeta Function of Jacobi, 914
- Minne (P.), [P. Pascal and], Existence and Preparation of Lead Suboxide, 178
- Mion, The System Water, Ethyl Alcohol, Acetic Acid, Ethyl Acetate, 178
- Mitchell (C. Ainsworth), and T. J. Ward, Sediments in Ink and in Writing, 806
- Mitchell (Sir Peter Chalmers), Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire, 340
- Mitchell (Prof. S. A.), The Corona in the Eclipse of October 1930, 801
- Mitkevitch (V.), Practical Magnetic Units, 411
- Mittra (R. N.), [Prof. N. R. Dhar and], Formation of Periodic Precipitates in the Absence of a Foreign Gel, 761
- Miyabe (Prof. N.), Movements of Crust-blocks, 321
- Miyamoto, Rates of Solution of Gas in a Liquid, 693
- Mjöberg (Dr. E.), translated by A. Barwell, Forest Life and Adventures in the Malay Peninsula (*Review*), 153
- Mnich (E.), The Phosphorus Compounds of Plants (6), 107
- Modderman (Dr. R. S. Tjaden), and Dr. L. W. J. Holleman, Coacervation, 654
- Moelwyn-Hughes (Dr. E. A.), Catalysis in an Inert Solvent, 316
- Mohr (C. B. O.), [H. W. S. Massey and], The Collision of Slow Electrons with Atoms (1), 325
- Moir (J. Reid), elected President of the Prehistoric Society of East Anglia, 464
- Montagne (P.), Formation of Acetylene, 878
- Montagne (Dr. R.), Villages et Kasbas berbères: tableaux de la vie sociale des Berbères sédentaires dans le sud du Maroc (*Review*), 80
- Montet (D.), Action of Weak Radioactivity on the Germination of Seeds, 374
- Montgomery (H. C.), Variation of Hearing with Age, 945
- Montgomery (R. E.), [death], 931
- Monypenny (J. H. G.), Stainless Iron and Steel. Second edition (*Review*), 356
- Moodie (R. L.), Egyptian and Peruvian Mummies under the X-Rays, 99
- Moore (Prof. C. L. E.), [death], 228
- Moore (Dr. E. S.), A Virus Disease of Tobacco in South Africa, 544
- Moore (Hilary B.), The Fæcal Pellets of the Anomura, 914
- Moore (J. G.), [W. E. Totttingham and], Effect of Ultra-Violet Light on Plants, 26
- Moorehead (W. K.), Archæology of the Arkansas River Valley. With Supplementary Papers on the Prehistoric Cultures of Oklahoma, by J. B. Thoburn, and the Exploration of Jacob's Cavern, by C. Peabody (*Review*), 888
- Moorfield (S. H.), Presidential Address to the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions, 802
- Moppett (Dr. W.), Selective Action of Living Tissue to Homogeneous Radiation, 133
- Morecroft (Prof. J. H.), Experimental Radio Engineering (*Review*), 595
- Morgan (Prof. Ann Haven), Field Book of Ponds and Streams: an Introduction to the Life of Fresh Water (*Review*), 154
- Morgan (Lammert and), The Quinhydrone Electrode, 728
- Morris (H. E.), [Dr. E. H. Boomer, G. H. Argue and], Apparent Formation of Copper Carbonyl, 438
- Morrison (F. R.), and R. Grant, Chemistry of the Fruit obtained from the White Cedar Tree, etc., 35
- Morrison (Dr. N.), Hibernation of Adders, 473
- Morrison (W. S.), appointed a Member of the Medical Research Council, 343
- Morton (C.), The Glass Electrode, 63
- Morton (C. V.), Yagé, a South American Drug Plant, 247
- Morton (Dr. R. A.), [Prof. I. M. Heilbron and], Photochemistry of Vitamins A, B, C, D, 866



- Moser (L.): and H. Graber, Determination and Separation of Rare Metals from other Metals (21), 179; and H. Hackhofer, Determination and Separation of Rare Metals from other Metals (20), 179
- Mothes, Natural Regulators of Protein Metabolism in Plants, 874
- Mott (N. F.), appointed University Lecturer in Mathematics in Cambridge University, 768
- Mott-Smith (H. L.), Cosmic Rays, 657
- Moullin (E. B.), A Method of Measuring the Effective Resistance of a Condenser and of a Long, Straight Wire, 290
- Mourant (A. E.), Earthquakes of the Channel Islands, 100; The Spherulitic Phylites of Jersey, 625
- Mouton (H.), [A. Cotton and], Optical Properties of a Thin Layer of Nitrobenzene submitted to Electrostatic Stress, 662
- Moynihan (Lord), The Advance of Medicine (Romanes Lecture), 934
- Moy-Thomas (J. A.), [T. H. Harrisson and], St. Kilda House Mouse, 131
- Mrozowski (S.), Nuclear Spin and Hyperfine Structure in Band Spectra, 399; The Hyperfine Structure of the Resonance Line of Mercury (2), 106
- Mukerji (J. B.), [Prof. M. N. Saha, Saligram Bhargava, and], Complex X-Ray Characteristic Spectra, 435
- Müller (Dr. A.), Rotation of Chain Molecules in Solid Paraffins, 436
- Müller (R. L.), Nature of the Ionic Conductivity of Glass, 507
- Müller (W. J.), H. K. Cameron, and W. Machu, The Theory of Passivity Phenomena (14), 179
- Munerati (O.), The Possibility of the Beetroot producing Seed the First Year in Egypt and in other Regions with a Similar Climate, 842
- Murison (C. A.), N. Stuart, and Prof. G. P. Thomson, Polish on Metals, 545
- Murphy (G. M.), [H. C. Urey, F. G. Brickwedde, and], A possible Hydrogen Isotope of Mass 2, 101
- Murphy (P. A.): The Occurrence of Virus Complexes in the Potato, 625; and R. McKay, The Compound Nature of Crinkle and its Production by Means of a Mixture of Viruses, 625
- Murr (E.), Course of Bodily Temperature in Mammals (*Putorius furo*) during Gestation, 591; Experimental Reduction, by Heat, of the Time of Gestation in the Ferret (*Putorius furo*), 591
- Murray (L. T.), A Prongbuck Playing at being Hunted, 573
- Myres (Prof. J. L.), Language through the Looking Glass (*Review*), 262; Proposed International Congress of Anthropology, 160
- Nadler (Editha), [F. Wessely and], Substances contained in the Root of *Pimpinella saxifraga* (2), 699
- Nadson (G. A.), and C. A. Stern, Action at a Distance of Metals on Bacteria and Yeasts, 915
- Naismith (R.), [Prof. E. V. Appleton and], Some Measurements of Upper Atmospheric Ionisation, 841
- Nakaé (Daib), [C. Dufraisse and], Catalysis of Autoxidation: the Antioxygen Properties of Cobalt, 590
- Nanty (T.), and M. Valet, The Specific Inductive Capacity of Colloidal Solutions, 590
- Narlikar (V. V.), awarded a Rayleigh Prize of Cambridge University, 445; The Highest Atomic Number, 402
- Natta (G.): and R. Pirani, Solid Solutions by Precipitation and Isomorphism between Complexes of Quadrivalent Tellurium and Platinum (1), 952; and L. Passerini, Sulpho-Salts having Spinal Structures, 142
- Naudé (S. M.), The Red Nitrogen Band Spectrum, 836
- Nazaroff (P. S.), [Dr. M. Burr and], Termites in the Formation of Spongy Ironstone in Africa, 27
- Neale (S. M.), and J. Hanson, The True Weight of Benzo-purpurin 4B, and the Electrical Conductivity of its Aqueous Solutions, 761
- Neblette (C. B.), Photography: its Principles and Practice. Second edition (*Review*), 814
- Needham (D. M.), Dr. J. Needham, E. Baldwin, and J. Yudkin, A Comparative Study of the Phosphagens, 373
- Needham (Dr. J.): Berkeleian Biology (*Review*), 524; Chemical Embryology. 3 vols. (*Review*), 183; [D. M. Needham, E. Baldwin, J. Yudkin, and], A Comparative Study of the Phosphagens, 373
- Needham (Prof. J. G.), A Manual of the Dragonflies of China: a Monographic Study of the Chinese Odonata (*Review*), 263
- Néel (L.), Magnetic Properties of Iron above the Curie Point, 178
- Negretti and Zambra, A Sensitive Barograph, 283; A Hair Hygrometer, 873
- Nelson (A. L.), [Dr. S. Kemp and], *Discovery Reports*. The South Sandwich Islands; with a Report on Rock Specimens, by Dr. G. W. Tyrrell, 731
- Nernst (Prof. W.), elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society, 865
- Nettleton (H. R.), and F. H. Llewellyn, The Measurement of Electrical Resistance in Terms of a Mutual Inductance and a Period, 373
- Neugebauer (Dr. P. V.): An Ancient Conjunction of the Moon and Venus, 513; [R. Hiller and], A New Canon of Ancient Solar Eclipses, 208
- Nevatt (Major C. G.), elected President of the Institution of Automobile Engineers, 575
- Neville (Prof. H. A. D.), Physics and Chemistry of the Soil (*Review*), 706
- Nevin (Prof. C. M.), Principles of Structural Geology (*Review*), 671
- Newall (Dame Bertha) (*née* Phillpotts), [obituary article], 159
- Newcomb (Dr. W. D.), awarded the Raymond Horton-Smith Prize of Cambridge University, 67
- Newens (F. R.), The Technique of Colour Photography (*Review*), 814
- Newman (Prof. F. H.), Recent Advances in Physics (Non-Atomic) (*Review*), 352
- Newman (Sir George), Health and Social Evolution (*Review*), 636
- Newman (Prof. H. H.), Twins Reared Apart, 692
- Newton and Co., Improvements in Epidiascopes, 502
- Newton (Prof. Lily), A Handbook of the British Seaweeds (*Review*), 563
- Nicholas (S. D.), Preparation of Anhydrous Chlorides and Metallic Couples, 581
- Nichols (Dr. J. E.), *Ovis astore*, a Three-Coated Sheep, 436
- Nicholson (Prof. R. A.), The Jinn in Eastern Folklore, 403
- Nieloux (M.), Combustion of Alcohol in the Homeotherm, 842
- Nicolas (L.), [M. Courtot, M. Chaix, and], Preparation of Diphenylene Sulphine, 951
- Nicolle (C.): and L. Balozet, Swine Fever transmissible to Man, 915; and C. Anderson, Individual Specificity of the Spirochaetes of Recurring Spanish-African Fever, 951; Sensibility of the Pig to African Strains of *Spirochaeta hispanicum*, 410; and J. Laigret, A Bacterium analogous with *Rickettsia* in the Vaginal Tunic of Guinea-pigs and Rats, 590
- Nippgen (J.), Anthropological Bibliography, 789
- Nolan (Prof. J. J.), and J. G. O'Keeffe, Electric Discharge from Water Drops, 519
- Nolan (Dr. T. J.), appointed Professor of Chemistry in University College, Dublin, 768
- Nordenskiöld (Baron Erland): Cuna Indians' Conception of the Soul, 763; L'Archéologie du bassin de l'Amazonie (*Review*), 185
- Normand (Dr. C. W. B.), Meteorology in India, 536
- Norris (Prof. J. F.), The Principles of Organic Chemistry. Third edition (*Review*), 40
- Norrish (Dr. R. G. W.): Predissociation in Relation to Photochemical Activity, 33; [M. Ritchie and], Photochemical Reaction between Hydrogen and Chlorine in the Presence of Oxygen, 243
- Norwood (Dr. C.), presidential address to the Science Masters' Association, 65
- du Noüy (Dr. P. Lecomte), Measurement of the Hydrogen Ion Concentration of Liquids by Means of a Rotatory Electrode, 214; Surface Tension of Soap Solutions, 278
- Nowakowski (A.), [K. Boratynski and], Researches by means of X-Rays on the Modification of Phosphoric Anhydride, 290
- Noyes (Prof. A. A.), awarded the Richards Gold Medal of the American Chemical Society, 275
- Nutman (F. J.), Cultivation of Sisal, 62



- Obold (Prof. W. L.), [Prof. H. F. Smyth and], Industrial Microbiology: the Utilization of Bacteria, Yeasts, and Molds in Industrial Processes (*Review*), 673
- O'Brien (Dr. D. G.), and E. G. Prentice, Nematode Disease of Potatoes, 727
- Occhialini (G.), A Magnetic Spectrograph for  $\beta$ -Rays emitted by Feebly Radioactive Substances, 215
- O'Connor (J. M.), Nature of the Metabolic Regulation of the Body Temperature, and its Relation to Temperature Sensations, 141
- Oddone (Prof. E.), appointed Director of the Central Office of Meteorology and Geophysics at Rome, 54
- Odell (N. E.), Oxygen and Everest, 244
- O'Donoghue (Dr. C. H.), Abnormalities in the Frog's Blood-Vessels, 61; awarded the Neill Prize of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, 685
- Offord (J. M.), elected President of the Quekett Microscopical Club, 311
- Ogden (C. K.), The Work of Jeremy Bentham, 912
- Okada (Prof. T.), The Climate of Japan, 251
- O'Keeffe (J. G.), [Prof. J. J. Nolan and], Electric Discharge from Water Drops, 519
- Okubo (Prof. J.), and E. Matuyama, Fluted Band at  $\lambda 3900$  A. in the Spectrum of Mercury, 653
- Olsson (E.), L-Discontinuities in X-Ray Absorption, 94
- O'Neale (Miss Lila M.), Yurok-Karok Basket Weavers, 727
- O'Neill (Dr. H.): The Cry of Tin, 833; and H. Greenwood, Pressure of Fluidity of Annealed Metals, 482
- Onslow (Hon. Mrs. Muriel Wheldale), Genetical and Biochemical Aspects of Anthocyan Pigments, 601; [death], 786; [obituary article], 859
- Öpik (E. J.), [H. Shapley, S. L. Botheroyd, and], The Arizona Expedition for the Study of Meteors, 734
- Orpen (Dr. G. H.), [death], 786
- Orr (A. P.): and Miss S. M. Marshall, Habit and Physiology of *Calanus*, 511; [Miss S. M. Marshall and], Sedimentation in Coral Reef Regions, 441
- Orrù (A.), Water-Content of the White and Yolk of Hens' Eggs during the Development of the Embryo, 627
- Orton (Prof. J. H.), Oysters in Law, 96
- Osborn (Prof. H. F.): and E. H. Colbert, Gnomometric Method of Measuring Geological Time, 172; with the Co-operation of Helen Ann Warren, Cope, Master Naturalist: the Life and Letters of Edward Drinker Cope (*Review*), 299
- Osborn (Prof. T. G. B.), The Plant in Relation to Water, 768
- Osterhout (W. J. V.), Physiological Studies of Single Plant Cells, 659
- Ostwald (Dr. W.), Colour Science. Part 1: Colour Theory and Colour Standardisation. Translated, with an Introduction and Notes, by J. S. Taylor (*Review*), 453; [death], 570; [obituary article], 750
- Osty (Dr. E.), et M. Osty, Les pouvoirs inconnus de l'esprit sur la matière (*Review*), 921
- Osty (M.), [Dr. E. Osty et], Les pouvoirs inconnus de l'esprit sur la matière (*Review*), 921
- Ottway and Co., Ltd. (W.), A Direct Reading Optical Micrometer, 538
- Owens (Dr. G. S.), Measuring Atmospheric Pollution, 103
- Padva (Prof. M.), Action of the Alkaloids and Carbon Monoxide on the Enzymatic Activity of Plants, 686
- Page (Prof. L.), and Prof. N. I. Adams, Jr., Principles of Electricity: an Intermediate Text in Electricity and Magnetism (*Review*), 332
- Paillard (H.), [E. Briner, R. Zurcher, and], An Internal Combustion Motor with Air mixed with Ozone, 34
- Paine (Virginia L.), [G. H. Parker and], Progressive Degeneration of the Lateral-line Nerve in the Catfish, 483
- Palazzo (Prof. L.), retirement of, 54
- Palfray (L.), S. Sabetay, and Mlle. Denise Sontag, Action of Potash on some Aryl-fatty Mercaptans, 290; A Method of determining Aldehydes, 879
- Paneth (Prof. F.): Albertus Magnus as Chemist, 612; [Prof. G. Hevesy und], Lehrbuch der Radioaktivität. Zweite auflage (*Review*), 560
- Pantin (C. F. A.), Composition of the Body Fluid of Animals, 206; Form and Size (*Review*), 775
- Panzer (Theodora), [A. Franke, A. Kroupa, and], Ring Contraction in the Formation of Internal Ethers (Oxides) from Glycols, 735
- Paréjas (E.), [L. Collet and], Results of the Geological Expedition of Harvard University in the Canadian Rockies, 1929 (4), 734; (6, 7, 8), 771
- Parisi (E.), Presence of a New Sugar in Dextro-rotatory Honeys, 215
- Parke (Mary W.), [Dr. Margery Knight and], Manx Algae: an Algae Survey of the South End of the Isle of Man (*Review*), 744
- Parker (G. H.): The Colour Changes in the Sea-urchin *Arbacia* (1 and 2), 483; and Virginia L. Paine, Progressive Degeneration of the Lateral-line Nerve in the Catfish, 483
- Parker (R. N.), The Herbarium of the Forest Research Institute, 190
- Parker (Prof. Rushton), [death], 535
- Parkhurst (R. T.), [J. W. Rhys and], Light upon Eggs, 431
- Parkinson (Dr. J.), Climatic Changes in British Somaliland, 651; Freshwater and Land Mollusca from British Somaliland, 941
- Parkinson (M. M. L.), and W. F. Whittard, Geology of East Greenland, 282
- Parr (A. E.), Deep Sea Fishes, 99
- Parravano (N.), and V. Caglioti, Alloys of Zinc and Manganese, 375
- Parry (N. E.), The Lakhers. With an Introduction and Supplementary Notes by Dr. J. H. Hutton (*Review*), 848
- Partington (Prof. J. R.), Errors in Thermal Measurements, 615
- Pascal (P.): and P. Minne, Existence and Preparation of Lead Suboxide, 178; and Mme. Réchid, The Hexametaphosphates, 554
- Passerina (L.): [G. Natta and], Sulpho-Salts having Spinel Structures, 142; and M. Baccaredda, Researches on Spinel (4), 142
- Passmore (R.), [N. Gavrilescu, A. P. Meiklejohn, R. A. Peters, and], Carbohydrate Metabolism in Birds, 733
- Paternò (E.), Action of Sodium Carbonate on Cellulose, 951; Exhausted Cellulose, 952
- Paterson (A. S.), appointed Pinsent-Darwin Student in Cambridge University, 176
- Paterson (C. C.), Photocells: the Valves which operate by Light, 66
- Paterson (J. A.), [H. B. Lang and], Functional Psychoses, 483
- Paterson (Dr. M. S.), [death], 931
- Patterson (H. S.): and W. Cawood, Atomic Weight of Fluorine, 794; and Prof. R. Whytlaw-Gray, Atomic Weight of Fluorine, 245
- Patterson (Prof. T. S.), John Mayow in Contemporary Setting (*Review*), 157
- Paul (R. W.), Instruments shown at the Faraday Centenary Exhibition, 89
- Peacock (Prof. D. H.), Significance of Velocity Measurements in Relation to the Benzene Substitution Problem, 57
- Peake (H.), The Archaeology of Berkshire (*Review*), 331
- Pearce (Dr. S. L.), Power Stations and Air Pollution, 51
- Pearl (Prof. Raymond), Operations of the Bureau for Contraceptive Advice, 864
- Pearsall (Dr. W. H.), [E. T. Everingham and], Effects of Tartaric Acid and of Glucose on the Metabolism of Vine Leaves, 214
- Pearson (T. G.), Dr. P. L. Robinson, and E. M. Stoddart, Free Ethyl, 832
- Peattie (J. D.), London Power Supply, 789
- Peirce (Dr. F. T.), Cotton Research and Academic Physics, 824
- Peirce (Prof. G. J.), elected President of the Botanical Society of America, 164
- Pelham (R. A.), Medieval Sussex, 646
- Pellev (Caroline), and Mrs. E. Sansome, Chromosome Linkage in Garden Peas, 318
- Pelosi (Luisa), Maximum and Minimum Chords normal to a Hypersurface, 554



- Penfold (A. R.), The Essential Oil of *Leptospermum Liversidgei* var. B. and the Occurrence of Isopulegol, 179
- Pentelow (F. T. K.), [Dr. B. A. Southgate, R. Bassindale, and], Death of Fish in the Tees Estuary, 129
- Pérard (A.), A New Line as a Light Wave Standard of Length, 951
- Perkin (late Prof. W. H.), Life and Work of, 408
- Perkins (Dr. M.), [obituary article], 570
- Perret (A.): Action of Primary Amines on Dicyandiamide Sulphate, 662; and A. M. Krawczynski, Some Complex Peroxides of Hexamethylene-tetramine, 411
- Perrier (A.), The Fermentation of Coffee, 374
- Perry (J. W.), The *F/1.8* Quartz Monochromator-Spectrograph, 878
- Perry and Silva, Vitamin Content of the Mango, 944
- Petavel (Capt. J. W.), An Experiment in Agricultural Education in India, 195
- Peters (Prof. R. A.): and H. J. Phelps, Adsorption of Weak Electrolytes on Charcoal, 939; [N. Gavrilescu, A. P. Meiklejohn, R. Passmore, and], Carbohydrate Metabolism in Birds, 733
- Petrie (Sir Flinders), Excavation in Southern Palestine, 753; Hippophagy in Ancient Palestine, 342; Seventy Years in Archaeology (*Review*), 708
- Peytral (Mlle. Eglantine), A Method of Preparation of Ketene, 142
- Phelps (H. J.), [Prof. R. A. Peters and], Adsorption of Weak Electrolytes on Charcoal, 939
- Philbrick (F. A.), Problems in Practical Physical Chemistry (*Review*), 80
- Philip (G.), Light as a Factor in Sexual Periodicity, 655
- Phillips (Dr. E. P.), An Introduction to the Study of the South African Grasses: with Notes on their Structure, Distribution, Cultivation, etc. (*Review*), 382
- Phillips (G.), Myotatic Reflexes in Sympathectomised Muscle, 373
- Philp (J.), Fatuoid or False Wild Oats, 796
- Philpot (J. St. L.), [F. A. Askew, R. B. Bourdillon, H. M. Bruce, R. K. Callow, T. A. Webster, and], Crystalline Vitamin D, 178
- Piaux (L.), [M. Bourguel and], The Raman Effect and Chemistry: the Allene Linkages, 178
- Piaz (G. Dal), Course of the Lines of Dislocation accompanying the Intrusive Masses of Mount's Croce, Ivigna, and Bressanone in the Upper Adige, 483
- Piccardi (G.): Molecular Spectra and Spectroscopic Analysis (1), 807; and A. Sberna, Molecular Spectra and Spectroscopic Analysis (2), 952
- Pick (W. H.), Visibility at Sea, 410; Visibility with Saturated Air, 68
- Pickering (Prof. W. H.), Mass of Eros, 284
- Pictet (A.), Inheritance of Polydactyly in the Guinea-pig, 734
- Pierucci (M.), Electric Arc between Carbon and Substances which are Insulators at Ordinary Temperatures, 724
- Piettre (M.), The Physical State of the Calcium Phosphates in Milk, 34
- Pincherle (L.), Hull's Magnetron, 483
- Pirani (R.), [G. Natta and], Solid Solutions by Precipitation and Isomorphism between Complexes of Quadri-valent Tellurium and Platinum (1), 952
- Pitt (A.), [Prof. J. C. McLennan, A. C. Burton, J. O. Wilhelm, and], The Phenomena of Superconductivity with Alternating Currents of High-Frequency, 409
- Pitt (Frances), The Intelligence of Animals: Studies in Comparative Psychology (*Review*), 6
- Pitt (St. George Lane Fox), [obituary article], 605
- Pitt-Rivers (G.), Weeds in the Garden of Marriage (*Review*), 493
- Pittard (J. J.), [M. Grosjean and], The Rapid Determination of Minerals, 627
- Plaskett (Dr. J. S.), awarded the Catherine Wolfe Bruce Gold Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, 20
- Plender (Lord), elected a Member of the Athenæum Club, 242
- Pling (A.), The Bactericidal Power of Metallic Silver with Respect to the Typhoid Bacillus and the Coli Bacillus, 842
- Plough (H. H.), Elimination of Self-Sterility in the *Styela* Egg, 735
- Plunkett (Sir Horace), [death], 504; [obituary article], 568
- Pocock (R. I.), Species Hybridisation in Animals, 394
- Polara (V.), The Raman Spectrum in Sugar Solutions, 483
- Pollard (E. C.), Nature of the Potential Barrier of the Nitrogen Nucleus, 733
- Pongratz (A.), [A. Dadiou, K. W. F. Kohlrausch, and], The Raman Effect (18), 735
- Poole (Dr. J. H. J.), Rate of Flow of Heat from Water at nearly 0° C. to a Submerged Horizontal Ice Surface, 290
- Pope (Sir William), awarded the Messel Medal of the Society of Chemical Industry; the work of, 571; elected Chairman of Council of the City and Guilds of London Institute, 396
- Popham (F. J.), Preservation of Railway Sleepers, 476
- Popov (A.), A New Genus of Fish, *Davidjordania* (Zoaridæ), from the Pacific Ocean, 35
- Porteus (Prof. S. D.), The Psychology of a Primitive People: a Study of the Australian Aborigine (*Review*), 346
- Portevin (A.), and P. Bastien, The Principal Factors affecting the Flow of Pure Metals, 519
- Portier (P.), [M. Fontaine and], Proportion of Calcium in the Blood of Marine Fishes, 142
- Posejpal (V.), Study of Universal Ether (4, 5), 771
- Posternak (T.), Configuration of Quercite, 771
- Postic (F.), [A. Leulier and], Influence of Nitration and Amination on the Physical and Physiological Properties of Methylphenylmalonyl Urea, etc., 255
- Poulenc-Ferrand (Mme.), [V. Auger and], Cupric Carbonate, 554
- Poulter (Annie A.), Occurrence of 'Cleistogenes' in certain Grasses, 690
- Poulter (T. C.), and C. Ritchey, Effect of Pressure on Weston Standard Cells, 764
- Power (A. R.), [W. R. Schoeller and], Separation of Tantalum, Niobium, Titanium, and Zirconium, 806
- Powys (L.), Impassioned Clay (*Review*), 925
- Praeger (R. Lloyd), [A. D. Delap, A. Farrington, L. B. Smyth, and], The Recent Bog-Flow at Glencullen, Co. Mayo, 106
- Pratesi (P.), [G. Scagliarini and], Volumetric Determination of Vanadium and Molybdenum, 483
- Prelog (V.), G. Driza, and V. Hanousek, The bis- $\beta$ -Halogenethylamines, 771
- Prentice (E. G.), [Dr. D. G. O'Brien and], Nematode Disease of Potatoes, 727
- Preston (G. D.), [Dr. Marie L. V. Gayler and], Age-hardening of some Aluminium Alloys of High Purity, 482
- Price (J. B.), Flocking Habits of Birds, 583
- Priestley (Prof. H. J.), [death], 427
- Prince (V. A.), Welding of Structures, 209
- Prindle (Dr. E. J.), The American Patent Law System, 91
- Pringsheim (Prof. H.), Die Polysaccharide. Dritte Auflage (*Review*), 40
- Przibram (Prof. H.), Connecting Laws in Animal Morphology (*Review*), 298
- Pungs (L.), and H. Vogler, A New Method of Measuring High Frequency Voltages, 138
- Punnett (Prof. R. C.), Sex-linked Inheritance in Ducks, 763
- Purdy (W. J.), [Dr. W. E. Gye and], The Cause of Cancer (*Review*), 302
- Puri (B. S.), [Dr. V. I. Vaidhianathan and], Magnetism of Precipitates of Colloidal Silver, 170
- Quastel (J. H.), Dyestuffs and Enzymes, 30
- Racah (G.), Isotopic Displacement and Hyperfine Structure, 723
- Radoëff (A.), Stimulation of Growth and Metabolism in the Tissues of Wheat, 879
- Raj (Dr. B. Sundara), Madras Fisheries Department, Administrative Report for the Year 1929-30, 210
- Rakusin (Prof. M. A.), [obituary], 931



- Ram (Atma), [Prof. N. R. Dhar and], Photoreduction of Carbonic Acid, Bicarbonates, and Carbonates to Formaldehyde, 205
- Ramakrishnan (K. P.), [K. R. Ramanathan and], Upper Air Temperatures and Humidities in the Indian Peninsula, 615
- Raman (Sir C. V.), and S. Bhagavantam, Experimental Proof of the Spin of the Photon, 22; The Spin of the Photon, 62
- Ramanathan (Dr. K. R.): The Zodiacal Light and the Luminosity of the Night Sky, 280; and J. V. Karandikar, Non-polar Auroral Light from the Night Sky in the Tropics, 545; and K. P. Ramakrishnan, Upper Air Temperatures and Humidities in the Indian Peninsula, 615
- Rambaud (R.), [A. Kirmann and], A New Example of the Allyl Transposition, 770
- Ramdas (Dr. L. A.), and S. L. Malurkar, Surface Convection and the Distribution of Temperature near a Heated Surface, 201
- Ramsbottom (J.), Fungi Pathogenic to Man, 945
- Rand (H. W.), Comparative Anatomy of Vertebrates (*Review*), 780
- Randall (J. T.), and H. P. Rooksby, Polish on Metals, 280
- Rankine (Prof. A. O.), elected President of the Physical Society, 540
- Ranque (G.), and P. Henry, Determination of the Characteristics of the Viscous Elongation of Hot Metals, 69
- Ranson (R. M.), [J. R. Baker and], Factors affecting the Breeding of the Field Mouse (*Microtus hirtus*)—(1) Light, 253
- Rao (Dr. K. R.), Resonance Spectrum of Hydrogen, 869
- Rao (L. Rama), Algae in the South Indian Cretaceous, 441
- Rao (S. Gopal), Correlation of Pressure and Temperature in the Upper Atmosphere, 135
- Rao (Dr. S. Ramachandra), Anomalous Dimagnetism of Bismuth, 545
- Rasetti (F.), Penetrating Radiation from Beryllium, 728
- Ratliffe (J. A.), and F. W. G. White, Polarisation of Downcoming Wireless Waves, 364
- Ray, Optical Activity in Diazo-Compounds, 475
- Rây (Sir Prafulla Chandra), seventieth birthday of, 895
- Ray (Satyendra), Melde's String vibrated by Rotating Pulley, 246
- Rayleigh (Lord), Metastable Atoms in Mercury Fluorescence, 344
- Raymond-Hamet, The Sympathicolytic Poisons, 879
- Read (Prof. B. E.), Chinese Materia Medica, 444
- Read (C. W. W.), Temperature of Molecules in a Discharge Tube, 208
- Read (Prof. H. H.), Geology in International Affairs, 308
- Read (Prof. J.), John Mayow's Place in Chemistry, 157
- Réchid (Mme.), [P. Pascal and], The Hexametaphosphates, 554
- Recoura (A.), The Hydrated Chromic Chlorides, 374
- Reeves (Dr. W. Pember), [death], 751
- Reeves [Mangelsdorf and], Maize Hybrids with *Tripsacum*, 583
- Regan (C. J.), Ventilation of Vehicular Tunnels with Particular Reference to those at Blackwall and Rotherhithe, 730
- Régnier (J.), and R. David, Microbial Multiplication, 69, 255
- Reith (Sir John), British Broadcasting, 787
- Rejha (Dr. B.): [Prof. H. Křepelka and], Anhydrous and Hydrated Manganese Sulphate, 284; [J. H. Křepelka and], The Anhydride and Hydrates of Manganese Sulphate, 771
- Remlinger, Manouélian, and Bailly, The Nerve Centres of the Tortoise inoculated with the Rabies Bacillus, 69
- Renaud (Dr. E. B.), and others, Archaeology of Eastern Colorado, 324
- Renaudie [A. Maille and], Transformation of Ketones into Liquid Hydrocarbons, 447
- Rendle (Dr. A. B.), Dr. G. Claridge Druce, 426
- Repetti (Rev. W. G.), Philippine Earthquake Epicentres, 367
- Restaino (Silvia), [F. Zambonini and], Double Sulphates of Rare Earth and Alkali Metals (14), 215
- Reuter (E. B.), Race Mixture: Studies in Inter-marriage and Miscegenation (*Review*), 188
- Reynolds (R. J. W.), [Dr. E. L. Hirst and], Hexuronic Acid as the Antiscorbutic Factor, 576
- Reynolds (Prof. S. H.), [C. I. Gardiner and], Loch Doon 'Granite' of Galloway, 836
- van Rhijn (Prof. P. J.), elected an Associate of the Royal Astronomical Society, 894
- Rhys (J. W.), and R. T. Parkhurst, Light upon Eggs, 431
- Ricea (V.), Raman Spectrum of Ammonia in Solutions of Different Concentrations, 375; The Raman Spectrum of Sulphuric Acid and the Action on it of an Electric Field, 483
- Rice (Dr. O.), awarded the Langmuir Prize of the American Chemical Society, 611
- Rich (J. L.), Oil Origin and Accumulation, 693
- Richards (Prof. A.), Outline of Comparative Embryology (*Review*), 853
- Richards (W. T.), Heating of Liquids by the Absorption of Sound, and its Relation to the Energy of Intense High-frequency Sound Waves, 483
- Richardson (H. O. W.), [N. Feather and], Beta-Rays of Radium-D, 314
- Richardson (H. W.), Progress and Development of the General Electric Coy. in 1931, 407
- Richardson (Dr. L. F.), Determinism, 316
- Richardson (Dr. Minnie), [Prof. G. W. Robinson and], Degree of Weathering of Soils, 581
- Richey (J. E.), The Tertiary Ring Complex of Slieve Gullion (Ireland), 325
- Richter (Dr. D.), Decomposition of Hydrogen Peroxide by Catalase, 870
- Richter (O.), New Contributions to Photosynthesis and Photolysis, 879
- Rickard (T. A.), Knowledge and Use of Iron among the South Sea Islanders, 124
- Rideal (Prof. E. K.): Adsorption of Gases, 387; [A. Hughes, J. Schulman, and], Examination of Protein Films, 21
- Ridgeway (Sir William), The Early Age of Greece. Vol. 2. Edited by A. S. F. Gow and D. S. Robertson (*Review*), 597
- Ries (Prof. H.), and Prof. T. L. Watson, Engineering Geology. Fourth edition (*Review*), 528
- Rimington (Dr. C.): Constitution of the Keratin Molecule, 580; and J. G. Bekker, Is Preformed Cystine Essential to Sheep for Wool Production? 687
- Rineck (E.), An Allotropic Transformation of Barium in the Solid State, 178
- Ripper (Elizabeth A.), Palaeontological Zoning of the Lower Ordovician near Ingliston, 326
- Ritchey (C.), [T. C. Poulter and], Effect of Pressure on Weston Standard Cells, 764
- Ritchie (A. D.), Theories of Muscular Contraction, 165
- Ritchie (M.), and Dr. R. G. W. Norrish, Photochemical Reaction between Hydrogen and Chlorine in the Presence of Oxygen, 243
- Rittenhouse (David), Bicentenary of the Birth of, 500
- Rittmann (Dr. A.), The Magma of Vesuvius, 873
- Roaf (Prof. H. E.), appointed Holt Professor of Physiology in Liverpool University, 480; Influence of Coloured Surrounds and Coloured Backgrounds on Visual Thresholds, 733
- Robbins (Prof. W. W.), The Botany of Crop Plants: a Text and Reference Book. Third edition (*Review*), 708
- Robert the Peeler, Letters to John Bull and Others (*Review*), 882
- Roberts (A. M.), [R. W. Bailey and], Creep Tests on Steel for Steam Plant, 729
- Roberts (B. B.), The Flight-Speed of British Birds, 206
- Roberts (Dr. J. A. Fraser), Significance of Familial Incidence in Relation to Human Disease, 914; Wild Sheep Hybrid, 99
- Roberts (O. F. T.), Some Effects of Turbulent Pressure, 23
- Robertson (Prof. G. M.), [death], 606
- Robertson (Prof. J. G.), The Life and Work of Goethe, 1749-1832 (*Review*), 423
- Robertson (Sir Robert), Dr. J. J. Fox, and A. E. Martin, Photo-Conductivity of Diamonds, 579
- Robinson (Prof. G. W.), and Dr. Minnie Richardson, Degree of Weathering of Soils, 581
- Robinson (Prof. H. R.), Intensity Ratio of Fluorescent X-Ray Lines, 618



- Robinson (Dr. P. L.): [Prof. H. V. A. Briscoe, A. J. Rudge, and], The Highest Oxide of Rhenium, 618; [T. G. Pearson, E. M. Stoddart, and], Free Ethyl, 832
- Robinson (Dr. R.), conferment upon, of title of Professor by London University, 176
- Robinson (Prof. R.), [Prof. A. Lapworth and], Distribution of Electrons in the Aromatic Nucleus and the Early Stages of Aromatic Substitutions, 278
- Robinson (Sir Roy Lister), appointed Chairman of the Forestry Commission, 92
- Robson (G. C.), A Monograph of the Recent Cephalopoda based on the Collections in the British Museum (Natural History). Part 2: The Octopoda (excluding the Octopodinae) (*Review*), 636
- Robson (Dr. W.), conferment upon, of title of Reader by London University, 177
- Roeser, Caldwell, and Wensel, Freezing Point of Platinum, 136
- Rogers (C. E.), [D. Hanson and], The Thermal Conductivity of some Non-ferrous Alloys, 446
- Rogozinski (F.), Experimental Rickets (3), 107
- Rohleder (Dr. H. P. T.), Tectonic Analysis of the Mourne Mountains, 945
- Rolleston (Dr. J. D.), The Cigarette Habit, 609
- Rooksby (H. P.), [J. T. Randall and], Polish on Metals, 280
- Roome (H. A.), Duckbilled Platypus, 872
- Rose (Prof. H. J.), Early Europe (*Review*), 597
- Rosenblum (S.): and M. Valadares, The Fine Structure of the  $\alpha$ -Rays of Thorium-C, 662; [Mme. P. Curie and], The Fine Structure of the Magnetic Spectrum of the  $\alpha$ -Rays of Radio-Actinium, 807
- Rosenhain (Dr. W.), Testing of Castings, 482
- Rosenthal (D.), and M. Mathieu, Mild Steel Welds made with the Electric Arc, 807
- Ross (A. S. C.), Sound-Change and Indeterminism, 760
- Ross (J. G.), Chrysotile Asbestos in Canada, 199
- Rossi (A.), and G. Scoz, Presence of an Acid-soluble Organic Phosphorus Compound in the Sub-maxillary Gland of the Dog, 807
- Rossi (B.), Action of the Terrestrial Magnetic Field on a Corpuscular Radiation generated in the Atmosphere, 952
- Rossier (P.), The Absolute Colour Index and Stellar Statistics, 107; The Spectral Sensibility of Photographic Plates, 34; The Statistical Distribution of the Stars as a Function of the Type of Spectrum (2), 107
- Rostrup (Sophie), und Prof. M. Thomsen, Die tierischen Schädlinge des Ackerbaues (*Review*), 118
- Rougier (G.), A Photoelectric Photometer with Amplification for the Measurement of Feeble Illuminations, 842
- Rowan (Prof. W.), The Riddle of Migration (*Review*), 561
- Rowe (Prof. F. M.), awarded the Dyers' Company Gold Research Medal, 574
- Rowland (Rev. J. P.), Trail of Bright Fireball of Feb. 24, 438
- Rozprým (Dr. F.), [Prof. V. Suk and], Eyebrows and Eyelashes in Man, 134
- Rubner (Prof. Max), [obituary article], 893
- Rudge (A. J.), [Prof. H. V. A. Briscoe, Dr. P. L. Robinson, and], The Highest Oxide of Rhenium, 618
- Rumpel (W.), [L. Schmid and], Constitution of the Colouring Matter in Toad-Flax Flowers (*Linaria vulgaris*), 699
- Rupp (H. M. R.), New South Wales Orchids, 663
- Rusakov (V. P.), Radioactivity of Phosphorites and their Extracts, 447
- Rushton (A.), conferment upon, of title of Reader by London University, 177
- Ruska (Prof. J.), Sal Alembroth, 909; Turba Philosophorum: ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der Alchemie (*Review*), 670
- Russell (A. S.), and others, Intermetallic Compounds formed in Mercury, 657
- Russell (Bertrand), The Scientific Outlook (*Review*), 295
- Russell (F. S.), Behaviour in Invertebrates, 473; The Science of Oceanography (*Review*), 7
- Russell (Prof. H. N.): Mass of Neptune's Satellite, 405; [A. G. Shenstone and], Internal Perturbations in Atoms, 908
- Russell (Sir John), An Agricultural Pamphlet, 133; Artificial Fertilizers in Modern Agriculture (*Review*), 349; Soil Conditions and Plant Growth. Sixth edition (*Review*), 527
- Russell (J. T.), Excavation in the Marsoulas Cave, Haute-Garonne, 273
- Russell (W. T.), [Hilda M. Woods and], An Introduction to Medical Statistics (*Review*), 188
- Russell-Wells (Dr. Barbara), Fats of Brown Pea-Weeds, 654
- Rutgers (Dr. A. J.), Number of Free Protons in the Nucleus, 361
- Rutherford (Lord): Address at Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Physics, 823; Origin of the Gamma Rays, 457; re-elected President of the Institute of Physics, 827; (Scientific Worthies, XLVI.), 665; and B. V. Bowden, Origin of the  $\gamma$ -Rays from Actinium Emanation, 873
- Rutzler, Jr. (J. E.), [W. D. Bancroft and], Reversible Coagulation in Living Tissue (6 and 7), 291; (8), 483; [R. S. Gutsell and], (9) 591; (10), 734
- Ruzicka (Prof. L.), The Life and Work of Otto Wallach (Pedler Lecture), 428
- Rydberg (R.), Spectroscopic Evidence of Arsenic Hydride, 167
- Ryde (Dr. N.), Stark Effect for Argon, 758
- Rygh (A.), [O. Rygh, P. Laland, and], Origin of Vitamin C, 283
- Rygh (O.), A. Rygh, and P. Laland, Origin of Vitamin C, 283
- Sabetay (S.), [L. Palfray, Mlle. Denise Sontag, and] Action of Potash on some Aryl-fatty Mercaptans, 290; A Method of Determining Aldehydes, 879
- Sadron (C.), Ferromagnetic Moments and the Periodic System, 69
- Saha (Prof. M. N.), Saligram Bhargava, and J. B. Mukerji, Complex X-Ray Characteristic Spectra, 435
- Sahlström (K. E.), Earthquake Frequency in Northern Europe, 548
- Saini (H.), [A. Schidlof and], Attempt at a Theory of Emission of the  $\beta$ -Rays by Radioactive Nuclei, 734
- Salaman (R. N.), Analysis and Synthesis of Some Diseases of the Mosaic Type, 253
- Saldau (P.), and M. Zamatorin, Solubility of Aluminium in Magnesium, 482
- Salisbury (Prof. E. J.), elected President of the Congress of the South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies for 1933, 875; The Study of the Soil (*Review*), 527
- Salt (Dr. G.), Parasites of the Wheat-Stem Sawfly in England, 366
- Samaras, [Harned and], Reaction Velocity, 320
- Sampson (Dr. R. A.), Forecast and Fact as seen by an Astronomer (Earl Grey Memorial Lecture), 393
- Samuel (Sir Herbert), Philosophy and the Ordinary Man, 897
- Samurcas (D.), Influence of the Magnetic Field on Crystallisation, 807
- Sanders (Dr. H. G.), Principles of Field Experimentation, 29
- Sandford (K. S.), [Dr. G. W. Tyrrell and], Tectonics and Petrology of the Dolerites of Spitsbergen, 553
- Sandri (R.), Diffusion and Transport of Gases in Liquids (2), 735
- Sanford (Prof. F.), Electrical Heresies, 479
- Sansone (Mrs. E.), [Caroline Pellaw and], Chromosome Linkage in Garden Peas, 318
- Santenioise (D.), Hormonal Individuality of Vagotonin, 483
- Santon (Dr. G.), The History of Science and the New Humanism (*Review*), 418
- Saposhnikoff (Prof. A.), news of, 20
- Savitch (P.), [D. K. Yovanovitch and], The Calorimetric Study of the Absorption of the  $\gamma$ -Rays of Radium, 34
- Savur (S. R.), Forecasting of Indian Monsoon Rainfall, 693
- Sax (K.), Crossing-Over and Mutation, 483
- Sayles, Bermuda during the Ice Age, 512
- Sberna (A.), [G. Piccardi and], Molecular Spectra and Spectroscopic Analysis (2), 952
- Scagliarini (G.), and P. Pratesi, Volumetric Determination of Vanadium and Molybdenum, 483



- Schacherl, [Krejci and], The Glow of Phosphorus, 657  
 Schaffernicht (W.), [Prof. R. Tomaschek and], Ether-Drift and Gravity, 24  
 Scheibel (H.), Thermodynamics of Gas Reactions, 136  
 Schidlöf (A.), and H. Saini, Attempt at a Theory of Emission of the  $\beta$ -Rays by Radioactive Nuclei, 734  
 Schlesinger and Burg, Hydrides of Boron, 248  
 Schmid (L.): and R. Falke, Action of Sodium Trityl on Inulin in Liquid Ammonia, 915; and E. Kotter, Chemical Investigation of *Verbascum* Flowers, 915; and W. Rumpel, Constitution of the Colouring Matter in Toad-Flax Flowers (*Linaria vulgaris*), 699; and A. Seebald, Colouring Matter of the Yellow Dahlia, 699  
 Schmidt (Dr. E.), Excavations at Fara, 247  
 Schmidt (Prof. J.), Dana's Togt Omkring Jorden, 1928-1930 (Review), 889; Freshwater Eels in British India, 60  
 Schneiderhöhn (Prof. H.), Mineralische Bodenschätze im südlichen Afrika (Review), 78  
 Schoeller (W. R.), and A. R. Powell, Separation of Tantalum, Niobium, Titanium, and Zirconium, 806  
 Schopfer (W. H.), A Physiological Separation of the Phenomena of Growth from those of Sexuality in a Fungus (*Phycomyces*), 626; Preparing and Mounting the Zygotes of Mucorineae, 626; The Accessory Growth Factor of the Micro-Organism contained in the Wheat Germ, 771  
 Schottky (Prof. W.), Crystal Photocells, 27  
 Schrire (I.), [H. Zwarenstein and], The Adrenal Gland of *Xenopus levis*, 914  
 Schüller (Dr. H.), and E. Gwynne Jones, Isotopic Constitution of Lead, 833  
 Schulman (J.), [A. Hughes, Prof. E. K. Rideal, and], Examination of Protein Films, 21  
 Schuyten (Prof. M. C.), Growth Curves of the Gramineae, 170  
 Scofield (E. C.), Striped Bass of California, 908  
 Scott (Dr. A.), Scientific Research at the British Museum, 339  
 Scott (A.), [obituary], 88  
 Scott (C. W.), Strength of Burmese Timbers, 52  
 Scott (Dr. D. H.), elected a Corresponding Member of the Prussian Academy of Sciences, 574; Heterospory and the Angiosperms, 871; recipient of a Diploma of Congratulation from the Bavarian Academy of Science, 50  
 Scott (E. Kilburn), Early Cloth Fulling, 16  
 Scoz (G.): Cystine Metabolism, 807; [A. Rossi and], Presence of an Acid-soluble Organic Phosphorus Compound in the Sub-maxillary Gland of the Dog, 807  
 Scrivenor (J. B.), The Geology of Malaya (Review), 352  
 Seabrook (W. B.), Jungle Ways (Review), 154  
 Seashore (C. E.), Natural History of the Vibrato (1) and (2), 591  
 Seebald (A.), [L. Schmidt and], Colouring Matter of the Yellow Dahlia, 699  
 Segrè (E.), New Raman Bands of Water, 107; Quadrupole Lines in X-Ray Spectra, 627  
 Seidelin (Dr. H.), [obituary article], 894  
 Seligman (Prof. C. G.), awarded the Nelson Annandale Gold Medal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, 936  
 Seligman (R.), and P. Williams, Interaction of Aluminium and Water Vapour, 446  
 Sellards (A. W.), and J. Laigret, Vaccination of Man against Yellow Fever, 915  
 Selous (E.), Thought Transference (or What?) in Birds (Review), 263  
 de Sélys-Longchamps (Michel Edmond), The Zoological Collection of, 897  
 Sen (Binayendra Nath), Reactivity of Metals with Water, 585  
 Sen (S. K.), [T. B. Fletcher and], Indian Horse Flies, 61  
 Senderens (J. B.), Comparative Value of Various Catalysts in the Formation of Esters, 590  
 Serres (Mlle. A.): Magnetic Moment of Tetravalent Cobalt, 178; [R. Hocart and], The Magnetic Properties and Crystalline Structure in the Different Varieties of Anhydrous Cobalt Sulphate, 141  
 Setchell (Dr.), Classification of the Gulf-Weeds, 583  
 Seth-Smith (D.), Decline of Australian Parrakeets, 538  
 Sewell (A.), The Physiology of Beauty (Review), 419  
 Sewell (Lieut.-Col. R. B. Seymour), The Zoological Survey of India, 530  
 Sewertzoff (Prof. A. N.), Morphologische Gesetzmässigkeiten der Evolution (Review), 490  
 Shand (Prof. S. J.), The Lavas of Mauritius, 553; Reaction between Granitic Magma and Limestone at Palabora, Transvaal, 553; The Study of Rocks (Review), 79  
 Shapley (H.), E. J. Öpik, and S. L. Boothroyd, The Arizona Expedition for the Study of Meteors, 734  
 Sharp (Prof. L. W.), Einführung in die Zytologie. Mit Genehmigung des Verfassers aus dem Englischen übersetzt und vollständig neu bearbeitet von Prof. R. Jaretsky (Review), 600  
 Sharpey-Schafer (Sir E. A.), and W. A. Bain, Employment of Intra-cardiac Injections of Adrenaline in Asphyxia, 254  
 Shaw (Sir Napier): St. Martin's Summer in England in 1931, 836; with the assistance of Elaine Austin, Manual of Meteorology. Vol. 4: Meteorological Calculus, Pressure and Wind. (A revised edition of part 4, 1919) (Review), 220  
 Sheard (Miss N. M.), [B. P. Wiesner and], Maternal Behaviour and its Endocrine Basis, 254  
 Shedlovsky, Conductivity Equation, 801  
 Sheehy (E. J.), Effect of an Insufficient Supply of Vitamin D on the Growth of the Skeletons and Internal Organs of Chickens, 106  
 Shenstone (A. G.), and H. N. Russell, Internal Perturbations in Atoms, 908  
 Sheppard (P. A.), Character of Atmospheric Ionisation, 169  
 Sherlock (Dr. E. B.), Minds in Arrear: some Practical Aspects of Mental Deficiency (Review), 672  
 Sherrington (Sir Charles), awarded the Hughlings Jackson Memorial Medal, 788  
 Shewell-Cooper (W. E.), appointed Horticultural Superintendent of the Swanley Horticultural College, 517  
 Shiba (H.), Thermal Properties of Liquids, 800  
 Short (E.), [death], 606  
 Shull (Prof. A. F.), Heredity. Second edition (Review), 456  
 Siadbei (G.), A New Method of Measuring Very Small Angles of Rotation, 842  
 Sibaiya (L.), Hyperfine Structure of the Mercury Line 5471 Å., 472  
 Sidery (A. J.), K. G. Lewis, and H. Sutton, Inter-crystalline Corrosion of Duralumin, 446  
 von Siebold (Dr. P. F.), the work of, 537  
 Siegbahn (Prof. M.), and M. Söderman, Absolute Values of X-Ray Wave-lengths and the Fundamental Atomic Constants, 21  
 Sievert (R. M.), Ionisation at High Gas Pressures, 792  
 Simpson (Charlotte A.), Rediscovering England (Review), 112  
 Simpson (Dr. G. C.), W. H. Dines's Scientific Papers (Review), 811; Types of Iridescent Clouds, 689; Weather Forecasting, 251  
 Singer (Dorothea Waley), assisted by Annie Anderson and by Robina Addis, Catalogue of Latin and Vernacular Alchemical Manuscripts in Great Britain and Ireland dating from before the XVI Century. Vol. 3 (Review), 419  
 Singleton (F. A.), Australian Tertiary Mollusca (1), 327  
 Sinnott (Dr. E. W.), Size and Shape Factors in Fruits, 872  
 Sirot [Lemarchands and], Determination of Barium as Chromate, 915  
 Skinner (H. W. B.), The Excitation Potentials of Light Metals (1), Lithium, 213  
 Skrimshire (G. H.), [N. L. Allport and], Determination of Lead in Organic Substances, with Special Reference to Dyestuffs, 518  
 Slater (G.), The Glaciated Surfaces of Nooitgedacht, near Kimberley, etc., 142  
 Slee (Commdr. J. A.), Acoustic Sounding, 62  
 Sloan (D. H.), and E. O. Lawrence, High Speed Ions, 319  
 Slome (D.), [Prof. L. Hogben, E. Charles, and], Influence of Pituitary on the Ovaries, 619  
 Smale, [Mason, Thompson, Wheeler, and], Chlorination of Benzene and Toluene, 172  
 Smetana (O.), [E. Abel and], The Periodate Potential, 915  
 Smith (A. D. Buchanan), Inheritance of Milking Capacity, 688



- Smith (Dr. Bernard), Dr. H. T. Ferrar, 751  
 Smith (D. W.), [Dr. R. F. Mehl, C. S. Barrett, and], Segregation of Cementite from Austenite, 313  
 Smith (Dr. E. C.) (with Dr. Hope Gill), awarded the Langley Prize by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 241  
 Smith (Dr. E. Philip), and M. S. Jolly, Stomatal Movement and Hydrogen Ion Concentration, 544  
 Smith (Prof. G. Elliot), conferment upon, of an Honorary Doctorate by the Egyptian University, 343; Early Man in Java, 863  
 Smith (Sir F. E.), Sir Alfred Yarrow, Bt., 193  
 Smith (Rev. Canon H. Maynard), elected a Member of the Athenæum Club, 574  
 Smith (Homer W.), Regulation of the Blood in Fishes, 206  
 Smith (Dr. Kenneth), Composite Nature of Potato Virus Diseases, 248  
 Smith (Reginald A.), The Sturge Collection: an Illustrated Selection of Flints from Britain, bequeathed in 1919 by William Allen Sturge (*Review*), 43  
 Smith (Stanley G.), [Prof. C. L. Huskins and], Chromosomes of *Sorghum*, 835  
 Smith (Prof. S. P.), The Electrical Equipment of Automobiles. Second edition (*Review*), 80  
 Smith (T.): Optical Glasses, 584; and J. Guild, The C.I.E. Colorimetric Standards and their Use, 770  
 Smith (Dr. Theobald), awarded the Manson Medal of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; the work of, 716; elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society, 865  
 Smith (Sir William Robert), [obituary article], 535  
 Snodgrass (Dr. R. E.), Morphology of the Insect Abdomen, 26  
 Snow (Dr. C. P.): Fine Structure of Absorption Bands in Crystals, 33; [Dr. F. P. Bowden and], Photochemistry of Vitamins A, B, C, D, 720, 943  
 Söderman (M.), [Prof. M. Siegbahn and], Absolute Values of X-Ray Wave-lengths and the Fundamental Atomic Constants, 21  
 Sokolov (D.), and W. Bodylevsky, Spitsbergen Geology, 584  
 Somerville (Sir William), [death], 307; [obituary article], 389  
 Sommer (Allison, Bishop, Christensen, and], Elements 85 and 87, 657  
 Sommerville (Prof. D. M. Y.), Isohedral and Isogonal Generalisations of the Regular Polyhedra, 254  
 Sontag (Mlle. Denise), [L. Palfray, S. Sabetay, and], Action of Potash on some Aryl-fatty Mercaptans, 290; A Method of Determining Aldehydes, 879  
 Sopwith (D. G.), [H. J. Gough and], Corrosion Fatigue of an Aluminium Crystal, 621  
 Soriano (P. S.), Estimation of Food in a Bird's Stomach, 610  
 South (R.), [obituary article], 605  
 Southgate (Dr. B. A.), F. T. K. Pentelow, and R. Bassindale, Death of Fish in the Tees Estuary, 129  
 Southwell (Dr. T.), The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Edited by Lt.-Col. J. Stephenson, Cestoda. Vol. 2 (*Review*), 815  
 Soriano (P. S.), Estimation of Food in a Bird's Stomach, 610  
 South (R.), [obituary article], 605  
 Southgate (Dr. B. A.), F. T. K. Pentelow, and R. Bassindale, Death of Fish in the Tees Estuary, 129  
 Southwell (Dr. T.), The Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma. Edited by Lt.-Col. J. Stephenson, Cestoda. Vol. 2 (*Review*), 815  
 Sowter (G. A. V.), [Dr. N. W. McLachlan and], Conical Diaphragms and Sound Reproduction, 62  
 Sparr (E.), The World's Natural History Societies, 608  
 Späth: [Eder, Wegscheider, and], The Discovery of Red Phosphorus, 520; and O. Hromatka, Dehydration of Sapogenin, 915  
 Speakman (Dr. J. B.), and Mercia C. Hirst, Constitution of the Keratin Molecule, 938  
 Speakman (Dr. J. C.), Co-ordination of Hydrogen in Associated Liquids, 244  
 Spearing (J. K.), Ciliated Reproductive Bodies in the Cyanophyceae, 797  
 Spearman (Prof. C.), conferment upon, of the title of Emeritus Professor, 32  
 Speidel (Dr. C. C.), awarded the prize of 1000 dollars of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 127  
 Spence (H. S.), and H. V. Ellsworth, Uraninite from Henvey Township, Ontario, 367  
 Spencer (Dr. J. F.), and C. G. Trew, Diamagnetism of Liquid Mixtures, 95  
 Spencer (Dr. L. J.), A New Pallasite from Alice Springs, Central Australia, 410; Meteorite Craters, 781  
 Spiers (F. W.), The Diffusion of Mercury Drops on Rolled Tin-foils, 214  
 Spoer (late Mrs. H.), Jewish Folklore in Palestine, 692  
 Squire (F. A.), Oviposition of *Telenomus nigrocoxalis* Aschm. (Chalcididae), 544  
 Smithells (Prof. A.), An Odyssey of Science (*Review*), 74  
 Smithells (Dr. C. J.), Photoelectric Cells, 908  
 Smith-Rose (Dr. R. L.), The Study of Wireless Principles (*Review*), 595  
 Smithson (Dr. F.), Patterns for Eight Simple Relief Models illustrating Geological Structures (*Review*), 529  
 Smyth (Prof. H. F.), and Prof. W. L. Obold, Industrial Microbiology: the Utilization of Bacteria, Yeasts, and Molds in Industrial Processes (*Review*), 673  
 Smyth (L. B.), [A. D. Delap, A. Farrington, D. Lloyd Praeger, and], The Recent Bog-flow at Glencullen, Co. Mayo, 106  
 Smyth, Dornte, and Wilson, Electric Moment and Temperature, 283  
 Stahel (Prof. E.), Beta-Rays of Radium-D, 314; The Number of the Secondary  $\beta$ -Rays emitted by Radium, 519  
 Stamp (Dr. L. Dudley), Annual Conference of the Geographical Association, 139; The Land Utilisation Survey of Britain, 709  
 Stanley (Hon. Sir Arthur), acceptance of the Chairmanship of the Research Defence Society, 467  
 Stanton (Dr. T. W.), appointed Chief Geologist of the U.S. Geological Survey, 467  
 Stapf (Dr. O.), Index Londinensis to Illustrations of Flowering Plants, Ferns, and Fern Allies. Six vols (*Review*), 459  
 Stapledon (Prof. R. G.), and others, Self-Sterility and Crossing in Herbage Plants, 799  
 Stapleton (Principal H. E.), Alchemical Manuscripts, 946  
 Starik (F.), [N. Tagejeva and], The Radium Content of the Petroliferous Waters of Tchekedek Island, 34  
 Starkey (Prof. R. L.), [Prof. S. A. Waksman and], The Soil and the Microbe (*Review*), 600  
 Stasser (R.), [J. Kisser, E. Kiffe, S. Göllner, and], Bending due to Wounds in Dicotyledon Seedlings and their Material Causes, 627  
 Stockard (Prof. C. R.), The Physical Basis of Personality (*Review*), 115  
 Stein (Sir Aurel), awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Asiatic Society, 860  
 Stejneger (L.), Antiquarian and Naturalist, 609  
 Step (E.), Nature in the Garden: Wild Life at our Doors. 2 vols. (*Review*), 154  
 Stern (C. A.), [G. A. Nadson and], Action at a Distance of Metals on Bacteria and Yeasts, 915  
 Stern (O.), [I. Estermann, R. Frisch, and], Monochromatic Atomic Waves, 548  
 Stevenson (D. Alan), Development of Lighthouses, 196  
 Stewart (Prof. A. W.), Recent Advances in Organic Chemistry. Sixth edition, 2 vols. (*Review*), 853  
 Stewart (Dr. C. P.), [T. E. Weichselbaum, M. B. Weichselbaum, and], Feeding Experiments with Methionine, 795  
 Stewart [Buell and], The Lunar Bright Rays, 909  
 Stine (G. F.), [S. W. Frazer and], A Treatise on the Air Brush: with Progressive Lessons (*Review*), 8  
 Stockley (G. M.), Geology of the Ruhuhu Coalfields, Tanganyika Territory, 481  
 Stoddart (E. M.), [T. G. Pearson, Dr. P. L. Robinson, and], Free Ethyl, 832  
 Stokes (Capt. H. S.), Breeding of Touraons in England, 163  
 Stoner (Dr. E. C.), Correlation of the Gyromagnetic Ratio and the Magnetic Moment of Paramagnetic Salts, 733  
 Stopes (Dr. Marie Carmichael), Contraception (Birth Control): its Theory, History, and Practice. New and enlarged edition (*Review*), 455  
 Stora (Mlle. Cécile), [R. Audubert and], The Photovoltaic Properties of Cadmium Sulphide, 734  
 Störmer (Prof. C.), Mother-of-Pearl Clouds over Scandinavia in January and February 1932, 941  
 Stoughton (R. H.), Morphology and Cytology of *Bacterium malvacearum*, E.F.S. (2), 662  
 Stout (Prof. G. F.), Mind and Matter (*Review*), 452



- Straub (Prof. W.), Chemistry and Action of Drugs, 684  
 Strömberg, Distribution of Stellar Luminosities, 837  
 Strong (J. A.), A Method of High-Frequency Stroboscopy, 203; A New Method of Investigating the Modes of Vibration of Quartz Crystals, 59  
 Strong (M. C.), [G. H. Coons and], Diagnosis of *Fusarium* Species, 799  
 Struve (Dr. O.), Spectra of B-type Stars, 442  
 Stuart (N.), [C. A. Murison, Prof. G. P. Thomson, and], Polish on Metals, 545  
 Sugden, Magnetism of Bivalent Copper and Silver Compounds, 513  
 Suhner (F.), [R. de Malleman, L. Gabiano, and], The Magnetic Rotatory Power of Neon, 590  
 Suk (Prof. V.): Ethnic Pathology, 206; and Dr. F. Rozprým, Eyebrows and Eyelashes in Man, 134  
 Sullivan (J. N.), But for the Grace of God (*Review*), 708  
 Sumpter (Dr. W. E.), The Work of Oliver Heaviside (Kelvin Lecture), 643  
 Suri (H. D.), [H. B. Dunncliff and], The Phloroglucinol Method for the Determination of Mechanical Wood Pulp in Paper, 518  
 Suster (P. M.), Inheritance of Enforced Feeding on *Drosophila repleta*, 591  
 Sutcliffe (A.), Physical Chemistry (*Review*), 919  
 Sutton (H.), [A. J. Sidery, K. G. Lewis, and], Inter-crystalline Corrosion of Duralumin, 446  
 Sutton (R. W.), [G. I. Finch and], A Cathode-Ray Oscillographic Method of Measuring Inductance, 373  
 Švagr (Dr. E.), [Prof. B. Brauner and], Physico-Chemical Study of Rare Earth Sulphates, 620  
 Svrbely (J. L.): Function of the Adrenal Medulla, 541; and Prof. A. Szent-Györgyi, Hexuronic Acid as the Antiscorbutic Factor, 576, 690  
 Swanston (Dr. J. R.), A Choctaw Account of the Flood, 619; Ceremonial Games and Social Organisation among the Creek Indians, 660  
 Swasey (Dr. A.), presented with the Franklin Medal, 894  
 Swietoslawski (W.), A. Zmacynski, and J. Usakiewicz, The Boiling Point of Ethyl Alcohol, 410  
 Szczeniowski (S.), and L. Infeld, Effect produced by a Cloud of Electrons on the Structure of the de Broglie Wave, 106  
 Szent-Györgyi (Prof. A.): Function of the Adrenal Medulla, 541; Hexuronic Acid as the Antiscorbutic Factor, 943; [J. L. Svrbely and], Hexuronic Acid as the Antiscorbutic Factor, 576, 690  
 Szper (J.), [M. Centnerszwer and], The Electrolysis of Alkaline Cyanides, 842  
 Tajejeva (N.), and F. Starik, The Radium Content of the Petroliferous Waters of Tchelen Island, 34  
 Tagore (Rabindranath), The Religion of Man: being the Hibbert Lectures for 1930 (*Review*), 739  
 Takvorian (S.): [P. Brauman and], Preparation of the Anhydrous Chlorides of the Metals of the Cerium Earths, 915; [R. Freymann and], The Absorption Spectra of the Rare Earths in the Infra-Red, 662  
 Tallarico (G.), Preservation and Productivity of Corn Grain, 70; The Volume of the Caryopses of Grain in Relation to their Nutritive Value, 215  
 Tallents (Sir Stephen), The Projection of England, 681  
 Talman (C. F.), Frequency of Insects in the Air, 683  
 Tamura (Tadashi), Power of the Adductor Muscle of Bivalves, 134  
 Tanaka (Sin), [Torahiko Terada, Kyôzi Itô, and], Water-jet affected by Tobacco Smoke, 614  
 T'ao (Shih-Chen), and W. Band, Some Thermomagnetic Effects in Nickel and Iron, 373  
 Tapsell (H. J.): Creep of Metals (*Review*), 493; and A. E. Johnson, Properties of Copper in Relation to Low Stresses (2), 446  
 Tarkhan (A. A.), The Effects of Fixatives, 404  
 Tarrant (G. T. P.): Absorption of Hard  $\gamma$ -Radiation, 475; [Dr. L. H. Gray and], Supposed Spontaneous Transformation of Helium into Radiation, 620  
 Taylor (Dr. A. M.), Photodichroism produced by  $\alpha$ -Particles, 758  
 Taylor (Dr. F. S.), Inorganic and Theoretical Chemistry (*Review*), 919  
 Taylor (Prof. G. I.), The Transport of Vorticity and Heat through Fluids in Turbulent Motion, 409  
 Taylor (H. M.), Anomalous Scattering of  $\alpha$ -Particles by Hydrogen and Helium, 56; awarded a Smith's Prize of Cambridge University, 445  
 Taylor (J.), and R. Wark, Photomicrographic Method for Magnification and Recording in High Speed Pressure Indicators, 725  
 Taylor (J. E.), [Prof. R. Whiddington and], The Photographic Action of Electrons, 213  
 Taylor (Dr. L. S.), X-Ray Standards, 908  
 Tchakirian (A.), [C. Levaditi, J. Bardet, A. Vaisman, and], The Therapeutic Properties of Indium in Trypanosomiasis and in Experimental Syphilis, 374  
 Teegan (J. A. C.), and Nancy Hayes, Application of the Electrometer Triode to the Measurement of High Resistance, 508  
 Temple (Dr. G. F. J.), appointed Professor of Mathematics at King's College, London, 324  
 Tenani (M.), The Tides of the Arctic Ocean, 70  
 Terada (Prof. T.), Luminous Phenomena accompanying Earthquakes, 27  
 Terada (T.), M. Hirata, and R. Yamamoto, Microscopic Cracks produced by Electric Spark, 168  
 Terada (Torahiko), Sin Tanaka, and Kyôzi Itô, Water-jet affected by Tobacco Smoke, 614  
 Terroine (E. F.), and H. Trimbach, The Urinary Excretion of Kenotic Substances during Starvation in Various Species of Animals, 178  
 Thatte (V. N.), [A. S. Ganesan and], The NO<sub>3</sub> Frequency in Organic Nitrates, 905  
 Thaxter (Dr. R.), [death], 822  
 Theodor (O.), [S. Adler and], Mediterranean Kala Azar (6), 662  
 Thibaud (J.), and F. Dupré la Tour, Penetrating Power of the Radiation (Neutrons) excited in Beryllium by the  $\alpha$ -Rays, 951  
 Thimann (K. V.), [H. E. Dolk and], The Growth Hormone of Plants (1), 734  
 Thomas (Bertram S.), Arabia Felix: Across the Empty Quarter of Arabia (*Review*), 633; elected a Member of the Athenæum Club, 242  
 Thomas (D. E.), The Kerrie Series and Associated Rocks, 327  
 Thomas (H. A.), Testing Broadcast Receivers, 512  
 Thomas (J. A.), The Obscure Vesicles of *Sipunculus*, 254  
 Thomas (P. E.), [R. Fosse, P. De Graeve, and], A New Plant Principle: Uric Acid, 878  
 Thomas and Conland, Apparatus for Blind Reading Print by Sound, 52  
 Thompson (A. Beeby), Modern Oil Production Problems, 934; [death], 15  
 Thompson (Prof. D'Arcy W.), Geometry of the Siliceous Skeletons of the Radiolaria, 325  
 Thompson (E. W.), and A. Jeavons, Boilerworks' Practice, 209  
 Thompson (Dr. H.), Distribution, Ecology, and Classification of Tunicata, 318  
 Thompson (J. E.): Archæological Investigations in the Southern Cayo District, British Honduras, 586; [T. Gann and], The History of the Maya: from the Earliest Times to the Present Day (*Review*), 637  
 Thompson (J. E.), Mathematics for Self-Study Series. 4 vols. (*Review*), 358  
 Thompson (Prof. J. W.), The Middle Ages, 300-1500. 2 vols., and abridged edition (*Review*), 417  
 Thompson [Mason, Smale, Wheeler, and], Chlorination of Benzene and Toluene, 172  
 Thompson (W. G.), [Prof. W. M. Thornton and], Absolute Measurement of Voltage, 208  
 Thoms (Prof. H.), [death], 15  
 Thomsen (Prof. M.), [Sofie Rostrup und], Die tierischen Schädlinge des Ackerbaues (*Review*), 118  
 Thomson (Prof. G. P.): Electron Optics, 81; presented with the Howard N. Potts Medal, 895; [C. A. Murison, N. Stuart, and], Polish on Metals, 545  
 Thomson (Sir J. Arthur): Purpose in Evolution, 682; Miss Laura M. I. Dean, and others, East-Indian Alcyonarians, 944  
 Thorndike (E. M.), [R. J. Kennedy and], A Search for an Electrostatic Analogue to the Gravitational Red Shift, 484



- Thorne (R. S. W.), Determination of Nitrogen in Yeast, 405
- Thornton (Prof. W. M.), and W. G. Thompson, Absolute Measurement of Voltage, 208
- Thorpe (Prof. J.), The Schools and Research, 65
- Thorpe (Dr. W. H.), appointed Lecturer in Entomology in Cambridge University, 949
- Thresh (Dr. J. C.), [death], 786
- Thuau (U. V.), [G. Champetier and], The Dehydration of Cupric Hydroxide, 290
- Tickell (Prof. F. G.), The Examination of Fragmental Rocks (*Review*), 528
- Tidmarsh (W. G.), The Permian Lavas of Devon, 698
- Tiercy (G.), The Problem of Comet Orbits, 107
- Tietjens (Dr. O. G.), Stream Lining in Locomotives and Motor Cars, 28
- Tillyard (Dr. R. J.), Origin of Insects from Crustacea, 828 ; The Buffalo-Fly Danger in Australia, 318 ; The Wing-venation of the Order Isoptera (1), 70
- Tincker (Dr. M. A. H.), Light as a Factor in Sexual Periodicity, 543
- Tinklepaugh (O. L.), Sexual Selection and External Appearance, 61
- Todesco (Prof. G.), Propagation of Hertzian Waves in Electronic Gas under the Influence of a Magnetic Field, 203
- du Toit (Prof. P. J.), Veterinary Research in South Africa, 232
- Tolansky (Dr. S.), Hyperfine Structure of the Mercury Line  $\lambda 4916$ , 204 ; The Nuclear Spin of Arsenic, 652
- Tomaschek (Prof. R.), and W. Schaffernicht, Ether-Drift and Gravity, 24
- Tomkins (H. G.), Photography of the Full Moon, 946
- Tomlinson [Hyde, Allan, and], Performance of Gears, 538
- Toperczer (M.), Measurement of the Magnetic Declination with Magnets suspended by Threads, 735
- Topley (B.), [E. N. Greer and], Attack of Oxygen Molecules upon Highly Crystalline Graphite, 904
- Topsent (Prof. E.), elected a Foreign Member of the Linnean Society of London, 753
- Torreson (O. W.), [Dr. G. R. Wait and], Rate of Ionisation of the Atmosphere, 401
- Torrey (T. W.), Relation of Taste-buds to their Nerve-fibres, 483
- Tottingham (W. E.), and J. G. Moore. Effect of Ultra-Violet Light on Plants, 26
- Toumey (Prof. J. W.), Seeding and Planting in the Practice of Forestry. Second edition, revised and enlarged by Prof. C. F. Korstian (*Review*), 631
- Tourneur (C.), [A. Boutaric and], Study of Colloidal Solutions by the Polarisation of the Light diffused by them, 34
- Towle (F. A.), [obituary], 123
- Townend (H. C. H.), [A. Fage and], An Examination of Turbulent Flow with an Ultramicroscope, 409, 728
- Townsend (C. H.), Past and Present Whaling Records, 443
- Trägårdh (Dr. I.), Palaeacariformes, a New Sub-Order of the Acari, 541
- Tréhin (R.), Absorption of Aqueous Solutions of some Chlorides in the Ultra-Violet, 69
- Trevelyan (Prof. G. M.), The Appeal of Natural Beauty (Rickman Godlee Lecture), 197
- Trevithick (Richard), A Statue to, 787
- Trew (C. G.), [Dr. J. F. Spencer and], Diamagnetism of Liquid Mixtures, 95
- Trier (Dr. G.), Die Alkaloide: eine Monographie der natürlichen Basen. Winterstein, Zweite Auflage. Teil 2, 40
- Trimbach (H.), [E. F. Terroine and], The Urinary Excretion of Kenotic Substances during Starvation in Various Species of Animals, 178
- Trombe (F.), Preparation of Metallic Lanthanum free from Iron and Silica, 951
- Trotel (G.), [Duffieux and], The Luminous Phenomena produced by the Rolling of Amalgams on Glass in a Vacuum, 214
- Trotter (Wilfred), Hunterian Oration of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, 427
- Trueman (Prof. A. E.), The Coal Measures of Belgium, 29
- Truscott (J. H. L.), [T. C. Vanterpool and], Browning Root Rot of Cereals, 945
- Tschermak (E.), Artificial Illumination as a Stimulus in Hot-Houses, 555
- Tsi-Ze (Ny), and Chien Ling-Chao, Photographic Effect of Pressure, 951
- Tsuboi (Prof. C.), The Isu (Japan) Earthquake of Nov. 26, 1930, 404
- Tubangui (M. A.), Helminthes of the Rat, 799
- Tulasne (L. R. and C.), Selecta Fungorum Carpolgiae of the Brothers, translated by W. B. Grove. Edited by Prof. A. H. R. Buller and Dr. C. L. Shear. 3 vols. (*Review*), 813
- Tulloch (W. J.), [J. Craigie and], Further Investigations on the Variola-Vaccinia Flocculation Reaction, 226
- Turk (F. A.), Swarming of Collembola in England, 830
- Turner (A. J.), Revision of Australian Lepidoptera (1), 70
- Turner (Dr. A. W.), Black Disease and Sheep, 134
- Turner (L. B.), Wireless: a Treatise on the Theory and Practice of High Frequency Electric Signalling (*Review*), 595
- Tuve (M. A.), L. R. Hafstad, and O. Dahl, Photographs of Fast Protons, 620
- Twyman (F.), A Photographic Eyepiece for Visual Quantitative Spectrum Analysis, 770
- Tyndall (Prof. A. M.), elected President of the Science Masters' Association, 66
- Tyrrell (Dr. G. W.): Recent Scottish Earthquakes, 207 ; Stratigraphy of the Stor Fjord Region of Spitsbergen, 553 ; and K. S. Sandford, Tectonics and Petrology of the Dolerites of Spitsbergen, 553
- Udden (Prof. J. A.), [death], 307
- Ulrich (E. O.), and R. S. Bassler, Cambrian Conchostraca, 367
- Underhill (Dr. S. W. F.), [K. Culhane and], Estimation of Hormones, 769
- Ure (S. G. M.), appointed Reader in Chemical Engineering at Imperial College, 876
- Urey (H. C.), F. G. Brickwedde, and G. M. Murphy, A Possible Hydrogen Isotope of Mass 2, 101
- Urquhart (Prof. A. L.), [death], 606
- Usakiewicz (J.), [W. Swietoslawski, A. Zmaczynski and], The Boiling-point of Ethyl Alcohol, 410
- Uvarov (Dr. B. P.), Epidemiology of Insect Pests (*Review*), 260
- Vaidhianathan (Dr. V. I.), and B. S. Puri, Magnetism of Precipitates of Colloidal Silver, 170
- Vaisman (A.), [C. Levaditi, J. Bardet, A. Tchakirian, and], The Therapeutic Properties of Indium in Trypanosomiasis and in Experimental Syphilis, 374
- Valadares (M.), [S. Rosenblum and], The Fine Structure of the  $\alpha$ -Rays of Thorium-C., 662
- Valentin (F.), The Series of Alcoholic Sugars, 771
- Valet (M.), [T. Nanty and], The Specific Inductive Capacity of Colloidal Solutions, 590
- Vallance (R. H.), [Dr. J. Newton Friend and], Periodic Precipitation, 205
- van Es (Dr. L. J. C.), The Age of Pithecanthropus (*Review*), 633
- Van Maanen (A.), Parallaxes of Faint Stars, 658
- Vanterpool (T. C.), and J. H. L. Truscott, Browning Root Rot of Cereals, 945
- Vareton (E.), [G. Mezzadrolì and], Action exerted on the Development of Silkworms by an Open Oscillating Circuit of Copper and Zinc, 142 ; Influence of Italian Radioactive Soils on the Development of Silkworms, 375 ; The Development of Silkworms, 483
- Veblen (O.), and J. H. C. Whitehead, A Set of Axioms for Differential Geometry, 291
- Vegard (Prof. L.), Infra-Red Photography of Aurora, 657 ; Spectrographic Observations of Infra-Red Lines in the Auroral Spectrum, 468 ; Wave-length of the Green Auroral Line determined by the Interferometer, 23
- Veil (Mlle. Suzanne), Action of the Electric Field on Gelatine, 447 ; The Individual Diffusion of the Liesegang Reagents in Gelatine, 770
- Velluz (L.), [H. Vincent and], The Immunogenic Properties of the Diiodosalicylic Cryptotoxin, 33



- Venkateswaran (S.), [S. Bhagavantam and], Polarisation of Raman Scattering, 580
- Venn (Dr. J. A.), elected President of Queens' College, Cambridge, 445
- Venske (O.), Magnetic Distribution in China and Tibet, 584
- Verde (A. Dalla), Electric Power in Italy, 125
- Vernadsky (V.), Liquid Carbon Dioxide in Ocean Water, 607; The Field of Stability of the Liquid Carbonic Acid in the Biosphere, 663
- Vernon (W. H. J.), the 'Fogging' of Nickel, 482
- Vernotte (P.), [E. Brun and], Heating of a Thermometer by a Gaseous Current, 519
- Vickers (J. H.), Articulation of Joints in the Bat, 474
- Vickery (Dr. J. R.), Food Preservation by Refrigeration, 610
- de Villamil (Lt.-Col. R.), Newton: the Man (*Review*), 300
- Vincent (H.), and L. Velluz, The Immunogenic Properties of the Diiodosalicylic Cryptotoxin, 33
- Vinogradov (A. P.), Colorimetric Determination of Vanadium by the Method of Phospho-tungstic Acid, 447
- Viola (G.), Certain Peculiarities of the Annual Variation of Relative Humidity, 952
- Vittenet (R.), [A. Meyer and], Preparation of Homophthalic Acid by the Oxidation of Indene, 807
- Vogler (H.), [L. Pungs and], A New Method of Measuring High Frequency Voltages, 138
- Vowles (H. P.): Ancient Windmills, 317; and Margaret W. Vowles, The Quest for Power: from Prehistoric Times to the Present Day (*Review*), 380
- Vowles (Margaret W.), [H. P. Vowles and], The Quest for Power: from Prehistoric Times to the Present Day (*Review*), 380
- Wade (Dr. A.), Oilfields of Zante, 207
- Wagner (Prof. G.), Einführung in die Erd- und Landschaftsgeschichte: mit besonderer Berücksichtigung Süddeutschlands (*Review*), 780
- Wait (Dr. G. R.), and O. W. Torreson, Rate of Ionisation of the Atmosphere, 401
- Wakefield (Lord), gift to the Imperial Institute, 504
- Wakeman (A. C. R.), [T. L. Ibbs and], Nature of the Carbon Dioxide Molecule, 248
- Wakemann (R.), [R. Lespieau, M. Bourguet, and], The Raman Effect of Chemistry, 69
- Waksman and Iyer: An Artificial Humus, 800; and Prof. R. L. Starkey, The Soil and the Microbe (*Review*), 600
- Wales (Prince of), speech at opening of Manson House, 463
- Walford (L. A.), Common Commercial and Game Fishes of California, 907
- Walker (F.), An Albitite from Ve Skerries, Shetland Isles, 625; Differentiation in the Sills of Northern Trotternish, Skye, 553
- Walker (Sir Gilbert T.), Helmholtz or Kelvin Cloud Waves, 205
- Walters (J. E.), Applied Personnel Administration (*Review*), 637
- Walton (Dr. E. T. S.), [Dr. J. D. Cockcroft and], Artificial Production of Fast Protons, 242; Disintegration of Lithium by Swift Protons, 649; Experiments with High Velocity Positive Ions (1 and 2), 841
- Walton (Prof. J.): Some Fossil Plants from the Karroo Beds in the Ruvuhu River Depression, 481; and Jessie A. R. Wilson, Structure of *Vertebraria*, 626
- Ward (T. J.), [C. Ainsworth Mitchell and], Sediments in Inks and in Writing, 806
- Wardlaw (Dr. C. W.), and Dr. L. P. McGuire, Transport and Storage of Bananas, 172
- Wark (Elsie E.), [A. B. Cox, Dr. I. W. Wark, and], Dependence of Angle of Contact on the Constitution of Adsorbed Organic Compounds, 871
- Wark (Dr. I. W.): Electrostatic Explanation of the Phenomenon of Flotation, 833; [A. B. Cox, Elsie E. Wark, and], Dependence of Angle of Contact on the Constitution of Adsorbed Organic Compounds, 871
- Wark (R.), [J. Taylor and], Photomicrographic Method for Magnification and Recording in High Speed Pressure Indicators, 725
- Warren (Dr. E.), A Fertile Mule, 130; Eland-Ox Hybrid, 828; Source of 'Nagana' in South Africa, 429
- Warren (H.), Electrical Insulating Materials (*Review*), 744
- Warren (Massy, Wolfenden, and), Physical Properties of Nitrobenzene, 442
- Washburn (E. W.), Crystalline Rubber, 28
- Washington (Dr. H. S.), elected an Honorary Member of the Mineralogical Society, 899; The Chemical Analysis of Rocks. Fourth edition (*Review*), 261
- Waters (R.), Retting of Wool, 467
- Waterston (Prof. D.), Anatomy in the Living Model (*Review*), 853
- Watkins (H. G.), awarded the Bruce Prize, 865
- Watkinson (Prof. W. H.), [obituary article], 306
- Watson and Sons (Electro-Medical), Ltd., apparatus for surgical diathermy, 54
- Watson (Prof. D. M. S.), [C. Forster Cooper and], The Oldoway Human Skeleton, 312, 903
- Watson (Prof. H. E.), Contact of Smooth Surfaces, 437
- Watson (Prof. T. L.), [Prof. H. Ries and], Engineering Geology. Fourth edition (*Review*), 528
- Watson (W. F.), Standardisation of Screw Threads, 622
- Watt (R. A. Watson), Winter in the Ionosphere, 761
- Watts (Prof. W. W.), presentation to, 307
- Wave (R.): The Small Vibrations of Liquid Stars, 34; [P. Dive and], The Newtonian Potential and Multiform Functions, 734
- Wayland (E. J.), *Deinotherium* in the Pleistocene, 24; The Tectonics of the Albertine Rift, 762
- Weatherall (R.), Determinism, 509
- Webster, Artificial Production of a Penetrating Nuclear Radiation, 837
- Webster (H. C.), Possible Existence of a Neutron, 402; The Artificial Production of Nuclear  $\gamma$ -Radiation, 325
- Webster (T. A.), [F. A. Askew, R. B. Bourdillon, H. M. Bruce, R. K. Callow, J. St. L. Philpot, and], Crystalline Vitamin D, 178
- Wegscheider [Eder, Späth, and], The Discovery of Red Phosphorus, 520
- Weichselbaum (M. B.), [T. E. Weichselbaum, and Dr. C. P. Stewart, Feeding Experiments with Methionine, 795
- Weichselbaum (T. E.), M. B. Weichselbaum, and Dr. C. P. Stewart, Feeding Experiments with Methionine, 795
- Weinmann (G. H.), The Statute Law of Coroners and Medical Examiners in the United States, 198
- Weir (Lord), The Status of Science in Politics, 517
- Weiss (Prof. F. E.), elected President of the Linnean Society of London, 827
- Weiss (Prof. P.), Atomic Moments of some Metals, 95
- Weiss (Dr. P.), Entwicklungsphysiologie der Tiere (*Review*), 888
- Welch (F. B. A.), The Geological Structure of the Eastern Mendips, 373
- Welch (M. B.): The Shrinkage of Wood, 843; [E. Cheel and], A New Species of Wattle, 843; F. A. Coombs, and W. McGlynn, Wattle Barks (3), 843
- Wellcome (Sir Henry), elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, 822
- Wells (A. L.), Special Thames Estuary Fisheries, 341; The Life and Work of Dr. James Murie, 752
- Wells (G. P.), Colour Response in a Leech, 686
- Wells (H. G.), The Work, Wealth and Happiness of Mankind (*Review*), 558; What are we to do with our Lives? (*Review*), 415
- Wensel [Roeser, Caldwell, and], Freezing Point of Platinum, 136
- Went (Prof. F. A. F. C.), elected President of the International Botanical Congress, 1935, 396
- Wenyon (Dr. C. M.), Major-General Sir David Bruce, 86
- Werner (F.), Results of a Zoological Expedition to Morocco in 1930 (4), 879
- de Wesselow (O. L. V.), appointed Professor of Medicine at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, 67
- Wessely (F.), and Editha Nadler, Substances contained in the Root of *Pimpinella saxifraga* (2), 699
- Wheeler (Dr. J. F. G.), appointed Director of the Bermuda Biological Station, 89
- Wheeler [Mason, Smale, Thompson, and], Chlorination of Benzene and Toluene, 172
- Wheeler (Prof. W. M.), Demons of the Dust: a Study in Insect Behaviour (*Review*), 39
- Whelan (C. B.): Post-Glacial Prehistory in Ireland, 371; [Dr. M. Baudouin and], Diorite Axes from Ireland, 171



- Whiddington (Prof. R.), and J. E. Taylor, The Photographic Action of Electrons, 213
- Whimster (D. C.), The Archaeology of Surrey (*Review*), 924
- Whipple (Dr. F. L.), and Dr. L. E. Cunningham, The Delporte Planet, 765
- Whitby (L.), [G. D. Bengough and], Magnesium Alloy Protection by Selenium and other Coating Processes, 481
- White (E. L. C.), Automatic Recording of Heavyside Layer Heights, 579
- White (F. W. G.), [J. A. Ratcliffe and], Polarisation of Downcoming Wireless Waves, 364
- Whitehead (Dr. J. B.), presented with the Elliott Cresson Medal, 895
- Whitehead (J. H. C.), [O. Veblen and], A Set of Axioms for Differential Geometry, 291
- Whitley (J. H.), elected a Member of the Athenæum Club, 574
- Whittaker (Prof. E. T.), The Differential Equations of Physics (*Review*), 850
- Whittard (W. F.): The Longmynd-Shelve and Breidden Outcrops, 950; [M. M. L. Parkinson and], Geology of East Greenland, 282
- Whittick (G. C.), Roman Mining in Britain, 572
- Whyte (Dr. R. O.), Saxifrage Crosses, 204
- Whytlaw-Gray (Prof. R.), [H. S. Patterson, W. Cawood, and], Atomic Weight of Fluorine, 245
- Wiesner (B. P.), and Miss N. M. Sheard, Maternal Behaviour and its Endocrine Basis, 254
- Wilcox (W. W.), Basis of the Dependence of Visual Acuity on Illumination, 735
- Wildman (A. B.), *Ovis astore*, a Three-Coated Sheep, 794
- Wilhelm (J. O.), [Prof. J. C. McLennan, A. C. Burton, A. Pitt, and], The Phenomena of Superconductivity with Alternating Currents of High-frequency, 409
- Willey (E. J. B.), and S. G. Foord, Determination of Nitrogen Peroxide, 475
- Williams (Rev. A. T. P.), elected a Member of the Athenæum Club, 242
- Williams (Dr. C. B.), appointed Chief Entomologist at Rothamsted Experimental Station, 311
- Williams (E. J.), and P. M. S. Blackett, Passage of Ionising Particles through Matter, 512
- Williams (G. B.), Rainfall of Assam, 806
- Williams (P.), [R. Seligman and], Interaction of Aluminium and Water Vapour, 446
- Williams (Prof. R. Stenhouse), [death], 228; [obituary article], 306
- Williams (Prof. S. R.), Mechanical Hardness influenced by Magnetisation, 939
- Williams (W. E.), A New Type of Interference Refractometer, 806
- Williamson (Prof. A. W.), Japanese Development and, 338
- Williamson (R. W.), [obituary article], 194
- Willis (E.), The Willis Navigating Machine, 607
- Wills (Dr. L. J.), appointed Professor of Geology in the University of Birmingham, 876
- Wilson (C. H.), [J. C. Earl and], The Condensation of  $\alpha$ - $\beta$  Dibromocarboxylic Acids with Benzene in the Presence of Aluminium Halides, 35
- Wilson (Prof. C. T. R.), awarded the Duddell Medal of the Physical Society, 127
- Wilson (Prof. E.), [death], 307; [obituary article], 336
- Wilson (J.), Safety Glass, 909
- Wilson (Jessie A. R.), [Prof. J. Walton and], Structure of *Vertebraria*, 626
- Wilson (Prof. W.), Theoretical Physics. Vol. 1 (*Review*), 777
- Wilson (Smyth, Dornte, and), Electric Moment and Temperature, 283
- Wilson-Barker (Sir David), Types of Iridescent Clouds, 690
- Wimperis (H. E.), High Speed Flying, 31
- Winshurst (James), Centenary of the Birth of, 536
- Windaus (Prof.), and others, Isolation of Vitamin B<sub>1</sub>, 161
- Wingate (S. D.), The Mediaval Latin Versions of the Aristotelian Scientific Corpus, with Special Reference to the Biological Works (*Review*), 301
- Winsor (C. P.), The Gompertz Curve as a Growth Curve, 734
- Winterstein, Die Alkaloide: eine Monographie der natürlichen Basen. Zweite Auflage von Dr. G. Trier. Teil 2 (*Review*), 40
- Wishart (Dr. J.), Inheritance of Milking Capacity, 868; The Secular Variation of Rainfall at Rothamsted, 806
- Witherby (H. F.), and E. P. Leach, British Migration elucidated by Ringing Methods, 282
- Wolfenden [Massy, Warren, and], Physical Properties of Nitrobenzene, 442
- Wolsky (A.), [Prof. J. S. Huxley and], Structure of Normal and Mutant Eyes in *Gammarus chevreuxi*, 242
- Woltjer, Jr. (J.), The Hydrogen Chromosphere, 580
- Wood (Dr. A. B.), Cathode-ray Oscillographs, 475
- Wood (Sir Kingsley), The Teleprinter, 161
- Wood (Prof. R. W.), elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, 199; The Raman Effect, 367
- Wood (W. A.), Crystal Lattice Distortion in Stretched Wire, 760
- Woodbury (W. E.), [F. R. Fraprie and], Photographic Amusements: including Tricks and Unusual or Novel Effects obtainable with the Camera. Tenth edition (*Review*), 814
- Wood-Jones (Prof. F.), Australian Female Skull, 366
- Woodman (H. E.), [A. Amos and], Ensilage, 172
- Woods (A.), Dangerous Drugs: the World Fight against Illicit Traffic in Narcotics (*Review*), 222
- Woods (Hilda M.), and W. T. Russell, An Introduction to Medical Statistics (*Review*), 188
- Woodward (Sir A. Smith), Implements of Chinese Fossil Man, 784
- Woodward (Dr. L. A.), awarded the Massey Scientific Research Fellowship at University College, Nottingham, 177
- Woog (P.), J. Givaudon, and Mlle. Emilie Ganster, Neutralising Varnishes, 34
- Wolf (Dr. B.), Recent Advances in the Study of Enzymes, 928
- Woolley (L.), Second Dynasty Burial Rites at Ur, 273
- Woolnough (Dr. W. G.), The Oil-Fields of the U.S.A. and Argentina, and on Oil Prospects in Australia, 155
- Wooster (Nora), and A. J. P. Martin, Preparation and Mounting of Deliquescent Substances, 582
- Worrall (R. L.), [Prof. L. Hogben, I. Zieve, and], The Genetic Basis of Alcaptonuria, 914
- Worthington (Dr. E. B.), and L. C. Beadle, Thermoclines in Tropical Lakes, 55
- Wright (H.), [Prof. MacGregor-Morris and], Cathode-ray Oscillographs, 475
- Wright (Dr. N. C.), Research Work at the Hannah Dairy Research Institute, 789
- Wulff (Rev. T.), Translated by C. J. Smith, Modern Physics: a General Survey of its Principles (*Review*), 886
- Wynn-Williams (C. B.), [W. B. Lewis and], Origin of the  $\gamma$ -Rays from Actinium Emanation, 873
- Wynne-Edwards (H. S.): Types of Iridescent Clouds, 798; [Prof. J. C. McLennan, H. J. C. Ireton, and], Auroral Heights in Canada, 135
- Yamamoto (R.), [T. Terada, M. Hirata, and], Microscopic Cracks produced by Electric Spark, 168
- Yarrow (Sir Alfred), [obituary articles], 158, 193
- Yersin (A.), Long Survival of *Hevea* Trees broken by a Typhoon, 951
- Yeu-Ki-Heng [E. Darmais and], Influence of Thorium Salts on the Rotatory Power of Tartaric Acid and the Tartrates, 554
- Yovanovitch (D. K.), and P. Savitch, The Calorimetric Study of the Absorption of the  $\gamma$ -Rays of Radium, 34
- Yudkin (J.), [D. M. Needham, Dr. J. Needham, E. Baldwin, and], A Comparative Study of the Phosphagens, 373
- Zaborowska (Prof. Suzanne), Décoration des verres, émaux, céramiques (*Review*), 8
- Zachariasen (W. H.), The Crystal Lattice of Calcium Metaborate, CaB<sub>2</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, 484



- Zagami (V.), Effects on Albino Rats of Feeding with Seeds of *Lathyrus sativa* L. alone, 375
- Zakrzewski (C.), and M. Miesowicz, Feebly Damped Short Electric Waves, 842
- Zamatorin (M.), [P. Saldau and], Solubility of Aluminium in Magnesium, 482
- Zambonini (F.), and Silvia Restaino, Double Sulphates of Rare Earth and Alkali Metals (14), 215
- Zanon (Dr. V.), Origin of 'Mare Sporeo', 660
- Zanoni (G.), Certain Correlation Phenomena in Plants, 555
- Zavadovsky (M. M.), Zebu-Yak Hybrids, 727
- Zeiss, Carl, Ltd., Catalogue of Surveying Instruments, 275
- Zeuner (Dr. F.), Die Insektenfauna des Böttinger Marmors: eine systematische und paläobiologische Studie (*Review*), 564
- Zieve (I.), [Prof. L. Hogben, R. L. Worrall, and], The Genetic Basis of Alcaptonuria, 914
- Zilva (Dr. S. S.): Hexuronic Acid as the Antiscorbutic Factor, 690, 943; [Perry and], Vitamin Content of the Mango, 944
- Zmaczynski (A.), [W. Swietoslawski, J. Usakiewicz, and], The Boiling Point of Ethyl Alcohol, 410
- Zoethout (Prof. W. D.), A Textbook of Physiology. Fourth edition (*Review*), 456
- Zoutendyk (A.), [E. Grasset and], Immunology in Reptiles, 619
- Zuckerman (Dr. S.), The Social Life of Monkeys and Apes (*Review*), 923
- Zurcher (R.), [E. Briner, H. Paillard, and], An Internal Combustion Motor with Air mixed with Ozone, 34
- van Zuylen (J.), [Prof. D. Coster and], Relative Excitation of the Three X-Ray L-Levels with Cathode Rays of Different Velocities, 942
- Zwarenstein (H.), and I. Schrire, The Adrenal Gland of *Xenopus laevis*, 914
- Zwicky (F.), Why Crystals Exist, 70



# TITLE INDEX

- $\alpha$ - $\beta$  Dibromocarboxylic Acids with Benzene, Condensation of, in the Presence of Aluminium Halides, J. C. Earl and C. H. Wilson, 35
- $\alpha$ -Particles : Artificial Disintegration by, Dr. J. Chadwick and Dr. J. E. R. Constable (2) : Fluorine and Aluminium, 289 ; Nature of the Penetrating Radiation Excited in Light Nuclei by the, Mme. I. Curie and F. Joliot, 807
- $\alpha$ -Radiators, Proton Numbers, Atomic Numbers, and Range of, S. Meyer, 735
- $\alpha$ -Rays of Radio-actinium, Fine Structure of the Magnetic Spectrum of the, Mme. P. Curie and S. Rosenblum, 807
- Absorption Spectrophotometry, Adam Hilger, Ltd., 231, 685
- Acacia Catechu*, Volume Tables for Timber of, H. G. Champion and Ishwar Das Mahendru, 404
- Acetylene, The Formation of, P. Montagne, 878
- Acetylenic Primary Alcohols, A Method of Preparation of True, R. Lespieau, 374
- Achatina fulica*, Further Spread of the Land-Snail, Y. H. C. Jarrett, 692
- Acid-soluble Organic Phosphorus Compound in the Submaxillary Gland of the Dog, A. Rossi and G. Seoz, 807
- Acidimetric Indicators in Argentometry, Use of, F. J. Garrick, 214
- Acoustic : and Telephone Measurements, H. R. Harbottle, 731 ; Sounding, Commdr. J. A. Slee, 62 ; Testing by Echoes at the Edge of Noisy Aeroplanes, C. Florisson, 770
- Acquired Characters, Inheritance of, Prof. E. W. MacBride, 900 ; Prof. J. B. S. Haldane, 817, 856
- Actinium in Uranium Minerals, Determination of, Mlle. Ellen Gleditsch and E. Foyn, 915
- Actinomycetales, Knowledge of the (2), H. L. Jensen, 70
- Actuaries, Institute of, W. Palin Elderton elected President of the, 504
- Adders, Hibernation of, Dr. N. Morrison, 473
- Adrenal Medulla, Function of the, J. L. Svirbely and Prof. A. Szent-Györgyi, 541
- Adrenaline in Asphyxia, Employment of Intracardiac Injections of, Sir E. A. Sharpey-Schafer and W. A. Bain, 254
- Adsorbed Organic Compounds, Constitution of, Dependence of Angle of Contact on the, A. B. Cox, Elsie E. Wark, and Dr. I. W. Wark, 871
- Adsorption : Bawn, 320 ; of Gases, Prof. E. K. Rideal, 387
- Aerial Phototriangulation, Prof. D. Lampadarios, 207
- Aeroplane Wings, Flutter of, R. A. Frazer and Dr. W. J. Duncan, 20
- Africa, Magic and Administration in, 629
- African Research, Miss L. C. Mair awarded a Rockefeller fellowship for, 311
- Agricultural : Industry, 195 ; Pamphlet, an, Sir John Russell, 133 ; Parasites Research in Canada, 644 ; Research : Medical and, Co-operation in, 881 ; Progress of, 310
- Agriculture, Scientific, An Encyclopædia of (*Review*), 152
- Air : Brush : A Treatise on the, with Progressive Lessons, S. W. Frazer and G. F. Stine (*Review*), 8 ; Column Resonances and Symmetrical Modes of Truncated Conical Shells (Loud Speaker Diaphragms), Dr. N. W. McLachlan, 202 ; in Tunnels, Conditions of, 730 ; Movement and Weather, 836
- Airscrews, Properties of the Sound emitted by, C. F. B. Kemp, 253
- Akhenaton's Mummy, Dr. D. E. Derry and R. Engelbach, 51
- Akron, The, the Airship of the U.S. Navy, 645
- Albertine Drift, The Tectonics of the, E. J. Wayland, 762
- Albertus Magnus : as Chemist, Prof. F. Paneth, 612 ; His Scientific Views, Dr. T. Greenwood, 266
- Albitite from Ve Skerries, Shetland Isles, F. Walker, 625
- Alcaptonuria, The Genetic Basis of, Prof. L. Hogben, R. L. Worrall, and I. Zieve, 914
- Alchemical Manuscripts : Catalogue of Latin and Vernacular, in Great Britain and Ireland dating from before the XVI Century, Dorothea Waley Singer, assisted by Annie Anderson and by Robina Addis. Vol. 3 (*Review*), 419 ; Principal H. E. Stapleton, 946
- Alcohol : Habit, The, and its Treatment, Dr. W. E. Masters (*Review*), 222 ; in the Homeotherm, Combustion of, M. Nicloux, 842 ; on Man, A Review of the Effects of (*Review*), 222
- Alcoholic Sugars, F. Valentin, 771
- Aldehydes, A Method of Determining, L. Palfray, S. Sabetay, and Mlle. Denise Sontag, 879
- Algæ in the South Indian Cretaceous, L. Rama Rao, 441
- Algebra, Elementary, The Teaching of, C. V. Durell (*Review*), 742
- Algébriques et de leurs intégrales, Théorie des fonctions, P. Appell et Prof. É. Goursat. Deux. édition, revue et augmentée par P. Fatou. Tome 1 : Étude des fonctions analytiques sur une surface de Riemann. Tome 2 : Théorie des fonctions algébriques d'une variable et des transcendentes qui s'y rattachent ; fonctions automorphes (*Review*), 600
- Alkali : Glasses, Behaviour of, J. Hoffmann, 735 ; Halides, Solid Solutions between, A. Baroni, 375
- Alkaline Cyanides, Electrolysis of, M. Centnerszwer and J. Szper, 842
- Alkaloide, Die : eine Monographie der natürlichen Basen, Winterstein. Zweite Auflage von Dr. G. Trier. Teil 2 (*Review*), 40
- Alkyl Iodides, Photolysis of the, Mechanism of the, G. Emschwiller, 34
- Allelomorphs in Mice, A New Series in, Prof. L. C. Dunn ; Dr. R. A. Fisher, 130
- Allgemeinen Elektrizitäts-Gesellschaft, Jahrbuch des Forschungs-Instituts der. Band 2, 1930 (*Review*), 384
- Alloys, Non-ferrous, Thermal Conductivity of some, D. Hanson and C. E. Rogers, 446
- Allyl Transposition, A New Example of the, A. Kirrmann and R. Rambaud, 770
- Alpine Scenery, Ice and the Formation of, Prof. E. J. Garwood, 443
- Alternating Currents and of other Oscillatory Phenomena, A New Algebraical Representation of, A. Blondel, 878
- Alternators, Large, 539
- Aluminium : Alloys of High Purity, Age-hardening of some, Dr. Marie L. V. Gayler and G. D. Preston, 482 ; and Water Vapour, Interaction of, Dr. R. Seligman and P. Williams, 446 ; Artificial Disintegration of, Dr. J. Chadwick and J. E. R. Constable, 441 ; in Magnesium, Solubility of in the Solid State at Different Temperatures, P. Saldau and M. Zamatorin, 482
- Amazon Basin, Archæology of the (*Review*), 185
- l'Amazone, L'Archéologie du bassin de, Prof. E. Nordenskiöld (*Review*), 185
- America, Early Scientific Worthies of, 137
- American : Association for the Advancement of Science : award of the prize of the, to Dr. C. C. Speidel, 127 ; Prof. J. J. Abel elected President of the, 127 ; Discontent, Sources of, H. A. Bruce, 825 ; Expedition to Northern India, 898 ; Fauna, Origin of the, E. R. Dunn, 727 ; Geophysical Union, Transactions of the, 231 ; Museum of Natural History, The, 53 ; Palæontologist, An (*Review*), 299 ; Patent Law System, Dr. E. J. Prindle, 91 ; Physical Society, Publications of the, 310
- Amino-sulphonamides, The, M. Battegay and J. Meybeck, 326
- Ammonium Phosphomolybdate, Kitajima, 172
- Amœba, Proper Name of the, Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell, 726
- Amphipod Species, Zoning of, R. Elmhirst, 318
- Amylose, Molecular Structure of Cellulose and of, Prof. W. N. Haworth, 365
- Anatomy in the Living Model, Prof. D. Waterston (*Review*), 853



- Andean Eruptions : Atmospheric Effects and the, 718 ; Sunset Glows and the, T. B. Blathwayt, 932
- Andes : Geological Exploration of the, Prof. J. W. Gregory, 16 ; The Eruptions in the, Dr. C. Davison, 604, 572
- Angiosperms, Heterosporry and the, Dr. D. H. Scott, 871 ; Prof. R. R. Gates, 793
- Angophora*, the Leaf-buds of, Gladys Carey, 663
- Angular Momentum, Radiation of, Prof. A. W. Conway, 950
- Anhydrous Chlorides : of the Metals of the Cerium Earths, Preparation of the, P. Brauman and S. Takvosian, 915 ; Preparation of, and Metallic Couples, S. D. Nicholas, 581
- Animal Morphology, Connecting Laws in, Prof. H. Przibram (*Review*), 298
- Animals : and Electric Shocks, T. C. Gilbert, 754 ; Living, Measuring the Surface Area of, Dr. T. Deighton, 281 ; Playing at being Hunted, L. T. Murray, 573 ; The Intelligence of, Studies in Comparative Psychology, Frances Pitt (*Review*), 6
- Annandale, Nelson, gold medal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, award of the, to Prof. C. G. Seligman, 936
- Annealed Metals, Pressure of Fluidity of, H. O'Neill and H. Greenwood, 482
- Annual Register, The, 1931, Edited by Dr. M. Epstein (*Review*), 816
- Anomura*, The Æcal Pellets of the, H. B. Moore, 914
- Ant-Lions and Worm-Lions, Prof. J. S. Gardiner (*Review*), 39
- Ant, The Life of the, M. Maeterlinck. Translated by B. Miall (*Review*), 79
- Anthocyan Pigments, Genetical and Biochemical Aspects of, Hon. Muriel Wheldale Onslow, 601
- Anthocyanins, Flavones and, Interaction of, W. J. C. Lawrence, 834
- Anthropological Bibliography, J. Nippgen, 789
- Anthropology : Field, in Central Australia, 119 ; in Indian Administration (*Review*), 848 ; Proposed International Congress of, Prof. J. L. Myres, 160
- Anti-Malarial Measures, Sir Malcolm Watson, 504
- Antioch, Joint Archaeological Expedition to, 504
- Antlers of Deer, Weights of the, Prof. J. S. Huxley, 26
- Apiomorpha*, The Gall-making Coccids of the Genus, W. W. Froggatt, 663
- Aqueous Solutions of some Chlorides in the Ultra-violet, The Absorption of, R. Tréhin, 69
- Arabia : Felix : Across the Empty Quarter of Arabia, B. S. Thomas (*Review*), 633 ; Meteorite Craters in, 932 ; Nature and Man in (*Review*), 633
- Arbacia*, Colour Changes in the Sea-urchin, G. H. Parker, 483
- Archæological : Expedition to the West Indies, 395 ; Research in France, Co-operation in, 273
- Archæologists, The Training of, 701
- Archæology : of Eastern Colorado, Dr. E. B. Renaud and others, 324 ; of the Arkansas River Valley, W. K. Moorehead. With Supplementary Papers on the Prehistoric Cultures of Oklahoma, J. B. Thoburn, and The Exploration of Jacobs Cavern, C. Peabody (*Review*), 888 ; Seventy Years in, Sir Flinders Petrie (*Review*), 708
- Arctic : Exploration, 503 ; Ocean, The Tides of the, M. Tenani, 70 ; Seas, Ice in the, 647
- Argon : Magnetic Rotatory Power of, R. de Malleman and P. Gabiano, 214 ; Stark Effect for, Dr. N. Ryde, 758
- Aristotelian Scientific Corpus, The Mediaeval Latin Versions of the, S. D. Wingate (*Review*), 301
- Arithmetic in Schools : The Teaching of, a Report prepared for the Mathematical Association (*Review*), 742
- Arizona : Expedition for the Study of Meteors, The, H. Shapley, E. J. Öpik, and S. L. Boothroyd, 734 ; Pit-Dwellings in, 174
- Army, Health of the, 432
- Arnold, Mr., Dr. Huxley and, Mrs. Charlotte Haldane (*Review*), 597
- Aromatic : Nitroso-compounds in Solution, Hammick, 249 ; Nucleus and the Early Stages of Aromatic Substitutions, Distribution of Electrons in the, Prof. A. Lapworth and Prof. R. Robinson, 278
- Arsenic : Hydride, Spectroscopic Evidence of, R. Rydberg, 167 ; The Nuclear Spin of, Dr. S. Tolansky, 652
- d'Arsonvalisation, The Biological Effects of, with Short Waves, H. Bordier, 770
- Artefacts of Upper Palæolithic Facies from Coombe Deposits underlying the Gravels of the Flood Plain, J. P. T. Burchell, 25
- Aryan Theory, The, as it stands To-day, Sir Arthur Keith (Frazer Lecture), 392
- Asiatic Society of Bengal, Annual Meeting of the, Presidential Address, 536
- Assam, Rainfall of, G. B. Williams, 806
- Astronomical : Notes for : March, 320 ; April, 513 ; May, 658 ; June, 801 ; July, 946 ; Phenomena for : January, 28 ; February, 173 ; Photographs at Harvard, 694 ; Society of South Africa, *Journal* of the, Vol. 3, No. 1, 136
- Athenæum Club : election of Sir George Buckton Browne, Sir David Thomas Chadwick, and P. Guedalla, 396 ; Lord Plender, Bertram S. Thomas, and Rev. A. T. P. Williams, 241 ; Prof. W. L. Bragg, Rev. Canon H. Maynard Smith, and J. H. Whitley, 574
- Athens, British School at, Annual of the, No. 30, 573
- Atlantic Flight, New, Miss Amelia Earhart (Mrs. Putnam), 790
- Atmosphere : Investigation of the, in the U.S.S.R., 899 ; Ionisation of the, Rate of, Dr. G. R. Wait and O. W. Torreson, 401
- Atmospheric : Absorption, etc., Variations of, G. Armellini and G. Conti, 807 ; Changes and Climate, Dr. R. T. A. Innes ; Dr. W. J. Humphreys ; Dr. Maud W. Makemson, 368 ; Effects and the Andean Eruptions, 718 ; Ionisation, Character of, P. A. Sheppard, 169 ; Large Ions, Mobilities of, R. K. Boylan, 588 ; Ozone, D. Chalonge, 584 ; Pollution : H. J. Hodsman, 460 ; Measuring, Dr. J. S. Owens, 103
- Atomic : Moments of some Metals, Prof. P. Weiss, 95 ; Nuclei : Disintegration of, Prof. H. S. Allen, 830 ; Structure of, Dr. C. D. Ellis, 674 ; Number, The Highest, V. V. Narlikar, 402 ; Waves, Monochromatic, I. Estermann, R. Frisch, and O. Stern, 548 ; Weights, International, 477
- Atoms, Internal Perturbations in, A. G. Shenstone and H. N. Russell, 908
- Atomtheorie und Naturbeschreibung, Prof. Niels Bohr, 343
- 'Aura', Physiology and the : Prof. D. F. Fraser-Harris, 197 ; Dr. F. W. Edridge-Green, 275
- Aurora, Infra-Red Photography of, Prof. L. Vegard, 657
- Auroral : Heights in Canada, Prof. J. C. McLennan, H. S. Wynne-Edwards, and H. J. O. Ireton, 135 ; Spectrum : Infra-Red Lines in the, Spectrographic Observations of, Prof. L. Vegard, 468 ; in the Infra-Red, The, Dr. W. Jevons, 759
- Australasia, Advancement of Science in, 610
- Australia : Central, Field Anthropology in, 119 ; Economic Research in, 311 ; Northern, Research in Cattle Diseases in, 53 ; Petroleum in, 155 ; Taxation of Imported Books in, 500 ; Vanishing Life of, 126 ; F. Lewis ; The Writer of the Article, 724
- Australian : and New Zealand Fruit Shipments, 171 ; Female Skull, Prof. F. Wood-Jones, 366 ; Lepidoptera, Revision of, A. J. Turner, 70 ; Marine Algae, A. H. S. Lucas (6), 255 ; Observatories, 606 ; Parrakeets, Decline of, D. Seth-Smith, 538 ; *Science Abstracts*, 685 ; Termites (Isoptera), G. F. Hill, 627 ; Tertiary Mollusca (1), F. A. Singleton, 327 ; Unionidæ, B. C. Cotton and C. J. Gabriel, 627
- Authority, Exposition and, 145
- Automobile Engineers, Institution of, Major C. G. Nevatt elected President of the, 575
- Automobiles : The Electrical Equipment of, a Book on Principles for Motor Mechanics and Motorists, Prof. S. P. Smith. Second edition (*Review*), 80
- Autotrophic Bacterium, A New, which oxidises Ammonia directly to Nitrate and decomposes Petroleum, Prof. C. B. Lipman and L. Greenberg, 204
- Autoxidation, The Catalysis of, C. Dufraisse and Daïb Nakaé, 590
- Autumn Frosts, Oxidising Diastases, and Death of Plants in Full Growth, Gard, 770



- Avian Reproduction, a Correlation in the Field of, Field Studies and Physiology, Prof. J. S. Huxley, 166
- $\beta$ -Ray Spectra: Absolute Energies of the Lines in, Dr. C. D. Ellis, 691; of Radioactive Bodies, Nomenclature for Lines in the, Dr. C. D. Ellis, 276
- $\beta$ -Rays: A Theory of Emission of the, by Radioactive Nuclei, A. Schidlof and H. Saini, 734; Emitted by Radium, Number of the Secondary, E. Stahel, 519
- Backward Child, Education of the, Dr. D. Kennedy-Fraser (*Review*), 673
- Bacterial: Lysis, Transmissible, R. Legroux, 326; Suspensions heated to 80° C., Factors of Stability of, P. Lasseur, A. Dupaix, and M. Rojean, 447
- Bacteriology in Relation to Medicine, A System of. Vol. 8, Prof. W. Bulloch, and others (*Review*), 77
- Bacterium analogous with *Rickettsia* in the Vaginal Tunic of Guinea-pigs and Rats, Presence of a, C. Nicolle and J. Laigret, 590
- Bacterium malvacearum*, E.F.S. (2), Morphology and Cytology of, R. H. Stoughton, 662
- Baillière's Encyclopædia of Scientific Agriculture. Edited by Dr. H. Hunter. 2 vols. (*Review*), 152
- Bananas, Transport and Storage of, with Special Reference to Chilling, Dr. C. W. Wardlaw and Dr. L. P. McGuire, 172
- Band Spectra, Nuclear Spin and Hyperfine Structure in: Prof. E. Hulthén, 56; S. Mrozowski, 399
- Barbituric Hyponotics, Influence of the  $\Delta$ -Cyclopentenyl Radical in the Series of, R. Chaux, 770
- Barium: as Chromate, Determination of, Lemarchands and Sirot, 915; in the Solid State, An Allotropic Transformation of, E. Rinck, 178; Sulphate in Iron Ores, Determination of, P. Chauvenet and P. Avard, 770
- Barkhausen-Kurz, Gill-Morell and, Oscillations: Dr. R. Cockburn, 202, 542; E. C. S. Megaw, 542
- Barn Owl Census, 1932, 790
- Barograph, A Sensitive, Negretti and Zambra, 283
- Barreales du nord-ouest Argentin, L'ancienne civilisation des, (La Ciénega et la Aguada) d'après les collections privées et les documents de Benjamin Muniz Baretto, Prof. S. Debenedetti (*Review*), 185
- Basalt, Weathering of the Older, of Royal Park, Melbourne, D. McCance, 326
- Basque to Minoan: Through, Transliterations and Translations of the Minoan Tablets, F. G. Gordon (*Review*), 262
- Bat, Articulation of Joints in the, J. H. Vickers, 474
- Bats as Carriers of Rabies, 198
- Bavarian Academy of Science, Diploma of Congratulation of the, sent to Dr. D. H. Scott, 50
- Beagle*, The Voyage of the, N. Barlow, 439
- Beauty: Natural, The Appeal of, Prof. G. M. Trevelyan, 197; The Physiology of, A. Sewell (*Review*), 419
- Beetroot producing Seed the First Year in Egypt, etc., The Possibility of the, O. Munerati, 842
- Belgian Congo, Natural Reserves in the, King of the Belgians, 933
- Belgique, Histoire des bois et forêts de, Comte Goblet d'Alviella (*Review*), 631
- Belgium, The Coal Measures of, Prof. A. Renier; Prof. P. Pruvost; Prof. A. E. Trueman, 29
- Belgrade Observatory, Annuaire of the, for 1932, 28
- Bentham, Jeremy, Philosopher and Social Engineer, C. K. Ogden, 912
- Benzene: and Nitrobenzene in Cryoscopy, Anomalies observed when using, Mlle. M. T. François, 34; and Toluene, Chlorination of, Mason, Smale, Thompson, and T. S. Wheeler, 172; Crystal Structure of, E. G. Cox, 584; Induced Polarities in, Theory of, Dr. E. Hückel and Prof. W. Hückel, 937; Liquid, Allotropy of, A. W. C. Menzies and D. A. Lacoss, 843; Substitution Problem, Significance of Velocity Measurements in Relation to the, Prof. D. H. Peacock, 57; The Crystalline Structure of, E. G. Cox, 213
- Benzopurpurin 4B, The True Weight of, and the Electrical Conductivity of its Aqueous Solutions, S. M. Neale and J. Hanson, 761
- Beri-beri Quotient (*Qb*) in Nutrition with Polished Rice and Autoclaved Grain, V. Famiani, 375
- Berkeleian Biology, Dr. J. Needham (*Review*), 524
- Berkshire, The Archæology of, H. Peake (*Review*), 331
- Bermuda: during the Ice Age, Sayles, 512; New Biological Station in, Dr. J. F. G. Wheeler appointed director, 89
- Beryllium: Economic Uses of, 431; Oxide, A New Band System of, Luise Herzberg, 653; Penetrating Radiation from, F. Rasetti, 728
- Biaxial Minerals, A Method of Measuring the Maximum Birefringence of, with the help of the Federov Plate, A. Debenedetti, 215
- Bielid Meteors, Possible Early Observations of the, W. Klinkerfues, 101
- Bielschowsky-stained Neurofibrillæ between Crossed Nicols, Behaviour of, Tudor Jones, 506
- Biochemical Research in India, 466
- Biologists, The Supply of, 257
- Biology: and Quantum Theory, 343; in the Schools, 449; The Philosophical Basis of, Prof. J. S. Haldane (*Review*), 524
- Biophysics: Adventures in, Prof. A. V. Hill (*Review*), 353; in Muscular Action (*Review*), 353
- Bird: Invaders in London, 934; -ringing in Great Britain, 501
- Birds: "Bullying" amongst, R. E. D. Barrington, 395; Flocking Habits of, J. B. Price, 583; in Inner London, 864; of Paradise at the Zoological Gardens, London, 19; Pairing in, Interference during, E. Burr, 126; Eggs, Protective Coloration of, E. C. Stuart Baker, 247; The Migratory Impulse of, Prof. E. W. MacBride (*Review*), 561; Thought Transference (or what?) in, E. Selous (*Review*), 263
- Birmingham University: Annual Report, 324; Dr. L. J. Wills appointed Professor of Geology; W. Gemmill appointed Joint Professor of Surgery, 876
- Birth-Control, Methods of, Prof. E. W. MacBride (*Review*), 922
- Bis- $\beta$ -halogenethylamines, The, V. Prelog, G. Dřiza, and V. Hanousek, 771
- Bismuth: Anomalous Diamagnetism of, Dr. S. Ramachandra Rao, 545; Hydride, Spectrum of, Prof. E. Hulthén and A. Heimer, 399; Subjected to Alternating Torsional Stresses, Behaviour of Single Crystals of, H. J. Gough and H. L. Cox, 482
- Bivalves, Adductor Muscle of, Power of the, Tadashi Tamura, 134
- Black Disease and Sheep, Dr. A. W. Turner, 134
- Blind: in the U.S.A., Books for the, 466; Reading Print by Sound, Thomas and Conland, 52, 308
- Block-Movements in the Boso Peninsula (Japan), Prof. N. Miyabe, 321
- Blood in Fishes, Regulation of the, H. W. Smith, 206
- Body: Fluid of Animals, Composition of the, C. F. A. Pantin, 206; Temperature, Nature of the Metabolic Regulation of the, and its Relation to Temperature Sensations, J. M. O'Connor, 141
- Bog-flow at Glencullen, Co. Mayo, The Recent, A. D. Delap, A. Farrington, R. Lloyd Praeger, and L. Bouvier Smyth, 106
- Boiler Plant in Power Stations, J. Bruce, 608
- Bombay, Working-class Conditions in, Dr. G. S. Ghurye and S. R. Despande, 160
- Bomvana, Social Organisation and Ceremonial Institutions of the, P. A. W. Cook (*Review*), 637
- Books, Imported Scientific, Tariffs and, 195
- Borides, The Alkaline, L. Andrieux and D. Barbetti, 915
- Boron, Hydrides of, Schlesinger and Burg, 248
- Boso Peninsula (Japan), Block-Movements in the, Prof. N. Miyabe, 321
- Botanical Society of America, Election of Officers, 164
- Botanists: British and Irish, A Biographical Index of Deceased, Compiled by J. Britten and G. S. Boulger. Second edition, revised and completed by Dr. A. B. Rendle (*Review*), 563; International Address Book of (*Review*), 563
- Botany for Matriculation, Dr. F. Cavers. Revised by L. C. Fox. Second edition (*Review*), 564
- Boys's Soap Solution, Surface Tension of, Effect of Light on the, Prof. L. D. Mahajan, 133
- Brain and the Skull, Some Correlations between the, Dr. C. U. Ariens Kappers (David Ferrier lecture), 878



- Brave New World: a Novel, Aldous Huxley (*Review*), 597
- Brazilian Tide Tables for 1932, 585
- Breaking Circuits and Clearing Faults on Large Networks, R. O. Kapp and C. G. Carrothers; H. Pearce and T. T. Evans, 658
- Bride Wealth among the Hehe, Tanganyika Territory, G. G. Brown, 872
- British: Association: The, Some Early Documents, 494; York Meeting of the, 642; Birds, The Flight-speed of, B. B. Roberts, 206; Coinage, Simpler, H. Allcock, 198; Empire: Hardwoods and Turnery, Exhibit of, at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, 19; Universities of the (*Review*), 635; High-Speed Aircraft, 503; Honduras: Archaeological Investigations in the Southern Cayo District, J. E. Thompson, 586; Recent Excavations in, 586; Industries Fair, The, 273, 369; Iron and Steel Industry, A Survey of the, 1913 to 1929, and 1930-31, Prof. W. A. Bone, 767; Journal Photographic Almanac and Photographer's Daily Companion, The, 1932. Edited by G. E. Brown (*Review*), 263; Lenses, Taylor, Taylor and Hobson, Ltd., 232; Migration elucidated by Ringing Methods, H. F. Witherby and E. P. Leach, 282; Museum: (Natural History): Acquisitions by the, 162, 341, 645; Minerals at the, 646; Exhibit of Game Animals of the British Empire, 823; New Botanical Collections, Acquisitions, 824; Scientific Research at the, Dr. A. Scott, 339; Polar Year Expedition, 1932-33, The, 385; Rainfall, 1930 (*Review*), 118; Rubber Manufacturers, Research Association of the, Annual Report, 695; Salmon Fisheries in 1930, 53; Science Guild, Annual Meeting, Sir Samuel Hoare re-elected President, 824; Somaliland, Climatic Changes in, Dr. J. Parkinson, 651; Zoologists, Association of, Meeting of the, 89
- Broadcast: Receivers: Frequency Range of, Prof. C. L. Fortescue, 340; Testing, H. A. Thomas, 512; Reception in the U.S.A., R. M. Bell, 681
- Broadcasting, British, Sir John Reith, 787
- de Broglie Wave, Effect produced by a Cloud of Electrons on the Structure of the, S. Szezeniewski and L. Infeld, 106
- Bromine in Plants: The Normal, Food Grains, Wheat, Bread, A. Damiens and Mlle. S. Blaignan, 254
- Browning Root Rot of Cereals, T. C. Vanterpool and J. H. L. Truscott, 945
- Bruce, Catherine Wolfe, gold medal, award of the, to Dr. J. S. Plaskett, 20
- Bruce Prize, award of the, to H. G. Watkins, 865
- 'Buffalo Drive', A Red Indian, 835
- Buffalo-Fly Danger in Australia, The, Dr. R. J. Tillyard, 318
- Building: Construction, Steel in, 532; Industry, Testing Work for the, 644; Research Board, Report for 1930, 644
- Buka and Bougainville, Miss Beatrice Blackwood, 944
- Bulbs with Rare Gases for the Production of Ultra-violet Radiations, Mme. J. Goude-Axelos and A. Claude, 291
- Bull, John, and Others, Letters to, Robert the Peeler (*Review*), 882
- Burmese Timbers, Strength of, C. W. Scott, 52
- Bursaries, Industrial, 567, 571
- Bushings for Outdoor Transformers, W. J. John, 173
- Bushman, The, E. J. Dunn (*Review*), 383
- Butterflies of America, The, Dr. K. Jordan (*Review*), 703
- Butterfly Book: The, a Popular and Scientific Manual, Describing and Depicting all the Butterflies of the United States and Canada, Dr. W. J. Holland (*Review*), 703
- Cable Telegraphy, Control and Operation of, H. Kingsbury and R. A. Goodman, 90
- Cacao Soils, Carbon/Nitrogen Ratios in, Prof. F. Hardy and G. Griffith, 132
- Cadmium Sulphide, The Photovoltaic Properties of, R. Audubert and Mlle. Cécile Stora, 734
- Calanus*, Habit and Physiology of, A. P. Orr and Miss S. M. Marshall, 511
- Calcium: in the Blood of Marine Fishes, The Proportion of, M. Fontaine and P. Portier, 142; Metaborate,  $\text{CaB}_2\text{O}_4$ , W. H. Zachariassen, 484; Phosphate dredged on the Agulhas Bank, Interpretation of the Deposits of, L. Cayeux, 662; Phosphates in Milk, The, M. Piettre, 34
- Calculating Machines and Scientific Investigation, 895
- Calculus, Absolute Differential, Applications of the, Prof. A. J. McConnell (*Review*), 223
- California: Common Commercial and Game Fishes of, L. A. Walford, 907; Striped Bass of, E. C. Scofield, 908
- Californian: Fisheries, 907; Red Tree Mouse, Habits of, S. B. Benson and A. E. Borell, 99
- Callendar Steam Tables, The Revised (1931). Calculated by Dr. H. Moss from the New Data and Formulae of the late Prof. H. L. Callendar (*Review*), 355
- Caloprymnus campestris* (Marsupialia), Rediscovery of, H. H. Finlayson, 871
- Cambrian Conchostraca, E. O. Ulrich and R. S. Bassler, 367
- Cambridge: Philosophical Society, Duc de Broglie elected an honorary member of the, 865; University: award of the Raymond Horton-Smith prize to Dr. W. D. Newcomb, 67; R. H. Fowler appointed John Humphrey Plummer Professor of Mathematical Physics, 140; A. S. Paterson appointed Pinsent-Darwin student; the Department of Mineralogy and Petrology; F. T. Brooks elected an official Fellow of Emmanuel College, 176; Scott Polar Research Institute, 324; award of Smith's prizes to D. W. Babbage and H. M. Taylor, and of Rayleigh prizes to J. Cossar and V. V. Narlikar; Dr. J. A. Venn elected President of Queens' College, 445; abstracts of approved dissertations for degrees for 1930-31, 732; N. F. Mott appointed University Lecturer in Mathematics; title of Stokes Lecturer in Mathematics conferred on Dr. P. A. M. Dirac, 768; Dr. W. H. Thorpe appointed Lecturer in Entomology; B. H. C. Matthews appointed Assistant Director of Physiological Research, 949
- Campas Indians, The, East Peru, Prof. M. G. Caldwell and J. Calhoun, 583
- Canada: Agricultural Parasites Research in, 644; National Museum of, 53
- Canadian: Insect Pests, Control of, 683; Water Power Development in 1931, Dr. B. Cunningham, 854
- Cancer: in East London, Statistics of, Dr. Janet Forber (*nee* Lane-Clayton), 91; The Cause of, Dr. W. E. Gye and W. J. Purdy (*Review*), 302; The Genesis of, W. S. Handley (*Review*), 420
- Capture, The Mathematical Theory of, A. J. Lotka, (1), 843
- Carbohydrate Metabolism: in Birds, N. Gayrilescu, A. P. Meiklejohn, R. Passmore, and R. A. Peters, 733; The Nervous Control of, C. Donhoffer and J. J. R. Macleod, 178
- Carbohydrates *in Vitro*, Photosynthesis of, Dr. J. Bell, 170
- Carbon: Dioxide: Liquid, in Ocean Water, V. Vernadsky, 607; Molecule, Nature of the, T. L. Ibbs and A. C. R. Wakeman, 248; Vibrational Specific Heat of, Dr. H. O. Kneser, 797; Monoxide from Carbonates, Dr. S. T. Bowden and T. John, 833; Nitrogen Ratios in Cacao Soils, Prof. F. Hardy and G. Griffith, 132
- Carbonaceous Minerals, Graphical Classification of, Prof. H. Briggs, 254
- Carbonic Acid in the Biosphere, Field of Stability of the Liquid, V. Vernadsky, 663
- Carboniferous and Trias in the Birmingham District, The Rocks between the, Prof. W. S. Boulton, 733
- Carbonisation of Coal, 30
- Carbonyl Sulphide, Photochemical Dissociation of, Dr. W. Lochte-Holtgreven, C. E. H. Bawn, and E. Eastwood, 869
- Caries in Children's Teeth, Influence of Diet on, 83
- Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland, Annual Report, 588
- Carpels, The Nature of, Grégoire, 501
- Castings, Testing of, Dr. W. Rosenhain, 482
- Catalysis: in an Inert Solvent, E. A. Moelwyn-Hughes, 316; Prof. T. M. Lowry, 510
- Catalytic Effects produced by Acids in Aqueous and in Aqueous Alcoholic Solutions, Dr. H. M. Dawson and G. V. Hall, 214



- Catania Observatory, Annual of, for 1932, 621  
*Catenaria anguillulae*, Growth in Artificial Media of, J. B. Butler and Annie Humphries, 553  
 Catfish, Lateral-line Nerve in the, Progressive Degeneration of the, G. H. Parker and Virginia L. Paine, 483  
 Cathode-ray Oscillographs, Dr. A. B. Wood; Prof. Macgregor-Morris and H. Wright, 475  
 Cathodic Sputtering in a Magnetic Field, E. Henriot and O. Goche, 326  
 Celebes, Decorative Motives in, Dr. W. Hough, 799  
 Celery Growing, 863  
 Cell Nucleus, Structure of the, Prof. R. R. Gates, 161  
 Cellulose: Action of Sodium Carbonate on, E. Paternò, 951; Exhausted, E. Paternò, 952; Molecular Structure of, and of Amylose, Prof. W. N. Haworth, 365  
 Cementite, Segregation of, from Austenite, Dr. R. F. Mehl, C. S. Barrett, and D. W. Smith, 313  
*Cephalodiscus*, New Observations on, C. C. John, 763  
 Cepheids: and Long-period Variable Stars, P. Doig, 63; The Absolute Magnitude of the, G. Cecchini, 70; The Light Variation of, Dr. K. Lundmark, 249  
*Cercopithecus*, Training Experiments with Long-tailed Monkeys, A. Jellinek, 591  
 Cereals for Spring Sowing, 274  
 Cerium Ions, Some Properties of, Prof. D. M. Bose and S. Datta, 548  
 Champollion, Young, and Hieroglyphics, Dr. A. Ferguson, 638  
 Change-over from Direct to Alternating Current, H. Blades and A. C. MacQueen, 645  
 Charcoal, Adsorption of Weak Electrolytes on, Prof. R. A. Peters and H. J. Phelps, 939  
 Charles II. Exhibition in London, 308  
 Chaucer on the Astrolabe. Second and abbreviated edition revised by Dr. R. T. Gunther (*Review*), 300  
 Chemical: and Photochemical Reactivity, 340; and Physical Apparatus, Supplementary Catalogue of, F. E. Becker and Co., 164; Constitution and Taste, Relationship between, A. L. Fox, 735; Engineering, Researches in, 91; Elements at a Glance (*Review*), 851; Embryology: Dr. J. Needham, 3 vols. (*Review*), 183; The Sphere of (*Review*), 183; Reactions, Inhibition of, (5), W. S. E. Hickson and K. C. Bailey, 553; Society, Glasgow Meeting of the, Presidential Address by Prof. G. G. Henderson, 516; Warfare and Disarmament, 809; A. Marshall, 906  
 Chemie, organischen, Theoretische Grundlagen der, Prof. W. Hükel. 2 Band (*Review*), 40  
 Cheminement de la pensée, Du, E. Meyerson, Tome 1, 2, et 3 (*Review*), 42  
 Chemischer Handatlas, W. W. Meissner (*Review*), 851  
 Chemistry: and Chemical Technology, Bibliography of Bibliographies on, Second Supplement, 791; Annual Reports on the Progress of, for 1931. Vol. 28 (*Review*), 779; Applied, Progress of, Reports of the. Vol. 16, 1931 (*Review*), 635; at the Centenary (1931) Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, 491; Capillary, A Phenomenon of, R. Dubray, 698; Federal Council for, Report for 1931, 463; Higher, for Schools (*Review*), 919; Inorganic: Prof. T. M. Lowry. Second edition (*Review*), 704; a Textbook for Colleges and Schools, Dr. E. J. Holm-yard (*Review*), 919; and Theoretical, Dr. F. S. Taylor (*Review*), 919; Institute of, Annual General Meeting; presentation of Meldola Medal to Dr. G. F. Marrian; re-election of Dr. G. C. Clayton as President, 393; Organic: General and Specialised, Prof. C. S. Gibson (*Review*), 40; Recent Advances in, Prof. A. W. Stewart. Sixth edition. 2 vols. (*Review*), 853; The Principles of. Third edition, Prof. J. F. Norris (*Review*), 40; Physical: A. Sutcliffe (*Review*), 919; Problems in Practical, F. A. Philbrick (*Review*), 80; Progress in (*Review*), 354; Recent Advances in, Dr. S. Glasstone (*Review*), 354; Plant, A. L. Bacharach (*Review*), 886; Progress of, 491  
 Cherry Fruit Tree, Order respecting the, 790  
 Children we Teach: The, Seven to Eleven Years, Dr. Susan Isaacs (*Review*), 673  
 Children's Drawings: The Psychology of, from the First Stroke to the Coloured Drawing, Helga Eng. Translated by H. S. Hatfield (*Review*), 745  
 Chillingham: Herd of Wild Cattle, The, 241; 465  
 Chimie, La Maison de la, Paris, 865  
 China: North, Pleistocene Climates of, Prof. G. B. Barbour, 474; Dr. D. Black, 475; Western, Cave Exploration in, D. C. Graham, 754  
 Chinese: Fossil Man, Implements of, Sir A. Smith Woodward, 784; Materia Medica, Prof. B. E. Read, 444  
 Chlorine: Hydrogen and, in the Presence of Oxygen, Photochemical Reaction between, M. Ritchie and Dr. R. G. W. Norrish, 243; Oxides of, Infra-Red Absorption Spectra of the, C. R. Bailey and A. B. D. Cassie, 652  
 Chocolate Confectionery and Cocoa, The Chemistry, Flavouring and Manufacture of, H. R. Jensen (*Review*), 189  
 Chords, Maximum and Minimum, Normal to a Hyper-surface, Luisa Pelosi, 554  
 Chromic Chlorides, The Hydrated, A. Recoura, 374  
 Chromium Plating, W. Blum, W. P. Barrows, and A. Brenner, 101  
 Chromosome Studies and Plant Breeding, Dr. C. D. Darlington, 445  
 Chromosomes: Individuality of, Grégoire, 656; Structure and Division of, Dr. S. Hedayetullah, 547  
 Chrysotile Asbestos in Canada, J. G. Ross, 199  
 C.I.E. Colorimetric Standards and their Use, T. Smith and J. Guild, 770  
 Cigarette Habit, The, Dr. J. D. Rolleston, 609  
 Cinchona and Quinine: The Ready Supply of, an Urgent Need, 413  
 Cinematographer's Handbook on Movie Making, The Amateur, R. Dykes (*Review*), 814  
 Circular Dichroism, Influence of the Nature of the Chemical Linkages on the production of, J. P. Mathieu, 69  
 City and Guilds of London Institute, Sir William J. Pope elected Chairman of Council of the, 396  
 Civil Engineers, Institution of, Awards of the, 719  
 'Cleistogenes' in certain Grasses, Occurrence of, Annie A. Poulter, 690  
 Climate of Southern Rhodesia, 515  
 Clocks: Talking, designed for the Telephonic Distribution of the Time, E. Esclançon, 662; worked from the Electric Supply Mains, 645  
 Cloth Fulling, Early, E. Kilburn Scott, 16  
 Clouds: Alto-cumulus, Formation of, C. S. Durst, 475; Form and Height of, 66; High in the Stratosphere, Prof. S. Chapman, 497; Iridescent Types of, H. S. Wynne-Edwards; T. S. Dymonds, 798; Mother-of-Pearl, over Scandinavia in January and February 1932, Prof. C. Störmer, 941  
*Clupea harengus*, Origin of Erythrocytes in, C. C. John, 253  
 Coacervation, Dr. R. S. Tjaden Modderman and Dr. L. W. J. Holleman, 654  
 Coagulation, Reversible, in Living Tissue, W. D. Bancroft and J. E. Rutzler, Jr. (6 and 7), 291; W. D. Bancroft, R. S. Gutsell, and J. E. Rutzler, Jr. (9), 591  
 Coal: Carbonisation of, 30; Measures of Belgium, The, Prof. A. Renier; Prof. P. Pruvost; Prof. A. E. Trueman, 29; Oil and Petrol from, Prof. C. H. Lander, 640, 676  
 Coals, Northumbrian, 230  
 Cobalt: Sulphate, Anhydrous, The Magnetic Properties and Crystalline Structure in the Different Varieties of, R. Hocart and Mlle. A. Serres, 141; Tetravalent, The Magnetic Moment of, Mlle. A. Serres, 178  
 Cobaltous Salts, Aqueous Solutions of, The Preparation of Two Types of, A. Lallemand, 178  
 CO Bands, Structure of the Third Positive Group of, Dr. G. H. Dieke and J. W. Mauchly, 546  
 Coffee, Fermentation of, A. Perrier, 374  
 Collembola: in England, Swarming of, F. A. Turk, 830; Resistance of the Eggs of, to Drought Conditions, Dr. J. Davidson, 867  
 Colloidal: Complexes, Commercial, M. Chopin, 254; Silver, Magnetism of Precipitates of, Dr. V. I. Vaidhianathan and B. S. Puri, 170; Solutions: Flocculation of, Photosensitising Action of Colourless Fluorescent Materials on the, J. Bouchard, 807; Study of, by the Polarisation of the Light Diffused by them, A. Boutaric and C. Tournier, 34; The Specific Inductive Capacity of, T. Nanty and M. Valet, 590



- Colloids, Dr. E. S. Hedges; Dr. A. Ferguson (*Review*), 299  
 Colombian Archaeology, J. A. Mason, 282  
 Colonial: Office Appointments, 92, 241, 574, 718; Forests, The, and their Staffs, 845  
 Colorado, Eastern, Archaeology of, Dr. E. B. Renaud and others, 324  
 Colour: Index, The Absolute, and Stellar Statistics, P. Rossier, 107; Science, Dr. W. Ostwald. Part 1: Colour Theory and Colour Standardisation. Translated, with an Introduction and Notes, by J. Scott Taylor (*Review*), 453; Standardisation, J. Guild (*Review*), 453  
 Coloured and Colour Breeding, The, T. W. Hogarth (*Review*), 925  
 Comet: A New Faint, 1931 *e*, 173; New, 585, 694; Orbits, The Problem of, G. Tiercy, 107  
 Cometary Observations at Yerkes Observatory, Prof. G. van Biesbroeck, 837  
 Comité International d'Histoire des Sciences, 310  
 Commonwealth Fund Fellowships, Awards of, 804  
 Communication: Networks, Prof. E. A. Guillemin. Vol. 1 (*Review*), 301; Systems, Modern, Dr. F. Lüschen, 682  
 Compounds, Formation of, in Aqueous Solution of Thoryl Chloride and Alkaline Chlorides, E. and R. Chauvenet, 807  
 Concrete or Reinforced Concrete Works, Testing, especially Barrages, by Means of Sound, A. Coyne, 519  
 Conductivity Equation, Shedlovsky, 801  
 Conical Diaphragms and Sound Reproduction, Dr. N. W. McLachlan and G. A. V. Sowler, 62  
 Coniferae: including Ginkgoaceae, A Handbook of, W. Dallimore and A. B. Jackson. Second edition (*Review*), 631  
 Contraception (Birth Control): its Theory, History, and Practice: a Manual for the Medical and Legal Professions, Dr. Marie Carmichael Stopes. New edition (*Review*), 455; The Practice of, an International Symposium and Survey. Edited by Margaret Singer and Dr. Hannah M. Stone (*Review*), 922  
 Contraceptive Advice, Bureau of, Analysis of Work of a, Prof. R. Pearl, 864  
 Coombe Deposits at Greenhithe, Kent, Geological Sequence of, J. P. T. Burchell, 96  
 Co-operation, International, 217  
 Co-ordination of Scientific Digests, 181  
 Cope, Master Naturalist, Prof. H. F. Osborn, with the Co-operation of Helen Ann Warren (*Review*), 299  
 Copper: and Silver Compounds, Bivalent, Magnetism of, Sugden, 513; Carbonyl, Apparent Formation of, Dr. E. H. Boomer, H. E. Morris, and G. H. Argue, 438; in Relation to Low Stresses, Properties of, O. F. Hudson and J. McKeown; H. J. Tapsell and A. E. Johnson, 446; in the Presence of Iron and certain other Metals, Determination of Minute Amounts of, L. G. Haddock and N. Evers, 806; Silver Alloys, Pickling of, in Dilute Sulphuric Acid, A. Borloz, 771  
 Cormorant Fishing in China, B. Laufer, 231  
 Corn Grain, Preservation and Productivity of, G. Tallarico, 70  
 Coronal Lines, Origin of the, Dr. T. L. de Bruin, 468; Dr. R. Frerichs, 901; Prof. H. Dingle, 902  
 Coroner's Law in the United States, G. H. Weinmann, 198  
 Corpuscular Radiation generated in the Atmosphere, Action of the Terrestrial Magnetic Field on a, B. Rossi, 952
- CORRESPONDENCE
- $\alpha$ -Particles, Anomalous Scattering of, by Hydrogen and Helium, H. M. Taylor, 56  
 Absorbed Organic Compounds, Dependence of Angle of Contact on the Constitution of, A. B. Cox, Elsie E. Wark, and Dr. I. W. Wark, 871  
 Acquired Characters, The Inheritance of, Prof. E. W. MacBride, 900  
 Adders, Hibernation of, Dr. N. Morrison, 473  
 Adrenal Medulla, Function of the, J. L. Svirbely and Prof. A. Szent-Györgyi, 541  
 Agricultural Pamphlet, An, Sir John Russell, 133  
 Air Column Resonances and Symmetrical Modes of Truncated Conical Shells (Loud Speaker Diaphragms), Dr. N. W. McLachlan, 202  
 Albertine Rift, The Tectonics of the, E. J. Wayland, 762  
 Albertus Magnus as Chemist, Prof. F. Paneth, 612  
 Allelomorphs in Mice, A New Series of, Prof. L. C. Dunn; Dr. R. A. Fisher, 130  
 Amoeba, Proper Name of the, Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell, 726  
 Amylose, Cellulose and of, Molecular Structure of, Prof. W. N. Haworth, 365  
 Angiosperms, Heterosporous and the, Prof. R. R. Gates, 793; Dr. D. H. Scott, 871  
 Animals, Living, Surface Area of, Measuring the, Dr. T. Deighton, 281  
 Anthocyanins, Flavones and, Interaction of, W. J. C. Lawrence, 834  
 Argon, Stark Effect for, Dr. N. Ryde, 758  
 Aromatic Nucleus and the Early Stages of Aromatic Substitutions, Distribution of Electrons in the, Prof. A. Lapworth and Prof. R. Robinson, 278  
 Arsenic: Hydride, Spectroscopic Evidence of, R. Rydberg, 167; The Nuclear Spin of, Dr. S. Tolansky, 652  
 Atmospheric Ionisation, Character of, P. A. Sheppard, 169  
 Atomic: Nuclei, Disintegration of, Prof. H. S. Allen, 830; Number, The Highest, V. V. Narliker, 402  
 Atoms and Molecules as Fitzgerald Oscillators, Prof. R. Bär, 505  
 Auroral: Light, Non-polar, from the Night Sky in the Tropics, K. R. Ramanathan and J. V. Karandikar, 545; Spectrum: Infra-Red Lines in the, Spectrographic Observations of, Prof. L. Vegard, 468; in the Infra-Red, The, Dr. W. Jevons, 759  
 Australia, Vanishing Life of, F. Lewis; The Writer of the Article, 724  
 Autotrophic Bacterium, A New, which oxidises Ammonia directly to Nitrate and decomposes Petroleum, Prof. C. B. Lipman and L. Greenberg, 204  
 Avian Reproduction, a Correlation in the Field of, Field Studies and Physiology, Prof. Julian S. Huxley, 166  
 $\beta$ :- Ray Spectra: Absolute Energies of the Lines in, Dr. C. D. Ellis, 691; of Radioactive Bodies, Nomenclature for Lines in the, Dr. C. D. Ellis, 276; Rays of Radium-D, Prof. E. Stahel; N. Feather and H. O. W. Richardson, 314; Zirconium, Crystal Structure of, Dr. W. G. Burgers, 281  
 Band Spectra, Nuclear Spin and Hyperfine Structure in, S. Mrozowski, 399  
 Barkhausen-Kurz Oscillations, Gill-Morell and, R. Cockburn, 202, 542; E. C. S. Megaw, 542  
 Beagle, The Voyage of the, N. Barlow, 439  
 Benzene: Induced Polarities in, Theory of, Dr. E. Hückel and Prof. W. Hückel, 937; Substitution Problem, Significance of Velocity Measurements in Relation to the, Prof. D. H. Peacock, 57  
 Benzopurpurin 4B, The True Weight of, and the Electrical Conductivity of its Aqueous Solutions, S. M. Neale and J. Hanson, 761  
 Beryllium Oxide, A New Band System of, Luise Herzberg, 653  
 Bielschowsky-stained Neurofibrillae, Behaviour of, between Crossed Nicols, Tudor Jones, 506  
 Bismuth: Anomalous Diamagnetism of, Dr. S. Ramachandra Rao, 545; Hydride, Spectrum of, Prof. E. Hulthén and A. Heimer, 399  
 Boys's Soap Solution, Surface Tension of, Effect of Light on the, Prof. L. D. Mahajan, 133  
 British Somaliland, Climatic Changes in, Dr. J. Parkinson, 651  
 Cacao Soils, Carbon/Nitrogen Ratios in, Prof. F. Hardy and G. Griffith, 132  
*Caloprymnus campestris* (Marsupialia), Rediscovery of, H. H. Finlayson, 871  
 Carbohydrates *in Vitro*, Photosynthesis of, Dr. J. Bell, 170  
 Carbon: Dioxide, Vibrational Specific Heat of, Dr. H. O. Kneser, 797; Monoxide from Carbonates, Dr. S. T. Bowden and T. John, 833; Nitrogen Ratios in Cacao Soils, Prof. F. Hardy and G. Griffith, 132  
 Carbonates to Formaldehyde, Photoreduction of Carbonic Acid, Bicarbonates, and, Prof. N. R. Dhar and Atma Ram, 205  
 Carbonic Acid, Bicarbonates, Photoreduction of, and Carbonates to Formaldehyde, Prof. N. R. Dhar and Atma Ram, 205



- Carbonyl Sulphide, Photochemical Dissociation of, Dr. W. Lochte-Holtgreven, C. E. H. Bawn, and E. Eastwood, 869
- Catalysis in an Inert Solvent: Dr. E. A. Moelwyn-Hughes, 316; Prof. T. M. Lowry, 510
- Cellulose, Molecular Structure of, and of Amylose, Prof. W. N. Haworth, 365
- Cementite from Austenite, Segregation of, Dr. R. F. Mehl, C. S. Barrett, and D. W. Smith, 313
- Charcoal, Adsorption of Weak Electrolytes on, Prof. R. A. Peters and H. J. Phelps, 939
- Chemical Warfare and Disarmament, A. Marshall, 906
- Chlorides, Anhydrous, and Metallic Couples, Preparation of, S. D. Nicholas, 581
- Chlorine: Hydrogen and, in the Presence of Oxygen, Photochemical Reaction between, M. Ritchie and Dr. R. G. W. Norrish, 243; Oxides of, Infra-Red Absorption Spectra of the, C. R. Bailey and A. B. D. Cassie, 652
- Chromatid Segregation in Tetraploid *Rubus*, M. B. Crane and Dr. C. D. Darlington, 869
- 'Cleistogenes' in certain Grasses, Occurrence of, Annie A. Poulter, 690
- Clouds, Iridescent, Types of, Dr. G. C. Simpson, 689; Sir David Wilson-Barker, 690; H. S. Wynne-Edwards, 798; T. S. Dymond, 798
- Coacervation, Dr. R. S. Tjaden Modderman and Dr. L. W. J. Holleman, 654
- CO Bands, Third Positive Group of, Structure of the, Dr. G. H. Dieke and J. W. Mauchly, 546
- Collembola: in England, Swarming of, F. A. Turk, 830; Resistance of the Eggs of, to Drought Conditions, Dr. J. Davidson, 867
- Colloidal Silver, Magnetism of Precipitates of, Dr. V. I. Vaidhianathan and B. S. Puri, 170
- Colour Response in a Leech, G. P. Wells, 686
- Coombe Deposits at Greenhithe, Kent, Geological Sequence of, J. P. T. Burchell, 96
- Copper Carbonyl, Apparent Formation of, Dr. E. H. Boomer, H. E. Morris, and G. H. Argue, 438
- Coronal Lines, Origin of the, Dr. T. L. de Bruin, 468; Dr. R. Frerichs, 901; Prof. H. Dingle, 902
- Cosmic Radiation at Sea-level, Vertical Tube Counter and the Barometric-Effect of, Prof. W. Kollhörster, 471
- Cotton, Leaf-Curl of, in Garden Zinnias in North India, R. N. Mathur, 797
- Cottons, New and Old World, Fertility in Hybrids between, Dr. S. C. Harland, 398
- Crystal: Lattice Distortion in Stretched Wire, W. A. Wood, 760; Structure of  $\beta$ -Zirconium, Dr. W. G. Burgers, 281; Structures of Vitamin D and Related Compounds, J. D. Bernal, 277
- Crystalline Graphite, Highly, Attack of Oxygen Molecules upon, E. N. Greer and B. Topley, 904
- Crystals: Molecules in, Rotation of, J. D. Bernal, 870; Pyroelectric, Behaviour of, Dr. C. M. Focken, 168; Twinning of, Cause of, Dr. W. G. Burgers, 363
- Cyanophyceae, Ciliated Reproductive Bodies in the, J. K. Spearing, 797
- Deinotherium* in the Pleistocene, E. J. Wayland, 24
- Deliquescent Substances, Preparation and Mounting of, Nora Wooster and A. J. P. Martin, 582
- Determinism, Prof. J. B. S. Haldane, 315; Dr. L. F. Richardson, 316; R. Weatherall, 509
- Diamagnetism of Liquid Mixtures, Dr. J. Farquharson, 25
- Diamonds, Photo-Conductivity of, Sir Robert Robertson, Dr. J. J. Fox, and A. E. Martin, 579
- Disarmament: Science and, Dr. C. Delisle Burns, 834; Chemical Warfare and, A. Marshall, 906
- Drosophila obscura*, Constitution of the X-Chromosome in, P. Ch. Koller, 616
- Eland-Ox Hybrid, Dr. E. Warren, 828; Prof. J. B. S. Haldane, 906
- Electric: Arc between Carbon and Substances which are Insulators at Ordinary Temperatures, M. Pierucci, 724; Spark, Microscopic Cracks produced by, T. Terada, M. Hirata, and R. Yamamoto, 168
- Electrical Potential Differences across Onion Epidermis, A. C. Giese, R. I. Giese, and Prof. S. C. Brooks, 724
- Electrochemical Periodicities: Dr. J. A. V. Butler and G. Armstrong, 613; Dr. E. S. Hedges, 870
- Electrometer Triode, Application of the, to the Measurement of High Resistance, J. A. C. Teegan and Nancy Hayes, 508
- Electrons in the Aromatic Nucleus, Distribution of, and the Early Stages of Aromatic Substitutions, Prof. A. Lapworth and Prof. R. Robinson, 278
- Esperanto in Scientific Literature, T. J. Gueritte, 170
- Ether-Drift and Gravity, Prof. R. Tomaschek and W. Schaffernicht, 24
- Ethyl, Free, T. G. Pearson, Dr. P. L. Robinson, and E. M. Stoddart, 832
- Eurytemora thompsoni* at Lancing, Discovery of, R. Gurney, 98
- Everest, Oxygen and: Sir Leonard Hill, 93; Dr. R. Greene, 94; H. E. Odell, 244; Prof. Yandell Henderson, 649
- Fatuoids or False Wild Oats, E. T. Jones, 617; J. Philp, 796
- Field Studies and Physiology: a Correlation in the Field of Avian Reproduction, Prof. Julian S. Huxley, 166
- Fireball of Feb. 24, Trail of Bright, Rev. J. P. Rowland, 438
- Fish in the Tees Estuary, Death of, B. A. Southgate, F. T. K. Pentelow, and R. Bassindale, 129
- Fitzgerald Oscillators, Atoms and Molecules as, Prof. R. Bär, 505
- FitzRoy's Hydrographic Surveys, Vice-Admiral H. P. Douglas, 200
- Flavones and Anthocyanins, Interaction of, W. J. C. Lawrence, 834
- Flotation, Phenomenon of, An Electrostatic Explanation of the, Prof. B. Kamiński, 59; Dr. I. W. Wark, 833
- Fluorescent X-Ray Lines, Intensity Ratio of, Prof. G. Hevesy and E. Alexander, 315; Prof. H. R. Robinson, 618
- Fluorine, Atomic Weight of, H. S. Patterson, W. Cawood, and Prof. R. Whytlaw-Gray, 245; H. S. Patterson and W. Cawood, 794
- Freshwater: and Land Mollusca from British Somaliland, Dr. J. Parkinson, 941; Eels in British India, Prof. J. Schmidt, 60
- Gammarus chevreuxi*, Structure of Normal and Mutant Eyes in, Prof. J. S. Huxley and A. Wolsky, 242
- Gases: at High Temperatures, Specific Heat of, Prof. W. T. David, 942; Diatomic, Specific Heats of the, P. S. H. Henry, 200
- Geodesy, Stokes's Formula in, B. L. Gulatee, 279; W. D. Lambert, 831
- Geophysical Prospecting, Prof. T. H. Laby, 579
- Gill-Morell and Barkhausen-Kurz Oscillations, R. Cockburn, 202, 542; E. C. S. Megaw, 542
- Glass, Ionic Conductivity of, Nature of the, R. L. Müller, 507
- Gramineae, Growth Curves of the, Prof. M. C. Schuyten, 170
- Gravity, Perception of, by Roots of *Vicia Faba*, Lilian E. Hawker, 364
- Green Auroral Line, Wave-length of the, Determined by the Interferometer, Prof. L. Vegard, 23
- Halibut Liver Oil as a Source of Vitamin A, J. A. Lovern, 726
- Hall Effect and Superconductivity, I. Kikoin and B. Lasarew, 57
- Heaviside Layer Heights, Automatic Recording of, E. L. C. White, 579
- Helmholtz or Kelvin Cloud Waves, Sir Gilbert T. Walker, 205
- Hemileia vastatrix* B. and Br., Physiological Specialisation of, W. W. Mayne, 510
- Herbarium Specimens, Protection of, F. K. Jackson and R. L. M. Ghose, 402; Dr. F. A. Bather, 655
- Hertzian Waves in Electronic Gas, Propagation of, under the Influence of a Magnetic Field, Prof. G. Todesco, 203
- Heterospory and the Angiosperms, Prof. R. R. Gates, 793; Dr. D. H. Scott, 871
- Hexuronic Acid as the Antiscorbutic Factor, J. L. Svirebely and Prof. A. Szent-Györgyi, 576, 690; Prof. W. N. Haworth, Dr. E. L. Hirst, and R. J. W. Reynolds, 576; Dr. S. S. Zilva, 690, 943; Prof. A. Szent-Györgyi, 943



- High : Resistance, Measurement of, Application of the Electrometer Triode to the, J. A. C. Teegan and Nancy Hayes, 508 ; Speed Pressure Indicators, Magnification and Recording in, Photomicrographic Method for, J. Taylor and R. Wark, 725
- Homogeneous Radiation, Selective Action of Living Tissue to, Dr. W. Moppett, 133
- Horizons in Tropical Soils, Reactions of, A. J. W. Hornby, 58
- Hydrogen : Activated Adsorption of, H. Hollings and Dr. R. H. Griffith, 834 ; and Chlorine in the Presence of Oxygen, Photochemical Reaction between, M. Ritchie and Dr. R. G. W. Norrish, 243 ; Chromosphere, The, J. Woltjer, Jr., 580 ; in Associated Liquids, Co-ordination of, Dr. J. C. Speakman, 244 ; Ion Concentration, Stomatal Movement and, Dr. E. Philip Smith and M. S. Jolly, 544 ; Lines, Intensity of, General Expression for, L. McLean, 25 ; Peroxide : and the Kolbe Reaction, Dr. S. Glasstone and A. Hickling, 616 ; Decomposition of, by Catalase, Dr. D. Richter, 870 ; Resonance Spectrum of, Dr. K. R. Rao, 869
- Implements of Late Magdalenian Age underlying the Raised-Beach at Larne, Co. Antrim, J. P. T. Burchell, 726
- Indeterminism, Sound-Changes and, A. S. C. Ross, 760
- Insects : from Crustacea, Origin of, Dr. R. J. Tillyard, 828 ; Spiracles of, Function of the, T. L. Green, 582
- Internationalism and Science, Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell, 831
- Invertebrates, Behaviour in, F. S. Russell, 473
- Ionisation : at High Gas Pressures, R. M. Sievert, 792 ; Atmospheric, Character of, P. A. Sheppard, 169 ; of the Atmosphere, Rate of, Dr. G. R. Wait and O. W. Torreson, 401
- Ionosphere, Winter in the, R. A. Watson Watt, 761
- Ions, Negative, Photoelectrons and, Prof. V. A. Bailey, 166
- Isotopic Displacement and Hyperfine Structure, G. Racah, 723
- Kangaroos, Vocal Powers of : H. H. Finlayson, 131 ; and Eyes of, Sir James W. Barrett, 689
- Kelvin Cloud Waves, Helmholtz or, Sir Gilbert T. Walker, 205
- Keratin Molecule, Constitution of the, Dr. C. Rimington, 580 ; Dr. J. B. Speakman and Mercia C. Hirst, 938
- Kidney Virus, A New, Dr. E. Hindle, 796
- Kolbe Reaction, Hydrogen Peroxide and the, Dr. S. Glasstone and A. Hickling, 616
- Lamb, Certain Fibres in the Coat of, The Shedding of, Dr. F. W. Dry, 904
- Lead, Isotopic Constitution of : Dr. H. Schüler and E. Gwynne Jones, 833 ; from Different Sources, Dr. F. W. Aston, 649
- Leaf-Curl of Cotton in Garden Zinnias in North India, R. N. Mathews, 797
- Light : as a Factor in Sexual Periodicity, Dr. F. H. A. Marshall, 344 ; Dr. M. A. H. Tincker ; J. T. Cunningham, 543 ; G. Philip, 655 ; and Diet as Factors in Relation to Sexual Periodicity, Prof. T. H. Bissonnette, 612 ; Ll. J. Llewellyn, 868 ; Prof. H. E. Armstrong, 906 ; Quanta, Modification of, by Elastic Heat Oscillations in Scattering Media, E. Gross, 722
- Liquid : Drops on the Same Liquid Surface, Rev. William Hughes and A. R. Hughes, 59 ; Mixtures, Diamagnetism of, Dr. J. F. Spencer and C. G. Trew, 95
- Liquids, Nature of, L. G. Carpenter, 60
- Lithium, Disintegration of, by Swift Protons, Dr. J. D. Cockcroft and Dr. E. T. S. Walton, 649
- Loud Speaker Diaphragms, Air Column Resonances and Symmetrical Modes of Truncated Conical Shells, Dr. N. W. McLachlan, 202
- Mechanical Hardness influenced by Magnetisation, Prof. S. R. Williams, 939
- Medieval Maps, Planetary Positions on, D. Macnaughton, 725
- Melde's String vibrated by Rotating Pulley, Satyendra Ray, 246
- Mercury : Fluorescence, Metastable Atoms in, Lord Rayleigh, 344 ; Line :  $\lambda 916$ , Hyperfine Structure of the, S. Tolansky, 204 ;  $\lambda 571$  A., Hyperfine Structure of the, L. Sibaiya, 472 ; Spectrum of, Fluted Band at  $\lambda 3900$  A. in the, Prof. J. Okubo and E. Matuyama, 653
- Metals : Atomic Moments of some, Prof. P. Weiss, 95 ; Polish on, R. C. French, 169 ; J. T. Randall and H. P. Rooksby, 280 ; Prof. F. Kirchner ; C. A. Murison, N. Stuart, and Prof. G. P. Thomson, 545
- Metastable Atoms in Mercury Fluorescence, Lord Rayleigh, 344
- Methane : Molecule, Oscillations of the, S. Bhagavantam, 830 ; Thermal Chlorination of, Dr. J. Mason, 97
- Methionine, Feeding Experiments with, T. E. Weichselbaum, M. B. Weichselbaum, and Dr. C. P. Stewart, 795
- Mice, A New Series of Allomorphs in, Prof. L. C. Dunn ; Dr. R. A. Fisher, 130
- Microscopic : Cracks produced by Electric Spark, T. Terada, M. Hirata, and R. Yamamoto, 168 ; Measurements, Prof. H. H. Dixon, 510
- Milking Capacity, Inheritance of, K. Madsen, 165 ; J. Edwards, 437, 867 ; A. D. Buchanan Smith, 688 ; Dr. J. Wishart, 868
- Molecular Dissociation by Electron Impact, Dr. F. L. Arnot, 617
- Molecules in Crystals, Rotation of, J. D. Bernal, 870
- Mother-of-Pearl Clouds over Scandinavia in January and February 1932, Prof. C. Störmer, 941
- Mouse, St. Kilda House, T. H. Harrisson and J. A. Moy-Thomas, 131
- Mule, A Fertile, Dr. E. Warren, 130
- Musical Sands, C. Carus-Wilson, 798
- Muscular Contraction, Theories of, A. D. Ritchie, 165
- Mycetozoa, Cytology of, Miss G. Lister, 131 ; Dr. Elsie J. Cadman, 246
- National Needs, L. A. Fenn, 98
- Neanderthal and Modern Man, L. H. Dudley Buxton and G. R. de Beer, 940
- Neurofibrillae, Behaviour of Bielschowsky-stained, between Crossed Nicols, Tudor Jones, 506
- Neutron : Hypothesis, The, D. Iwanenko, 798 ; Possible Existence of a, Dr. J. Chadwick, 312 ; H. C. Webster, 402
- Neutrons, Passage of, through Matter, Dr. H. S. W. Massey, 469, 690
- Night Sky, The Zodiacal Light and the Luminosity of the, Dr. K. R. Ramanathan, 280
- Nitrobenzene, Molecular Refraction of, Dr. J. Newton Friend, 471
- Nitrogen, Heat of Dissociation of, A. K. Datta, 870
- Nitrous Oxide, Raman Lines and Infra-Red Bands in, E. F. Barker, 132
- Nuclear Spin : and Hyperfine Structure in Band Spectra, Prof. E. Hulthén, 56 ; Radioactive Disintegration and, G. Gamow, 470
- Nucleus, Free Protons in the, Number of, Dr. A. J. Rutgers, 361
- Oats, False Wild, Fatuoids or, E. T. Jones, 617 ; J. Philp, 796
- Oldoway Human Skeleton, The, C. Forster Cooper and Prof. D. M. S. Watson, 312, 903 ; Dr. L. S. B. Leakey, 721
- Onion Epidermis, Electrical Potential Differences across, A. C. Giese, R. I. Giese, and Prof. S. C. Brooks, 724
- Organic Nitrates, The  $\text{NO}_3$  Frequency in, Dr. A. S. Ganesan and V. N. Thatte, 905
- Overseas Forestry Officers and Home Appointments, J. P. Mead, 906
- Ovis astore, a Three-Coated Sheep, Prof. A. F. Barker, 128, 437 ; Dr. J. E. Nichols, 436 ; A. B. Wildman, 794
- Oxygen : and Everest : Sir Leonard Hill, 93, 398 ; Dr. R. Greene, 94 ; H. E. Odell, 244 ; Prof. R. Margaria, 397 ; Prof. Yandell Henderson, 649 ; Heat of Dissociation of, A. K. Dutta, 317
- Oysters in Law, Prof. J. H. Orton, 96
- Palaeariformes, a New Sub-order of the Acari, Dr. I. Trägårdh, 541
- Paraffins, Solid, Rotation of Chain Molecules in, Dr. A. Müller, 436
- Periodic Precipitates, Formation of, in the Absence of a Foreign Gel, Prof. N. R. Dhar and R. N. Mittra, 761
- Phosphine, Photochemical Decomposition of, H. W. Melville, 546
- Phosphorus, Nuclear Spin of, from the Band Spectrum, Dr. F. A. Jenkins and Muriel Ashley, 829
- Photodichroism produced by  $\alpha$ -Particles, A. M. Taylor, 758



- Photoelectrons and Negative Ions, Prof. V. A. Bailey, 164  
 Photon : Spin of the, Experimental Proof of the, Sir C. V. Raman and S. Bhagavantam, 22 ; The Spinning, and its Scattering by Molecules, S. Bhagavantam, 167  
 Planetary Positions on Medieval Maps, D. Macnaughton, 725  
 Plants : Enzymatic Activity of, Action of the Alkaloids and Carbon Monoxide on the, Prof. M. Padoa, 686 ; Senile Degeneration in, Sir A. D. Hall, 795  
 Plato and the Modern Age, Laurie Magnus, 473  
 Polish on Metals, R. C. French, 169 ; J. T. Randall and H. P. Rooksby, 280 ; Prof. F. Kirchner ; C. A. Murison, N. Stuart, and Prof. G. P. Thomson, 545  
 Polysaccharides, Molecular Structure of, Sir J. C. Irvine, 470  
 Precipitation : Periodic, Dr. J. Newton Friend and R. H. Vallance, 205 ; Structures, Periodic, Dr. E. S. Hedges ; Dr. M. Copisarow, 400 ; Dr. S. C. Blacktin, 401  
 Protein Films, Examination of, A. Hughes, J. Schulman, and Prof. E. K. Rideal, 21  
 Protons : Fast, Artificial Production of, Dr. J. D. Cockcroft and Dr. E. T. S. Walton, 242 ; Free, in the Nucleus, Number of, Dr. A. J. Rutgers, 361  
 Pyroelectric Crystals, Behaviour of, Dr. C. M. Focken, 168  
 Quartz Crystals, Vibration of, A New Method of investigating the Modes of, J. A. Strong, 59  
 Racemisation, Mechanism of, Dr. A. N. Campbell and Alexandra Jean Robson Campbell, 281  
 Radiation, Penetrating, The Variation of, with Zenith Distance, G. Bernardini, 578  
 Radioactive : Bodies,  $\beta$ -Ray Spectra of, Nomenclature for Lines in the, Dr. C. D. Ellis, 276 ; Disintegration and Nuclear Spin, G. Gamow, 470  
 Radium-D, Beta-Rays of, Prof. E. Stahel ; N. Feather and H. O. W. Richardson, 314  
 Raman : Band of Water, The, Dr. G. Bolla, 60 ; Lines and Infra-Red Bands in Nitrous Oxide, E. F. Barker, 132 ; Scattering, Polarisation of, S. Bhagavantam and S. Venkateswaran, 580  
 Rhenium, The Highest Oxide of, Prof. H. V. A. Briscoe, Dr. P. L. Robinson, and A. J. Rudge, 618  
 Rhode Island Red Poultry, An Inherited Abnormality in, Ruth C. Bamber (Mrs. Bisbee), 762  
 Rice, Mutation in, B. S. Kadam, 616  
 Royal Society, Leadership and the, Dr. N. R. Campbell, 362 ; Sir R. T. Glazebrook, 434  
*Rubus*, Tetraploid, Chromatid Segregation in, M. B. Crane and Dr. C. D. Darlington, 869  
*Sagitta*, Retrocerebral Organ of, S. T. Burfield, 796  
 St. Kilda House Mouse, T. H. Harrisson and J. A. Moy-Thomas, 131  
 Sands, Musical, C. Carus-Wilson, 798  
 Saxifrage Crosses, Dr. R. O. Whyte, 204  
 Scholasticism, The Revival of, W. W. L., 508  
 Science : and Disarmament, Dr. C. Delisle Burns, 834 ; Internationalism and, Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell, 831  
 Sea-weeds, Brown, Fats of, Dr. Barbara Russell-Wells, 654  
 Senile Degeneration in Plants, Sir A. D. Hall, 795  
 Sewage Effluents, Biological Estimation of the Quality of, Dr. L. Lloyd, 577  
 Sexual Periodicity : Light : as a Factor in, Dr. F. H. A. Marshall, 344 ; Dr. M. A. H. Tincker ; J. T. Cunningham, 543 ; G. Philip, 655 ; and Diet as Factors in Relation to, Prof. T. H. Bissonnette, 612 ; L. J. Llewellyn, 868  
 Silver, Colloidal, Magnetism of Precipitates of, Dr. V. I. Vaidhianathan and B. S. Puri, 170  
 Smooth Surfaces, Contact of, Prof. H. E. Watson, 437 ; S. H. Bastow and Dr. F. P. Bowden, 438  
 Soap Solutions, Surface Tension of, Dr. P. Lecomte du Noüy, 278  
 Soil Formation in South-West England, Climate and Parent Material in, A. J. Low, 655  
 Soils, Weathering of, Degree of, Prof. G. W. Robinson and Dr. Minnie Richardson, 581  
 Solar Eclipse of August 31, 1932, Suggested Wireless Observations during the, Prof. E. V. Appleton and Prof. S. Chapman, 757  
 Solvent, Inert, Catalysis in an, Dr. E. A. Moelwyn-Hughes, 316  
 Somaliland, British, Freshwater and Land Mollusca from, Dr. J. Parkinson, 941  
 Sound-Change and Indeterminism, A. S. C. Ross, 760  
 Space-Time Continuum, A Symbol of the, Dr. F. H. Maberly, 317  
 Spiral Nebulae, Velocities of the, Prof. W. D. MacMillan, 93  
 Stark Effect for Argon, Dr. N. Ryde, 758  
 Stokes's Formula in Geodesy, B. L. Gulatee, 279 ; W. D. Lambert, 831  
 Stomatal Movement and Hydrogen Ion Concentration, Dr. E. Philip Smith and M. S. Jolly, 544  
 Stroboscopy, High-Frequency, A Method of, J. A. Strong, 203  
 Strychnine, Oxidation of, B. Alessandro, 905  
 Sulphuric Acid free from Nitric Acid, Preparation of, Dr. W. R. G. Atkins, 98  
 Superconductivity, Hall Effect and, I. Nikoin and B. Lasarew, 57  
 Surface Convection and the Distribution of Temperature near a Heated Surface, Dr. L. A. Ramdas and S. L. Malurkar, 201  
 Tantalum, Tungsten and, A Displacement in the *N* Lines of, Dr. F. C. Chalklin and Mrs. L. P. Chalklin, 905  
*Telenomus nigrocoxalis* Aschm. (Chalcididae), Oviposition of, F. A. Squire, 544  
 Temperature Inversions in the Atmosphere, Structure and Development of, C. K. M. Douglas, 245 ; Dr. Sobhag Mal, S. Basu, and B. N. Desai, 97  
 Thermal Measurements, Errors in, Prof. J. R. Partington, 615 ; Prof. W. E. Garner, 832  
 Thermoclines in Tropical Lakes, Dr. E. B. Worthington and L. C. Beadle, 55  
 Tin, The Cry of, Dr. B. Chalmers, 650 ; Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade, 651 ; Dr. H. O'Neill, 833  
 Tobacco in South Africa, A Virus Disease of, Dr. E. S. Moore, 544  
 Tropical Soils, Reactions of Horizons in, A. J. W. Hornby, 58  
 Tungsten and Tantalum, A Displacement in the *N* Lines of, Dr. F. C. Chalklin and Mrs. L. P. Chalklin, 905  
 Turbulent Pressure, Some Effects of, O. F. T. Roberts, 23  
 Universe, The Expanding, Sir Oliver Lodge, 434  
 Upper : Air Temperatures and Humidities in the Indian Peninsula, K. R. Ramanathan and K. P. Ramakrishnan, 615 ; Palaeolithic Facies from Coombe Deposits underlying the Gravels of the Flood Plain, Artefacts of, J. P. T. Burchell, 25  
 Vanishing Life of Australia, F. Lewis ; The Writer of the Article, 724  
 Vertical Tube Counter- and the Barometric-Effect of Cosmic Radiation at Sea-level, Prof. W. Kolhörster, 471  
*Vicia Faba*, Perception of Gravity by Roots of, Lilian E. Hawker, 364  
 Vision, Central and Peripheral, Dr. F. W. Edridge-Green, 943  
 Vitamin : A. Halibut Liver Oil as a Source of, J. A. Lovern, 726 ; D and Related Compounds, Crystal Structures of, J. D. Bernal, 277  
 Vitamins : A, B, C, D, Photochemistry of, Dr. F. P. Bowden and Dr. C. P. Snow, 720, 943 ; Prof. I. M. Heilbron and Dr. R. A. Morton, 866 ; Crystalline, Properties and Structures of, J. D. Bernal, 721  
 Water : Content in Undisturbed Soil and in Bales of Cotton, Rapid Estimation of, Dr. W. L. Balls, 505 ; Jet affected by Tobacco Smoke, Torahiko Terada, Sin Tanaka, and Kyôzi Itô, 614 ; Molecules, Associated, Biological Effect of, Prof. H. T. Barnes and T. C. Barnes, 691  
 Windmills, Ancient, H. P. Vowles, 317 ; A. Gomme, 439  
 Winter in the Ionosphere, R. A. Watson Watt, 761  
 Wireless : Observations, Suggested, during the Solar Eclipse of August 31, 1932, Prof. E. V. Appleton and Prof. S. Chapman, 757 ; Waves, Downcoming, Polarisation of, J. A. Ratcliffe and F. W. G. White, 364  
 Wolf-Rayet Stars, Temperatures of the, V. Ambarzumian, 725  
 Wool : Fibre, Bacterial Disintegration of the, R. Burgess, 691 ; Growth, Sulphur Assimilation in, A. T. King, 938 ; Production ? Is Preformed Cystine essential to Sheep for, Dr. C. Rimington and J. G. Bekker, 687



- X-Ray: Absorption, *L*-Discontinuities in, E. Olsson, 94; Characteristic Spectra, Complex, Prof. M. N. Saha, Saligram Bhargava, and J. B. Mukerji, 435; Lines, Fluorescent, Intensity Ratio of, Prof. G. Hevesy and E. Alexander, 315; *L*-Levels, Relative Excitation of the, with Cathode Rays of Different Velocities, Prof. D. Coster and J. van Zuylen, 942; Wave-Lengths, Absolute Values of, and the Fundamental Atomic Constants, Prof. M. Siegbahn and M. Söderman, 21
- Zinnias, Garden, in North India, Leaf-Curl of Cotton in, R. N. Mathur, 797
- Zodiacal Light, The, and the Luminosity of the Night Sky, Dr. K. R. Ramanathan, 280
- Corrosion: Fatigue of an Aluminium Crystal, H. J. Gough and D. G. Sopwith, 621; of Metallic Parts of Oil Tankers, The Problem of, V. Kistiakovsky, 411
- Cosmic: Radiation at Sea-level, Vertical Tube Counter and the Barometric-Effect of, Prof. W. Kolhörster, 471; Rays, H. L. Mott-Smith; R. A. Millikan, 657
- Cotton: Leaf Curl Disease of, R. E. Massey and F. W. Andrews, 656; Leaf-Curl of, in Garden Zinnias in North India, R. N. Mathur, 797; Research and Academic Physics, Dr. F. T. Peirce, 824
- Cottons, New and Old World, Fertility in Hybrids between, Dr. S. C. Harland, 398
- Cracow Observatory, *Rocznik Astronomiczny*, No. 10, 249
- Creek Indians, Ceremonial Games and Social Organisation among the, J. R. Swanton, 660
- Creep Tests on Steel for Steam Plant, 729
- Cresson, Elliott, Medal, award of the, to Dr. P. W. Bridgman, 894; C. Le G. Fortescue and Dr. J. B. Whitehead, 895
- Criminal Anthropology, Prof. A. Mendes-Corrêa, 863; Prof. E. A. Hooton, 864
- Crinkle, The Compound Nature of, and its Production by means of a Mixture of Viruses, P. A. Murphy and R. McKay, 625
- Crop Plants, The Botany of: a Text and Reference Book, Prof. W. W. Robbins. Third edition (*Review*), 708
- Crossing-over and Mutation, K. Sax, 483
- Crystal Lattice Distortion in Stretched Wire, W. A. Wood, 760
- Crystalline Graphite, Attack of Oxygen Molecules upon Highly, E. N. Greer and B. Topley, 904
- Crystallisation, Influence of the Magnetic Field on, D. Samuracas, 807
- Crystals: Absorption Bands in, Fine Structure of, C. P. Snow, 33; Exist, Why, F. Zwicky, 70; Pyroelectric, Behaviour of, Dr. C. M. Focken, 168; Twinning of, Cause of, Dr. W. G. Burgers, 363
- Cuba, The Earthquake in, 229
- Culture, The Evolution of, J. Lippert. Translated and edited by Prof. G. P. Murdock; Dr. A. C. Haddon (*Review*), 779
- Cuna Indians' Conception of the Soul, Baron E. Norden-skiöld, 763
- Cupric: Carbonate, V. Auger and Mme. Poulenc-Ferrand, 554; Hydroxide, The Dehydration of, G. Champetier and U. V. Thuau, 290
- Cyanophyceæ, Ciliated Reproductive Bodies in the, J. K. Spearing, 797
- Cygni, 61, The Orbit of, Fletcher, 101, 476
- Cyprus, Ancient Gold and Enamel Work from, L. H. Dudley Buxton, 171
- Cystine Metabolism, G. Scoz, 807
- Czechoslovakian Broadcasting Station, 197
- Dacite-Granodiorite Contact Relations in the Warburton Area, The, A. B. Edwards, 326
- Dahlia: Genetics of the, W. J. C. Lawrence, 99; Yellow, Colouring Matter of the, L. Schmid and A. Seebald, 699
- Dana Expedition of 1928-1930, The, 889
- Dana's Togt Omkring Jorden, 1928-1930, Prof. J. Schmidt (*Review*), 889
- Darwin, In Honour of, 606
- Datura*, Cytology of the *ferox-quercifolia-stramonium* Triangle in, A. Dorothy Bergner and A. F. Blakeslee, 843
- Davidjordania* (Zoardidae), A New Genus of Fish, from the Pacific Ocean, A. Popov, 35
- 'Deaf Speaker', A, Prof. F. Bedell, 826
- Definite Integrals and Hypergeometric Functions, K. Mayr, 915
- Dehra Dun and Saharanpur Herbaria, The, 190
- Deinotherium* in the Pleistocene, E. J. Wayland, 24
- Deliquescent Substances, Preparation and Mounting of, Nora Wooster and A. J. P. Martin, 582
- Delporte Planet, The, 585, 627; Drs. F. L. Whipple and L. E. Cunningham, 765
- Demons of the Dust: a Study in Insect Behaviour, Prof. W. M. Wheeler (*Review*), 39
- Dental Caries: and Diet, 83; The Problem of, 926
- Depressions which affect the Atlantic, The Development of, W. C. Kaye and C. S. Durst, 68
- Derivator, A Prismatic, Askania-Werke A.G., 126
- Determinism: Prof. J. B. S. Haldane, 315; Dr. L. F. Richardson, 316; R. Weatherall, 509; The Decline of, Sir Arthur Eddington, 228, 233
- Dew Point, A New Electrical Method for the Determination of the, applicable to Thermal Machines, P. Le Rolland and Tchang Te Lou, 374
- Diamagnetism of Liquid Mixtures, Dr. J. Farquharson, 25
- Diamonds, Photo-Conductivity of, Sir Robert Robertson, Dr. J. J. Fox, and A. E. Martin, 579
- Diatomic Gases, Specific Heats of the, P. S. H. Henry, 200
- Diazo-Compounds, Optical Activity in, Ray, 475
- Diazo-Hydrates, Oxidising Properties of Normal, Z. Jolles, 215
- Dicotyledon Seedlings: Bending due to Wounds in, and their Material Causes, J. Kisser, R. Stasser, E. Kiffe, and S. Göllner, 627; Growth and Differentiation Processes in, after continued Removal of Buds, J. Kisser and P. Popp, 627
- Dicyandiamidine Sulphate, Action of Primary Amines on, A. Perret, 662
- Dietrich, Amalie, Naturalist (*Review*), 455
- Differential Geometry, A Set of Axioms for, O. Veblen and J. H. C. Whitehead, 291
- Diiodosalicylic Cryptotoxin, The Immunogenic Properties of the, L. Velluz, 33
- Dines's, W. H., Scientific Papers, Dr. G. C. Simpson (*Review*), 811
- Diorite Axes from Ireland, Dr. M. Baudouin and C. B. Whelan, 171
- Diphenyl and its Derivatives, L. Mascarelli and D. Gatti (8), 70; (11), 952
- Diphenylene Sulphide, Preparation of, C. Courtot, M. Chaix, and L. Nicolas, 951
- Disarmament: Chemical Warfare and, 809; Science and, Dr. C. Delisle Burns, 834
- Disease, Concepts of, Dr. F. E. Clements, 799
- Diseases of the Mosaic Type, Analysis and Synthesis of some, R. N. Salaman, 253
- Dolomites Railway, Electric Equipment of the, A. Brodbeck, 18
- Dorure-encadrement: technique des differents genres de gravure, comment reconnaître les fausses estampes et les faux papiers, A. Broquelet (*Review*), 8
- Double Star Astronomy, Dr. Knox-Shaw, 272
- Dragonflies of China: A Manual of the, a Monographic Study of the Chinese Odonata, Prof. J. G. Needham (*Review*), 263
- Drosophila*: *obscura*, Constitution of the X-Chromosome in, P. Ch. Koller, 616; *repleta*, Inheritance of Enforced Feeding on, P. M. Suster, 591
- Drugs: Chemistry and Action of, Prof. W. Straub, 684; Dangerous, the World Fight against Illicit Traffic in Narcotics, A. Woods (*Review*), 222; of Addiction (*Review*), 222
- Drum in South America, The, Dr. K. G. Izikewitz, 547
- Drumm Traction Battery, The, Prof. A. J. Allmand, 386
- Dublin, University College, Dr. T. J. Nolan appointed Professor of Chemistry in, 768
- Ducks, Sex-linked Inheritance in, Prof. R. C. Punnett, 763
- Duddell Medal of the Physical Society: award of the, to Prof. C. T. R. Wilson, 127; presentation of the, to Prof. C. T. R. Wilson, 462
- Duralumin, Inter-crystalline Corrosion of, A. J. Sidery, K. G. Lewis, and H. Sutton, 446



- Dyers' Company Gold Research Medal for 1930-31, award of the, to Prof. F. M. Rowe, 574
- Dyestuffs and Enzymes, J. H. Quastel, 30
- Early Man: in East Africa, Dr. L. S. B. Leakey, 607; in Java, Prof. G. Elliot Smith, 863
- Earth Pressures, 309
- Earthquake: in Cuba, 229, 311; Frequency in Northern Europe, K. E. Sahlström, 548; in Mexico, 862; in the Western Pacific, 826; The Isu (Japan), of Nov. 26, 1930, Prof. C. Tsuboi, 404
- Earthquakes: Luminous Phenomena accompanying, Prof. T. Terada, 27; of the Channel Islands, A. E. Mourant, 100; Recent, in the United States, 764; Recent Scottish, Dr. G. W. Tyrrell, 207
- Earth-shake, the Pendleton, of Jan. 16, 164
- Earth's Circumference, Unit of Length employed in the First Measurements of the, A. Berthelot, 842
- Earthworm, Nephridiostome of the, Prof. E. S. Goodrich, 619
- East-Indian Aleyonarians, Sir J. Arthur Thomson and Miss Laura M. I. Dean, 944
- Eclipse: Map, A New Kind of, Prof. S. Chapman; J. C. P. Miller, 729; of October 1930, Corona in the, Prof. S. A. Mitchell and Dr. W. J. S. Lockyer, 801
- Eclipses, Ancient Solar, A New Canon of, R. Hiller and P. V. Neugebauer, 208
- Economic Biologists, Association of, Dr. W. B. Brierley elected President, 343
- Eddystone Island, Warfare in, A. M. Hocart, 872
- Edinburgh University: Opening by Mr. Ramsay MacDonald of Extension of Departments of Geology and Engineering, 211; Grant Institute of Geology and Sanderson Engineering Laboratories, 285
- Education: of the Average Man, Dr. C. Alington, 393; Public Elementary, The Finance of, E. Dyer, 100
- Eels, Freshwater, in British India, Prof. J. Schmidt, 60
- Egypt, Ancient, and Medieval Europe, L. B. Ellis, 763
- Egyptian: and Peruvian Mummies under the X-Rays, R. L. Moodie, 99; Magic, 583; University, conferment of an honorary doctorate on Prof. G. Elliot Smith, 343
- Einstein's Unified Field Theory, Geodesics in, A. Blackwell, 914
- Eland-Ox Hybrid, Dr. E. Warren, 828; Prof. J. B. S. Haldane, 906
- Elastic Plates, Thick, Flexion of, B. Galerkin, 448
- Electric: Arc between Carbon and Substances which are Insulators at Ordinary Temperatures, M. Pierucci, 724; Discharge from Water Drops, Prof. J. J. Nolan and J. G. O'Keeffe, 519; Frequency in Paris, Standardisation of, 466; Incandescent Lamps, Mass Production of, 608; Lighting, Developments of, 407; Moment and Temperature, Smyth, Dornte, and Wilson, 283; Power in Italy, A. D. Verde, 125; Supply, Future Methods of Charging for, Sir John Brooke, 465; Trolley Bus, The, R. A. Bishop (*Review*), 189; Waves, Feebly Damped Short, C. Zakrzewski and M. Miesowicz, 842
- Electrical: Conductivity of Metals at the Lowest Temperature, Prof. J. C. McLennan, 858; Conveyors in Mines, Metropolitan-Vickers Electrical Co., Ltd., 502; Engineers, Institution of: award of the Faraday Medal of the, to Sir Oliver Lodge, 199; awards of the, 719; Heresies, Prof. E. Sanford, 479; Industry, Scientific Research and the, 52; Insulating Materials, H. Warren (*Review*), 744; Potential Differences across Onion Epidermis, A. C. Giese, R. I. Giese, and Prof. S. C. Brooks, 724; Protective Devices, C. L. Lipman, 319; Resistance, Measurement of, in Terms of a Mutual Inductance and a Period, H. R. Nettleton and F. H. Llewellyn, 373
- Electricity: Meter, Novel Slot, 18; Principles of, an Intermediate Text in Electricity and Magnetism, Prof. L. Page and Prof. N. I. Adams, Jr., 332; Supply, World's Commercial, 230
- Electrification: of the Great India Peninsula Railway, F. Lydall, 935; of Ulster, 717
- Electrochemical Periodicities, Dr. J. A. V. Butler and G. Armstrong, 613; Dr. E. S. Hedges, 870
- Electrolytes, The Photographic Registration or Reactions between, P. Jolibois and G. Fouretier, 590
- Electrometer, A New Tilted, H. Carmichael, 769
- Electron Optics, Prof. G. P. Thomson, 81
- Electrons: in the Aromatic Nucleus and the Early Stages of Aromatic Substitutions, Distribution of, Prof. A. Lapworth and Prof. R. Robinson, 278; Photographic Action of, Prof. R. Whiddington and J. E. Taylor, 213; Slow, The Collision of, with Atoms (1), H. W. S. Massey and C. B. O. Mohr, 325
- Electrostatic Analogue, Search for an, to the Gravitational Red Shift, R. J. Kennedy and E. M. Thorndike, 484
- Elements 85 and 87, Allison, Bishop, Sommer, and Christensen, 657
- Elephants, Four-Tusked, J. G. Dollman, 440
- Elutriator in Biology, The, A. G. Lowndes, 440
- Embryology: Chemical, Dr. J. Needham. 3 vols. (*Review*), 183; Comparative, Outline of, Prof. A. Richards (*Review*), 853
- Embryonic Tissues of the Hen kept in Ringer's Solution at Low Temperatures, Survival of, L. Bucciante, 555
- Empire Timbers, Uses of, 696
- Emulsion, New, Sensitive to the Infra-Red, Ilford, Ltd., 500
- Engineering History (*Review*), 380
- England: in the Seventeenth Century, The Climate of, J. N. L. Baker, 698; Rediscovering, Charlotte A. Simpson (*Review*), 112; The Projection of, Sir Stephen Tallents, 681
- Ensilage, A. Amos and H. E. Woodman, 172
- Entomology: Progressive, Dr. A. E. Cameron (*Review*), 150; Recent Advances in, Dr. A. D. Imms (*Review*), 150
- Enzyme: Distribution in Growing Tissues, K. Linderström-Lang and H. Holter, 764; Studies, Micro-Methods and, K. Linderström-Lang and H. Holter, 729
- Enzymes: and Immunity, M. Ghiron, 142; Dyestuffs and, J. H. Quastel, 30; Study of, Recent Advances in the, Dr. B. Woolf, 928
- Epidiascopes, Improvements in, Newton and Co., 502
- Epithalassa of the Strait of Georgia, The, A. Hutchinson and C. C. Lucas, 466
- Equidae, Craniology of the Family, C. Flerov, 448
- Erd- und Landschaftsgeschichte: mit besonderer Berücksichtigung Süddeutschlands, Prof. G. Wagner (*Review*), 780
- Ergot: and Ergotism, Prof. G. Barger (*Review*), 335; The History of (*Review*), 338
- Eros: Mass of, Prof. W. H. Pickering, 284; Parallax of, Dr. H. Spencer Jones, 208
- Eruptions in the Andes, The, Dr. C. Davison, 604
- Eskimo: Art, Ancient, M. B. Chambers, 944; of Alaska, The, Dr. A. Hrdlička, 907; Settlement in Alaska, 232
- Esperanto in Scientific Literature, T. J. Gueritte, 170; Prof. W. E. Collinson, 232
- Ester Hydrolysis, Catalytic Effect of Acids on the Rate of, in Relation to the Ester Concentration and the Nature of the Acid, Prof. H. M. Dawson and W. Lowson, 734
- Esters, Formation of, The Comparative Value of various Catalysts in the, J. B. Senderens, 590
- Ether-Drift and Gravity, Prof. R. Tomaschek and W. Schaffernicht, 24
- Etheric: On the Edge of the, J. A. Findlay. Fifth Impression (*Review*), 562
- Ethnic Pathology, Prof. V. Suk, 206
- Ethyl Alcohol: The Boiling Point of, W. Swietoslawski, A. Zmacynski, and J. Usakiewicz, 410; The Oxidation of, by Air: in the Presence of Carbon-Copper Catalysts, Martineau, 142; in Presence of various Binary or Tertiary Catalysts, Martineau, 842; Free, T. G. Pearson, Dr. P. L. Robinson, and E. M. Stoddart, 832
- Étoiles dans leurs courses, Les, Sir James Jeans. Traduit de l'anglais par A. Sallin (*Review*), 925
- Eugenic Organizations, International Federation of, Report of Conference of the, 431
- Europe, Early, Prof. H. J. Rose (*Review*), 597
- Eurytemora thompsoni at Lancing, Discovery of, R. Gurney, 98
- Evans, Lewis, Collection of Scientific Instruments, Oxford, Annual Report, 790



- Everest, Oxygen and, Sir Leonard Hill, 93, 398; Dr. R. Greene, 94; N. E. Odell, 244; Prof. R. Margaria, 397; Prof. Yandell Henderson, 649
- Evolution: Morphologische Gesetzmässigkeiten der, Prof. A. N. Sewertzoff, 490; Morphology and, G. R. de Beer, 490; The Problems of, Prof. A. W. Lindsey (*Review*), 9; Purpose in, Sir J. Arthur Thomson (Riddell Memorial Lectures), 682; Theory, Difficulties of the, D. Dewar (*Review*), 672
- Exeter, University College, The Washington Singer Laboratories, 406
- Exhibition: of 1851, Appointments by the Science Scholarships Committee, 949; of Electrical Measuring Instruments, R. W. Paul, 89; of Scientific Instruments and Apparatus, 89
- Expanding Universe, The, Sir Arthur Eddington, 161; M. E. J. Gheury de Bray, 368; Sir James Jeans (Ludwig Mond Lecture), 787
- Experimentalphysik, Handbuch der, Herausgegeben von W. Wien und F. Harms. Unter Mitarbeit von H. Lenz. Band 11, Teil 3: Elektrische Beleuchtung, Dr. H. Schering; Schwachstromtechnik, Prof. K. Küpfmüller, 493
- Exposition and Authority, 145
- Eyebrows and Eyelashes in Man, Prof. V. Suk and Dr. F. Rozprým, 134
- Fairbourne-Llwyngwrl District, Merioneth, Geology of the, B. Jones, 698
- Familial Incidence in Relation to Human Disease, J. A. F. Roberts, 914
- Fara, Excavations at, Dr. E. Schmidt, 247
- Faraday: and his Metallurgical Researches: with Special Reference to their Bearing on the Development of Alloy Steels, Sir Robert A. Hadfield, Bt. (*Review*), 259; at the Sign of the Hexagon, Prof. H. E. Armstrong, 787; Medal of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, presentation of the, to Sir Oliver Lodge, 643; and Electrochemistry, Sir Harold Hartley, 392; Metallurgical Researches of, Sir Robert Hadfield, Bt., 46; Society, Discussion on the Adsorption of Gases, 387
- Faraday's Alloy Steels (*Review*), 259
- Farming, A Classic of (*Review*), 348
- Fat Determinations in Butter-milk, The Accuracy of, and the Effect of the Presence of Lecithin, J. Lyons and W. Finlay, 290
- Fatuoids or False Wild Oats, E. T. Jones, 617; J. Philp, 796
- Fauna: of British India, The, including Ceylon and Burma. Edited by Lieut.-Col. J. Stephenson. Cestoda. Vol. 2, Dr. T. Southwell (*Review*), 815; of the Empire, Preservation of the, Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell, 340
- Ferromagnetic: Ferric Oxide, Study of, A. Girard and G. Chaudron, 214; Moments and the Periodic System, C. Sadron, 69
- Fertility, Intelligence and, Dr. S. Dawson, 191
- Fertilizers, Artificial, in Modern Agriculture, Sir E. J. Russell (*Review*), 349
- Field: Experimentation, Principles of, Dr. H. G. Sanders, 29; Studies and Physiology: a Correlation in the Field of Avian Reproduction, Prof. J. S. Huxley, 166
- Film in National Life, The, 911
- Filterable Viruses, Problems of, 48
- Filtration and Sterilisation, A New Method of, permitting the Production of a Bactericidal Water, G. Lakhovsky, 291
- Fireball, Bright, Trail of, of Feb. 24, Rev. J. P. Rowland, 438
- Fire-Flies, Luminosity of, E. T. Dixon, 163
- Fiscal Policy, Scientific Aspects of, 557
- Fish in the Tees Estuary, Death of, Dr. B. A. Southgate, F. T. K. Pentelow, and R. Basindale, 129
- Fisheries: Forecasts of, 587; Investigations, Co-operation in, 477; of the Thames Estuary, A. L. Wells, 341
- Fishes, Deep Sea, A. E. Parr, 99
- Fitzgerald Oscillators, Atoms and Molecules as, Prof. R. Bär, 505
- FitzRoy's Hydrographic Surveys, Vice-Admiral H. P. Douglas, 200
- Fixatives, The Effects of, A. A. Tarkhan, 404
- Flame Movements in Gaseous Explosions, Prof. W. A. Bone and R. P. Fraser, 565
- Flames, Sensitive, G. B. Brown, 549
- Flammarien, Camille, *Annuaire Astronomique*, 442
- Flavones and Anthocyanins, Interaction of, W. J. C. Laurence, 834
- Fleming, Sir Ambrose, and the Physical Society of London, Dr. A. Ferguson, 323
- Flints, Formation of, H. Douvillé, 841
- Flood, A Choctaw Account of the, 619
- Flotation, Phenomenon of, An Electrostatic Explanation of the, Prof. B. Kamienski, 59; Dr. J. W. Wark, 833
- Flow of Heat from Water at nearly 0° C. to a Submerged Horizontal Ice Surface, Rate of, Dr. J. H. J. Poole, 290
- Fluorescence, Application of, to Photometric Measurements in the Ultra-Violet, A. Chevallier and P. Dubouloz, 326
- Fluorescent X-Ray Lines, Intensity Ratio of, Prof. H. R. Robinson, 618
- Fluorine: Atomic Weight of, H. S. Patterson, W. Cawood, and Prof. R. Whytlaw-Gray, 245; H. S. Patterson and W. Cawood, 794
- Fluorspar, Action of Heat on, L. Domange, 951
- 'Flying Foxes' in Australia, and their Economic Significance, 366
- Fodder Crops, Treatment of, 176
- Fog with Unsaturated Air at Grayshott, Hants, S. E. Ashmore, 410
- Food: in a Bird's Stomach, Estimation of, P. S. Soriano, 610; Investigation, Literature of, 935; Preservation by Refrigeration, Dr. J. R. Vickery, 610
- Forecast and Fact as seen by an Astronomer, Dr. R. A. Sampson (Earl Grey Memorial Lecture), 392
- Forest: Pathology, An Outline of, Prof. E. E. Hubert (*Review*), 631; Products Research Board, etc., Report, 696; Survey by Aeroplane, 19
- Forestry: Commission, appointment of Sir Roy Lister Robinson as Chairman, 9; in Trinidad and Tobago, 478; Officers, Overseas, and Home Appointments, J. P. Mead, 906; Seeding and Planting in the Practice of, Prof. J. W. Toumey. Second Edition, revised and enlarged by Prof. C. F. Korstian (*Review*), 631
- Forests and Forestry (*Review*), 631
- Form and Size, C. F. A. Pantin (*Review*), 775
- Forstinsekten Mitteleuropas: Die, ein Lehr- und Handbuch, von Prof. K. Escherich. Band 3, Spezieller Teil, Abt. 2 (*Review*), 260
- Forthcoming Books of Science, 359
- Franklin Medal, award of the, to Dr. A. Swasey and Dr. P. Lenard, 894
- Fraxinus excelsior* Linn., The Phloem of Ash, N. Gill, 734
- French Exploratory Voyages, 342
- French-Swiss Agriculture, Some Insects specially Harmful to, J. and L. Deshusses, 627
- Frogs and Toads, Sexual Behaviour in, Ch'eng-Chao Liu, 403
- Frog's Blood-Vessels, Abnormalities in the, Dr. C. H. O'Donoghue, 61
- Fruit: "... and brought forth ... an hundredfold" (*Review*), 349; Storage and Transport of, 171
- Fruits, Size and Shape Factors in, Dr. E. W. Sinnott, 872
- Fuel: Economy, A Century of, Prof. W. A. Bone, 268; Research: Board, Report of the, for the Year ended 31st March 1931, 175; in Great Britain, 175; Institute of, award of the Melchett Medal to Prof. W. A. Bone, 92
- Fungi Pathogenic to Man, J. Ramsbottom, 945
- Fusarium* Species, Diagnosis of, G. H. Coons and M. C. Strong, 799
- $\gamma$ -Ray Electroscope, A Direct Reading, L. G. Grimmett, 806
- $\gamma$ -Rays from Actinium Emanation, Origin of the, W. B. Lewis and C. B. Wynn-Williams; Lord Rutherford and B. V. Bowden, 873



- Galleria melonella*, Proportion of the Sexes in, Mlle. M. Goldsmith, 554
- Gallium, a Commercial Product, 309, 394
- Gamma Rays, Origin of the, Lord Rutherford, 457
- Gammarus chevreuxi*, Structure of Normal and Mutant Eyes in, Prof. J. S. Huxley and A. Wolsky, 242
- Garden : Notes in the, Wild Life at our Doors, E. Step. 2 vols. (*Review*), 154
- Gas Reactions, Thermodynamics of, H. Scheibel, 136
- Gases : Adsorption of, Prof. E. K. Rideal, 387 ; in Liquids, Diffusion and Transport of, R. Sandri (2), 735 ; Specific Heat of, at High Temperatures, Prof. W. T. David, 942
- Gears, Performance of, Hyde, Tomlinson, and Allan, 538
- Gelatine, Action of the Electric Field on, Mlle. Suzanne Veil, 447
- General Electric Company, Progress and Development in 1931, H. W. Richardson, 407
- Genetic Principles in Medicine and Social Science, Prof. L. Hogben (*Review*), 345
- Genetics : and Eugenics, Prof. W. E. Castle. Fourth edition (*Review*), 301 ; Sixth International Congress of, 17
- Geodesy : in India, 341 ; Stokes's Formula in : W. D. Lambert, 831 ; B. L. Gulatee, 279
- Geographical : Association, Annual Conference of the, Dr. L. Dudley Stamp, 139 ; Discovery and Exploration, A History of, J. N. L. Baker (*Review*), 43 ; Exploration, Calendar of, 16, 33, 68, 100, 140, 177, 213, 252, 289, 325, 372, 409, 446, 481, 518, 552, 589, 624, 661, 697, 733, 769, 805, 840, 877, 913, 950
- Geological : Expedition of Harvard University in the Canadian Rockies, 1929 : Results of the, L. Collet and E. Paréjas (4, 5), 734 ; (6, 7, 8), 771 ; Society : awards of the, 127 ; election of officers, 396 ; Structures, Patterns for Eight Simple Relief Models illustrating, Dr. F. Smithson (*Review*), 529 ; Time, Gnometric Method of Measuring, Prof. H. F. Osborn and E. H. Colbert, 172
- Geologie : Grundprobleme der, eine Einführung in geologisches Denken, Prof. S. von Bubnoff (*Review*), 420
- Geology : Engineering, Prof. H. Ries and Prof. T. L. Watson. Fourth edition (*Review*), 528 ; in International Affairs, Prof. H. H. Read, 308 ; International (*Review*), 296 ; of Malaya, J. B. Scrivenor (*Review*), 352 ; Structural, Principles of, Prof. C. M. Nevin (*Review*), 671
- Geometrie : principali teorie, Il passato e il presente delle, Prof. G. Loria. Quarta edizione (*Review*), 44
- Géométrie projective différentielle des surfaces, Introduction à la, Prof. G. Fubini et Prof. E. Čech (*Review*), 80
- Geophysical Prospecting, Prof. T. H. Laby, 579
- Geophysik, Handbuch der, Herausgegeben von Prof. B. Gutenberg. Band 4, Lief. 1, Prof. B. Gutenberg ; Lief. 2, Dr. H. P. Berlage, Jr., and Prof. A. Sieberg, 487
- Germanium Tetriodide, Action of Ammonia and Amines on, T. Karantassis and L. Capatos, 142
- Gibbs, Willard, Medal, Dr. E. C. Franklin awarded the, 791
- Gift- und Arzneipflanzen von Mitteleuropa, Die, mit besonderer Berücksichtigung ihrer Wirkungen, Dr. O. Gessner (*Review*), 456
- Gill-Morell and Barkhausen-Kurz Oscillations : Dr. R. Cockburn, 202, 542 ; E. C. S. Megaw, 542
- Giza, New Pyramid at, 309
- Glacial Man in America, Report on, 124
- Glasgow, Royal Philosophical Society of, election of officers, 504
- Glass : Electrode, Theory of the, Dole, 283 ; Ionic Conductivity of, Nature of the, R. L. Müller, 507 ; Safety, J. Wilson, 909
- Glycerophosphomolybdates, The, P. Fleury, 179
- Glycosides, The, Dr. E. F. Armstrong and K. F. Armstrong (*Review*), 886
- Gmelins Handbuch der anorganischen Chemie. Achte Auflage [etc.] (*Review*), 852
- Goethe : as Biologist, Prof. F. J. Cole (*Review*), 423 ; The Life and Work of, 1749-1832, Prof. J. G. Robertson (*Review*), 423
- Goethe's : Reflections on Nature, 425 ; Scientific Works, 429
- Gold : as one of the Elements of Living Matter, G. Bertrand, 447 ; Standard, The, 862
- Golden Flower : The Secret of the, a Chinese Book of Life. Translated and explained by R. Wilhelm, with a European Commentary by C. G. Jung. Translated by C. F. Baynes, 332
- Gompertz Curve, The, as a Growth Curve, C. P. Winsor, 734
- Gosse, Sir Edmund, The Life and Letters of, Hon. Evan Charteris (*Review*), 739
- Government : Grants for Research and Development, Co-ordination of, 737 ; Research Funds, Overlapping of, 572
- Grace of God, But for the, J. W. N. Sullivan (*Review*), 708
- Grain, Volume of the Caryopses of, in Relation to their Nutritive Value, G. Tallarico, 215
- Gramineæ, Growth Curves of the, Prof. M. C. Schuyten, 170
- Granitic : Magma and Limestone at Palabora, Transvaal, Reaction between, Prof. S. J. Shand, 553 ; Magmas, Water in, R. W. Goranson, 100
- Grass Embryo, The, Dr. Lucy Boyd, 474
- Gravitation and Electrodynamics, Prof. A. Einstein, 716
- Gravity : Ether-Drift and, Prof. R. Tomaschek and W. Schaffernicht, 24 ; Perception of, by Roots of *Vicia Faba*, Lillian E. Hawker, 364
- Great : Barrier, The, and the Formation of Coral Reefs, Prof. J. S. Gardiner, 748 ; Britain, The Provincial Universities of, 840 ; India Peninsula Railway, Electrification of the, F. Lydall, 935
- Greece, The Early Age of, Sir William Ridgeway. Vol. 2. Edited by A. S. F. Gow and D. S. Robertson (*Review*), 597
- Green Auroral Line, Wave-length of the, determined by the Interferometer, Prof. L. Vegard, 23
- Greenland, East, Geology of, M. M. L. Parkinson and W. F. Whittard, 282
- Greenwich : Observations, 1930, 765 ; Royal Observatory, Annual Visitation, 876
- Growth, Relative, Problems of, Prof. J. S. Huxley (*Review*), 775
- Guinea-pig, Inheritance of Polydactyly in the, A. Pictet, 734
- Gulf-Weeds, Classification of the, Dr. Setchell, 583
- Hæmophilia, Human Blood Groups in, A. Liengme, 627
- Hair Hygrometer, A, Negretti and Zambra, 873
- Halibut Liver Oil as a Source of Vitamin A, J. A. Lovern, 726
- Hall, Bt., Sir James, centenary of the death of, 895
- Hall Effect : and Superconductivity, I. Kikoin and B. Lasarew, 57 ; in Weak Fields, The, Drs. M. Cantone and E. Bossa, 764
- Halobates*, Diving Powers of, G. M. Henry, 907
- Haloës, Giant Pleochroic, M. S. Krishnan and C. Mahadevan, 135
- Hamilton's Principal Function, Determination of, Prof. A. W. Conway and A. J. McConnell, 950
- Hannah Dairy Research Institute, Researches at the, Dr. N. C. Wright, 789
- Hard  $\gamma$ -Radiation, Absorption of, C. Y. Chao ; G. T. P. Tarrant, 475
- Hard Road : The, the Life Story of Amelie Dietrich, Naturalist, 1821-1891, by her daughter, Charitas Bischoff (*Review*), 455
- Harmonic Analysis (*Review*), 357
- Harmonics, Spherical and Ellipsoidal, The Theory of, Prof. E. W. Hobson (*Review*), 357
- Harrison's Marine Timekeepers, 897
- Harvard Museum, Addition of Two Important Collections, 790
- Hawaiian Earthquakes, 1929-30, 319
- Hawks as Decoys, Col. Nawab Malik Sir Umar Hayat Khan, 91
- Hayden Memorial Gold Medal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, award of the, to Prof. R. A. Daly, 342



- Health : Administrator's Attitude to Geography, A. Sir Leslie Mackenzie, 139 ; Ministry of, Board of Control, Miss Ruth Darwin appointed a Senior Commissioner of the, 936
- Health and Social Evolution, Sir George Newman (*Review*), 636
- Hearing : Theories of, Prof. H. Hartridge, 682 ; Variation of, with Age, H. C. Montgomery, 945
- Heat : Production of Nerve, A Closer Analysis of the, Prof. A. V. Hill, 733 ; -Transmission, a Maximum Value of the Coefficient of, by a Plane Lamina to a Flowing Fluid, L. Crocco, 627
- Heating, Selective, by Short Radio Waves, Prof. J. C. McLennan and A. C. Burton, 367
- Heaviside Layer Heights, Automatic Recording of, E. L. C. White, 579
- Heaviside, Oliver, The Work of, Dr. W. E. Sumpner (Kelvin Lecture), 643
- Helioactinometer, A New, Bordier, 34
- Helium into Radiation, Supposed Spontaneous Transformation of, Dr. L. H. Gray and G. T. P. Tarrant, 620
- Helmholtz or Kelvin Cloud Waves, Sir Gilbert T. Walker, 205
- Helminthosporium*, A New Species of, in a Disease of the Banana encountered in Italian Somaliland, M. Curzi, 215
- Hemileia vastatrix* B. and Br., Physiological Specialisation of, W. W. Mayne, 510
- Hens' Eggs, Water-Content of the White and Yolk of, during the Development of the Embryo, A. Orrù, 627
- Henson and Stringfellow, their Work in Aeronautics : the History of a Stage in the Development of Mechanical Flight, 1840-1868, M. J. B. Davy (*Review*), 456
- Herbage Plants, Self-Sterility and Crossing in, Prof. R. G. Stapledon, T. J. Jenkin, R. D. Williams, A. R. Beddows, and R. A. Silow, 799
- Herbarium Specimens, Protection of, Dr. F. A. Bather, 655 ; J. K. Jackson and R. L. M. Ghose, 402
- o-Herculis, a Variable Star of Very Small Amplitude, J. Dufay and R. Gindre, 34
- Heredity, Prof. A. F. Shull (*Review*), 456
- Hermaphrodites (*Review*), 3
- Herring Behaviour, M. Graham, 171
- Hertzian Waves, Propagation of, in Electronic Gas under the Influence of a Magnetic Field, Prof. G. Todesco, 203
- Heterospory and the Angiosperms, Dr. D. H. Scott, 871 ; Prof. R. R. Gates, 793
- Hevea* Trees broken by a Typhoon, Long Survival of, A. Yersin, 951
- Hexametaphosphates, The, P. Pascal and Mme. Réchid, 554
- Hexamethylene-tetramine, Some Complex Peroxides of, A. Perret and A. M. Krawczynski, 411
- Hexuronic Acid as the Antiscorbutic Factor, J. L. Svirbely, Prof. A. Szent-Györgyi ; Prof. W. N. Haworth ; Dr. E. L. Hirst and R. J. W. Reynolds, 576 ; J. L. Svirbely and Prof. A. Szent-Györgyi ; Dr. S. S. Zilva, 690 ; Dr. S. S. Zilva ; Prof. A. Szent-Györgyi, 943
- Hieroglyphics, Young, Champollion, and, Dr. A. Ferguson, 638
- High : Frequency : Alternating Currents, K. McIlwain and J. G. Brainerd (*Review*), 187 ; Discharge, The, C. Gutton and G. Beauvais, 410 ; Voltages, Measuring, A New Method of, L. Pungs and H. Vogler, 138 ; Resistance, Measurement of, Application of the Electrometer Triode to the, J. A. C. Teegan and Nancy Hayes, 508 ; Speed : Flying, H. E. Wimperis, 31 ; Pressure Indicators, Photomicrographic Method for Magnification and Recording in, J. Taylor and R. Wark, 725 ; Temperatures, Measurement of, Dr. W. E. Forsythe, 207 ; Vacuum Pressure Control Apparatus, T. L. Ho, 70 ; Velocity Positive Ions, Experiments with, Drs. J. D. Cockcroft and E. T. S. Walton (1 and 2), 841 ; Voltage Lines, Constants of, J. S. Forrest, 197
- Hippophagy in Ancient Palestine, Sir Flinders Petrie, 342
- Homerische Tierwelt, Die, Prof. O. Körner. Zweite Auflage (*Review*), 221
- Homer's Natural History (*Review*), 221
- Homogeneous Radiation, Selective Action of Living Tissue to, Dr. W. Moppett, 133
- Homophthalic Acid, Preparation of, by the Oxidation of Indene, A. Meyer and R. Vittenet, 807
- Honeys, Dextro-rotatory, Presence of a New Sugar in, E. Parisi, 215
- Hops, Tannins and Fatty Acids in, L. Heintz, 368
- Horizons in Tropical Soils, Reactions of, A. J. W. Hornby, 58
- Hormones, Estimation of, K. Culhane and Dr. S. W. F. Underhill, 769
- Horse, Blanching of a Bay, Miss J. McAlpine, 683
- Horticultural Congress, International, Tenth, 932
- Houghton's Comet, 621
- Hudson River, Submerged Canyon of the, Lieut.-Commr. R. R. Lukens, 464
- Hull's Magnetron, L. Pincherle, 483
- Human : Abilities, Measures of certain, throughout the Life Span, W. R. Miles, 591 ; Body, The Constitution of the, Sir Arthur Keith (*Review*), 115 ; Fertility, The Social Selection of, Dr. R. A. Fisher (Herbert Spencer Lecture), 896 ; Genetics, A Programme for, Prof. J. B. S. Haldane (*Review*), 345 ; Hair and Primate Patterning, Dr. G. S. Miller, 440 ; Work at High Altitudes, Physiology of, R. Bonnardel and W. Liberson, 807
- Humboldt Current, The, 836
- Humidity, Relative, Certain Peculiarities of the Annual Variation of, G. Viola, 952
- Humus, An Artificial, Waksman and Iyer, 800
- Hunterian : Oration of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Wilfred Trotter, 427 ; Society, award of the Gold Medal of the, to Dr. G. I. Evans, 272
- Huxley : Dr., and Mr. Arnold, Mrs. Charlotte Haldane (*Review*), 597 ; Memorial Lecture of the Imperial College of Science, The, Aldous Huxley, 715 ; T. H., as a Man of Letters, Aldous Huxley, 715
- Hydrangea hortensis*, An Anguillulosis of Hortensia, J. and L. Deshusses, 771
- Hydraulics for Engineers : including Turbines and Pumps and Unsteady Motion, Prof. R. W. Angus, 492
- Hydrocarbons : Combustion of, Prof. W. A. Bone (Bakerian Lecture), 914 ; with Nucleus, Infra-Red Absorption Spectra of, P. Lambert and J. Lecomte, 662
- Hydro-Electric Power : Development in the Pyrenees, Dr. B. Cunningham, 11 ; in Southern Scotland, 395
- Hydrogen : Absorption of, by Metals, Franzini, 404 ; Activated Adsorption of, H. Hollings and Dr. R. H. Griffith, 834 ; and Chlorine in the Presence of Oxygen, Photochemical Reaction between, M. Ritchie and Dr. R. G. W. Norrish, 243 ; and its Uses, Dr. E. F. Armstrong, 825 ; Chromosphere, The, J. Woltjer, Jr., 580 ; Co-ordination of, in Associated Liquids, Dr. J. C. Speakman, 244 ; Heavy Isotope of, W. Bleakney, 800 ; Ion Concentration, Stomatal Movement and, Dr. E. Philip Smith and M. S. Jolly, 544 ; Isotope of Mass 2, A Possible, H. C. Urey, F. G. Brickwedde, and G. M. Murphy, 101 ; Lines, Intensity of, General Expression for, L. McLean, 25 ; Liquefaction Plant at the Royal Society Mond Laboratory, Prof. P. Kapitza and Dr. J. D. Cockcroft, 224 ; Ortho- and Para-, Prof. E. Darmon, 620 ; Peroxide : and the Kolbe Reaction, Dr. S. Glasstone and A. Hickling, 616 ; Decomposition of, by Catalase, Dr. D. Richter, 870 ; Resonance Spectrum of, Dr. K. R. Rao, 869 ; Secondary Spectrum of, Pressure Effects in the, W. G. Guthrie, 914
- Hygrometer, The Basic Law of the Wet-and-Dry-Bulb, J. H. Awbery and Dr. Ezer Griffiths, 254
- Hyperfine Structure, Isotopic Displacement and, G. Racah, 723
- Ice and the Formation of Alpine Scenery, Prof. E. J. Garwood, 443
- Idu (Japan) Earthquake of 1930, The, 766
- Igneous Rocks : Petrography of the, A Descriptive, Prof. A. Johannsen. Vol. 1 (*Review*), 636 ; The Geochemistry of, Prof. A. Holmes (*Review*), 261
- Ignition Temperatures, Spontaneous, F. A. Foord, 764
- J. L. Chaloner ; L. J. Le Mesurier, 765



- Illumination, Artificial, as a Stimulus in Hot-houses, E. Tschermak, 555; Device for Microscopy, A. New, J. E. Barnard, 199
- Impassioned Clay, L. Powys (*Review*), 925
- Imperial: Affairs, Science and, 1; College of Science and Technology, The Physics Workshop at the, 137; Conference at Ottawa, The, 917; Institute, Gift to the, by Lord Wakefield, 504; Standardisation, 125
- Importation of Scientific Specimens and Apparatus into Great Britain, 104
- Indeterminism, Sound-Change and, A. S. C. Ross, 760
- Index Londinensis to Illustrations of Flowering Plants, Ferns and Fern Allies, Dr. O. Stapf. 6 vols. (*Review*), 459
- India: Agricultural Education in, Capt. J. W. Petavel, 195; Antirabic Treatment in, 899; Biochemical Research in, 466; Northern, Palaeontological Expedition to, 275; Race and Creed in the Problems of, 521; Report of the Meteorological Department, 1930-31, Dr. C. W. B. Normand, 536; The Lime, Rice-Straw, and Convolvulus in, R. E. Enthoven, 656; the Real Problem, 109; The Zoological Survey of, Lieut.-Col. R. B. Seymour Sewell, 530
- Indian: Antiquities, Sir Edward Gait, 18; Horse Flies, T. B. Fletcher and S. K. Sen, 61; Insects, Catalogue of. Part 20, T. B. Fletcher, 199; Monsoon Rainfall, Forecasting of, S. R. Sayur, 693; Peninsula, Upper Air Temperatures and Humidities in the, K. R. Ramanathan and K. P. Ramakrishnan, 615
- Indium, Therapeutic Properties of, in Trypanosomiasis and in Experimental Syphilis, C. Levaditi, J. Bardet, A. Tchakirian, and A. Vaisman, 374
- Indoxyl (Indican) in the Milk of Cows and Goats, C. Hervieux, 255
- Inductance, A Cathode-Ray Oscillographic Method of measuring, G. I. Finch and R. W. Sutton, 373
- Industrial: Bursaries, 567, 571; Psychology, National Institute of, Annual Report for 1931, 432
- Industry: and Education in Soviet Russia, J. G. Crowther (*Review*), 525; The House of, a New Estate of the Realm, S. G. Hobson (*Review*), 420
- Infant Behaviour Pattern, The Developmental Morphology of, A. Gesell, 843
- Infantile: Anæmia and Diet, 156; Paralysis, Germ of, Prof. F. Ebersson, 54
- Infra-Red Radiation emitted by the Terrestrial Atmosphere, The, J. Devaux, 142
- Ink, Sediments in, and in Writing, C. Ainsworth Mitchell and T. J. Ward, 806
- Insect: Abdomen, Morphology of the, Dr. R. E. Snodgrass, 26; Pests, Epidemiology of, Dr. B. P. Uvarov (*Review*), 260
- Insects, Les Coaptations chez les, Dr. J. Corset; Dr. A. D. Imms (*Review*), 887
- Insects: Beneficial, Protection of, 462; Breeding of, Prof. J. W. Heslop Harrison, 936; from Crustacea, Origin of, Dr. R. J. Tillyard, 828; in the Air, Frequency of, C. F. Talman, 683; Social Behaviour in, Dr. A. D. Imms (*Review*), 153; Spiracles of, Function of the, T. L. Green, 582
- Insektenfauna des Böttinger Marmors: eine systematische und paläobiologische Studie, Dr. F. Zeuner (*Review*), 564
- Insulators for Switchgear and Busbars, 607
- Intellectual Co-operation, 192
- Intelligence: and Fertility, Dr. S. Dawson, 191; Inheritance of, Miss E. M. Lawrence, 247
- Intensity Measurements in the Ultra-Violet Spectrum, etc., A. Chevallier and P. Dubouloz, 447
- Interference Refractometer, A New Type of, W. E. Williams, 806
- Internal: Combustion: Engine Indicator Diagrams, Graphical Analysis of, A. R. Horne, 914; Motor with Air mixed with Ozone, E. Briner, H. Paillard, and R. Zurcher, 34; Ethers (Oxides) from Glycols, Ring Contraction in the Formation of, A. Franke, A. Kroupa, and Theodora Panzer, 735
- International: Atomic Weights, 477; Congress for Anthropology and Ethnology, 646; Congress of Pre-historic and Protohistoric Sciences, 479; Co-operation, 217; Federation of Eugenic Organizations, Report of Conference of the, 431; Geological Congress. Comptes rendus of the XV Session, South Africa, 1929. 2 vols. (*Review*), 296; Oceanography, Prof. R. de Buen, 432
- Internationalism and Science, Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell, 831
- Inulin, Action of Sodium Trityl on, in Liquid Ammonia, L. Schmid and R. Falke, 915
- Invertebrates, Behaviour in, F. S. Russell, 473
- Ionisation: at High Gas Pressures, R. M. Sievert, 792; Atmospheric, Character of, P. A. Sheppard, 169; Chambers of Very Small Dimensions designed for the Local Measurement of the  $\gamma$ -Radiation, L. Mallet, 410; Constants of Acids in Aqueous Alcoholic Solutions on the Basis of Catalytic Effects, Determination of, Dr. H. M. Dawson and A. Key, 214; Currents, Measurement of, J. Ewles, 213
- Ionised Gases in the Magnetic Field: Proof of the Existence of the Spinning Electron, T. V. Ionescu and C. Mihul, 290
- Ionising Particles through Matter, Passage of, E. J. Williams and P. M. S. Blackett, 512
- Ionosphere, Winter in the, R. A. Watson Watt, 761
- Ions: High Speed, D. H. Sloan and E. O. Lawrence, 319; Migration of, J. L. Buchan, 209; Negative, Photoelectrons and, Prof. V. A. Bailey, 166; Negative, Spectra of, Prof. R. Mecke, 27; Positive, of Mass 220, L. L. Barnes and R. C. Gibbs, 946
- Iraq: British School of Archaeology in, 647; Land Tenure and Related Questions, Sir Ernest Dowson, 826
- Ireland, Post-Glacial Prehistory in, C. B. Whelan, 371
- Iridescent Clouds, Types of, Dr. G. C. Simpson, 689; Sir David Wilson-Barker, 690
- Irish: Bog-flow, An, A. D. Delap, A. Farrington, R. L. Praeger, and L. B. Smith, 945; Butter, Iodine and Thiocyanogen Value of, P. S. Arup, 806; Forests, Some Legendary and Historical References to, and their Significance, A. C. Forbes, 430
- Iron: among the South Sea Islanders, The Knowledge and Use of, T. A. Rickard, 124; and Aluminium, Alloys of, Formation of Super-Lattices in, A. J. Bradley and A. H. Jay, 289; and Steel Industry: The, Prof. H. E. Armstrong, 268; The British, 767; Periodic Passivity of, J. G. N. Gaskin, 210; The Magnetic Properties of, above the Curie Point, L. Néel, 178
- Iroquoian Origins, Dr. W. D. Lighthall, 474
- Isoptera, The Wing-Venation of the Order (1), Dr. R. J. Tillyard, 70
- Isotopes: Investigations of, in 1931, Prof. O. Hahn, 231; Measurements on, Dr. F. W. Aston, 172
- Isotopic Displacement and Hyperfine Structure, G. Racah, 723
- Italian: Folklore, Preservation of, 321; Radioactive Soil, Action of, on the Germination of Seeds and on the Growth of Plants, G. Mezzadrolì, 591
- Italy, Electric Power in, A. D. Verde, 125
- Jackson, Hughlings, Memorial Medal, Sir Charles Sherrington awarded the, 788
- Jacobi: Die elliptischen Funktionen von, Prof. L. M. Milne-Thomson (*Review*), 853; The Zeta Function of, Prof. L. M. Milne-Thomson, 914
- Japan, The Climate of, Prof. T. Okada, 251
- Japanese: Development, Prof. A. W. Williamson and, 338; Limpet, Habits of a, Noboru Abe, 282
- Jars, Gabriel, Bicentenary of, 160
- Jemdet Nasr, The Archaeology of, E. Mackay, 26
- Jericho, Excavations at, 753
- Jersey, The Spherulitic Rhyolites of, A. E. Mourant, 625
- Jewish Folklore in Palestine, late Mrs. H. Spoer, 692
- Jinn in Eastern Folklore, The, Prof. R. A. Nicholson, 403
- Joicey Collection of Lepidoptera, The, 896
- Jowkowski Obstacle, Power of a Translatory-Circulatory Current in Presence of a, A. Consiglio, 69
- Jungle Ways, W. B. Seabrook (*Review*), 154
- Jupiter, The Red Spot on, R. Cheveau, 368
- Kadsura, A Structural Peculiarity in the various Species of, R. Lemesle, 326
- Kamaran Island (Red Sea), Meteorology of, C. W. G. Daking, 698



- Kangaroos, Vocal Powers of, H. H. Finlayson, 131; and Eyes of, Sir James W. Barrett, 689
- Kanzel Peak (Carinthia), Radiation Climate of the, O. Eckel, 915
- Karoo Vertebrates from Tanganyika Territory, S. H. Houghton, 481
- Kelvin Cloud Waves, Helmholtz or, Sir Gilbert T. Walker, 205
- Kenya, Forestry in, 274
- Keratin Molecule, Constitution of the, Dr. C. Rimington, 580; Dr. J. B. Speakman and Mercia C. Hirst, 938
- Kerrie Series, The, and Associated Rocks, D. E. Thomas, 327
- Ketone, A Method of Preparation of, Mlle. Eglantine Peytral, 142
- Ketones into Liquid Hydrocarbons, Transformation of, A. Maille and Renaudie, 447
- Kew, Royal Botanic Gardens, The Sherman Hoyt Cactus House, 500
- Kidney Virus, A New, Dr. E. Hindle, 796
- Kinematograph in Education, The, 174
- King's Birthday Honours, 860
- King's College, London, Dr. G. F. J. Temple appointed Professor of Mathematics at, 324
- Knowledge and Social Service, 73
- Kolbe's Reaction: Matsuda, 442; Hydrogen Peroxide and the, Dr. S. Glasstone and A. Hickling, 616
- Kopff's Comet, Detection of, 837
- Lake Maracaibo Region in Venezuela, Project for Utilising the, Gandillon, 482
- Lakes and Dyed Fabrics, The Fading of, W. D. Bancroft and J. W. Ackerman, 843
- Lakhers, The, N. E. Parry, with an Introduction and Supplementary Notes by Dr. J. H. Hutton (*Review*), 848
- Lamb, Coat of the, The Shedding of certain Fibres in the, Dr. F. W. Dry, 904
- Land: Back to the, Prof. H. E. Armstrong (*Review*), 112; from the Sea, The Reclamation of, Major F. M. Du-Plat-Taylor (*Review*), 384; Utilisation Survey, Progress of the, 430; Dr. L. D. Stamp, 709
- Langley Prize, award of the, to Dr. E. C. Smith and Dr. Hope Gill, 241
- Langmuir Prize of the American Chemical Society, award of the, to Dr. O. Rice, 611
- Language: Contact Modifications in, A. Meillet, 440; through the Looking Glass, Prof. J. L. Myres (*Review*), 262
- Lanthanum, Metallic, Preparation of, free from Iron and Silica, F. Trombe, 951
- Lapel Microphone, The, 310
- Lapland Expedition, 1913-14, The Anthropological Results of the, E. Geyer, 879
- Lathyrus sativa* L., Effects on Albino Rats of Feeding with Seeds of, V. Zagami, 375
- Lathyrus tuberosus*, The Chromosomes of, Emma L. Fisk, 70
- Lavender, A Fungus Disease of, C. R. Metcalfe, 511
- Lavoisier, J. A. Cochrane; Dr. E. J. Holmyard (*Review*), 598
- Lead: Alloys, Dissolving, preparatory to the Determination of Tin and Antimony, B. S. Evans, 518; in Organic Substances, Determination of, with special reference to Dyestuffs, N. L. Allport and G. H. Skrimshire, 518; Isotopes, Spectra of, H. Kopfermann, 946; Isotopic Constitution of, Dr. F. W. Aston, 649; Dr. H. Schuler and E. Gwynne Jones, 833; Suboxide, Existence and Preparation of, P. Pascal and P. Minne, 178
- Leadership and the Royal Society, Dr. N. R. Campbell, 362
- Leaf-mining Beetles, Larvæ of, S. Maulik, 206
- League Committees, The, and World Order, H. R. G. Greaves (*Review*), 882
- Ledger Bark and Red Bark, J. H. Holland, 413
- Leech, Colour Response in a, G. P. Wells, 686
- Leeds, University of: New Physics Building, 64; receipt of the Lord Brotherton bequest; T. H. Blakeley elected to the Gas Research Fellowship of the Institution of Gas Engineers, 140; Report for 1930-31, 212; New Physics Building of, 307; Prof. J. W. Harvey appointed Professor of Philosophy, 480
- Leonids in England, Observations of the, 63
- Lepidoptera, Induced Melanism in, H. W. McKenny Hughes, 662
- Lepidopterological Notes (10), N. Filipjev, 411
- Leptospermum*: The *Pericalymma* Section of the Genus, etc., E. Cheel, 179; *Liversidgei* var. B., The Essential Oil of and the Occurrence of Isopulegol, A. R. Penfold, 179
- L'esprit sur la matière, Les pouvoirs inconnus de, Dr. E. Osty et M. Osty (*Review*), 921
- Liesegang Reagents in Gelatine, The Individual Diffusion of the, Mlle. Suzanne Veil, 770
- Light: Absorption of, Dr. R. A. Houstoun, 625; and Diet as Factors in Relation to Sexual Periodicity, Prof. T. H. Bissonnette, 612; as a Factor in Sexual Periodicity, Dr. F. H. A. Marshall, 344; Dr. M. A. H. Tinker; J. T. Cunningham, 543; and Sexual Periodicity, Ll. J. Llewellyn, 868; Prof. H. E. Armstrong, 906; Quanta, Modification of, by Elastic Heat Oscillations in Scattering Media, E. Gross, 722; Red and Yellow, Realisation of Monochromatic Sources of, F. Esclançon, 374; -sensitive Cells, Dr. F. H. Constable, 804; The Transmission of, in Diffusing Media, R. F. Hanstock, 878; upon Eggs, J. W. Rhys and R. T. Parkhurst, 431; Velocity of, M. E. J. Gheury de Bray, 573; Wave Standard of Length, A New Line as a, A. Pérard, 951
- Lighthouses, Development of, D. A. Stevenson, 196
- Lights at Night, Visual Range of, and its Relation to the Visual Range of ordinary Objects by Day, M. G. Bennett, 410
- Linaria vulgaris*, The Colouring Matter in Toad-Flax Flowers, L. Schmid and W. Rumpel, 699
- Linnean: Society of London, Prof. E. S. Goodrich awarded the Medal of the, 467; election as Foreign Members of, Prof. K. R. Fries, Prof. E. Fischer, Prof. L. Jost, and Prof. E. Topsent, 753; election of officers, 827
- Liquid: Drops on the same Liquid Surfaces, Rev. William Hughes and A. R. Hughes, 59; Jets, Levi-Civita's Differential Equations in the Problem of, G. Lampariello, 807; Mixtures, Diamagnetism of, Dr. J. F. Spencer and C. G. Trew, 95
- Liquids: Dielectric Constants of, G. Devoto (6), 591; Heating of, by the Absorption of its Sound, W. T. Richards, 483; Nature of, L. G. Carpenter, 60; Thermal Properties of, H. Shiba, 800
- Lister Medal of the Royal College of Surgeons for 1933 awarded to Sir Charles Ballance, 756
- Lithium, Disintegration of, by Swift Protons, Dr. J. D. Cockcroft and Dr. E. T. S. Walton, 649
- Liverpool University, Prof. H. E. Roaf appointed Holt Professor of Physiology, 480
- Lives? What are we to do with our, H. G. Wells (*Review*), 415
- Lobelia gibbosa* and *Lobelia dentata*, Lilian R. Fraser, 663
- Loch Doon 'Granite' of Galloway, C. I. Gardiner and Prof. S. H. Reynolds, 836
- Lockyer, Norman, Observatory, The Mond Photographic Equatorial of the, 838
- Locust Research, International Co-ordination of, 309
- London: Bridge, Old, Centenary of the demolition of, 16; Hospital, Researches at the, 790; Power Supply, J. D. Peattie, 788; River, The Geography of, Prof. Ll. Rodwell Jones (*Review*), 350; School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Dr. J. Fenton appointed an additional Lecturer on Public Health Administration and Practice and L. W. G. Malcolm a Lecturer on Racial Hygiene, 105; University: Dr. F. A. von Hayek appointed Tooke Professor of Economic Science and Statistics at the London School of Economics; conferment of titles and a doctorate, 32; the Earl of Athlone elected Chancellor; conferment of doctorates; conferment of title of Professor on Dr. R. Robinson, of Reader on Dr. J. M. Gulland, Dr. W. Robson, Dr. E. Mallett, A. Rushton, Dr. G. I. Finch, V. C. Illing, and Dr. A. Morley Davies, 176; Annual Report, 804; Prof. H. V. A. Briscoe appointed Professor of Inorganic and Physical Chemistry at the Imperial College (Royal College of Science); S. G. M. Ure appointed Reader in Chemical Engineering at the Imperial College;



- Prof. F. A. von Hayek reappointed Tooke Professor of Economic Science and Statistics at the London School of Economics, 876
- Longstaff Medal of the Chemical Society, award of the, to Prof. W. N. Haworth and Sir James Irvine, 865
- Low Carbon Cast Iron containing Titanium, Constitution, etc., of, J. Challansonnnet, 374
- Lumière, La vitesse de la, M. E. J. Gheury de Bray, 573
- Luminous Phenomena : accompanying Earthquakes, Prof. T. Terada, 27 ; produced by the Rolling of Amalgams on Glass in a Vacuum, Duffieux and G. Trostel, 214
- Lunar Bright Rays, The, Buell and Stewart, 909
- Macmillan Table Slide Rule, The, Prof. J. P. Ballantine (*Review*), 9
- Madras Fisheries, Dr. B. Sundara Raj, 210
- Magic and Administration in Africa, 629
- Magnesia by Silicon, Reduction of, G. Gire, 590
- Magnesian Limestone of Bimont (Oise) and of Étretat (Seine-Inférieure), Interpretation of the Deposits of, L. Cayeux, 374
- Magnesium Alloy Protection by Selenium and other Coating Processes, G. D. Bengough and L. Whitby, 481
- Magnet, A Large Permanent, Dr. J. D. Cockcroft, Dr. C. D. Ellis, and H. Kershaw, 764
- Magnetic : Anomalies in France, 548 ; Declination, Measurement of the, with Magnets suspended by Threads, M. Toperczer, 735 ; Distribution in China and Tibet, O. Venske, 584 ; Disturbance of May 29-30, 874 ; Spectrograph for  $\beta$ -Rays emitted by feebly Radioactive Substances, G. Occhialini, 215 ; Susceptibilities of Liquids, Direct Measurement of the, by the Curie-Chéneveau Magnetic Balance, C. Chéneveau and C. Courty, 290 ; Units, Practical, V. Mitkevitch, 411
- Magnetism, The Early History of, Dr. J. B. Kramer, 428
- Magnetostriction in Strong Fields, Prof. P. Kapitza, 728
- Maize : Hybrids with *Tripsacum*, Mangelsdorf and Reeves, 583 ; Modification of Mendelian Ratios in, by Mechanical Separation of Gametes, P. C. Mangelsdorf, 592
- Malabar District of India, The, 503
- Malay Archipelago, Forest Life and Adventures in the, Dr. E. Mjöberg. Translated by A. Barwell (*Review*), 153
- Malaya, The Geology of, J. B. Scrivenor (*Review*), 352
- Mallocca in Winter, Night Measurements of the Transmissivity Coefficients of the Atmosphere in, K. Graff, 735
- Mammalian Sexual Cycles, Modification of, Prof. T. H. Bissonnette, 253
- Mammary Gland Secretion, Body Pattern as Related to, J. W. Gowen, 70
- Manchester University, conferment of honorary degrees, 804
- Manganese : Sulphate, Anhydride and Hydrates of, Prof. J. H. Křepelka and Dr. B. Rejha, 771 ; Sulphate, Anhydrous and Hydrated, Prof. H. Křepelka and Dr. B. Rejha, 284
- Manganic Dithiocarbamates, L. Cambi and A. Cagnasso, 215
- Mango, Vitamin Content of the, Perry and Zilva, 944
- Manila, Climatic Synopsis of, 728
- Mankind, The Work, Wealth, and Happiness of, H. G. Wells (*Review*), 558
- Man of Science, Digressions of a, Sir A. Daniel Hall (*Review*), 888
- Manson Medal for Tropical Medical Research, award of the, to Dr. Theobald Smith, 716
- Manures and Manuring, 502
- Manx Algae : an Algal Survey of the South End of the Isle of Man, Dr. Margery Knight and Mary W. Parke (*Review*), 744
- 'Mare Sporco', Origin of, Dr. V. Zanon, 660
- Marine Ooliths, Old, Secondary Origin of the Radiating Structure of, L. Cayeux, 214
- Maritime Journalism, E. C. Thomson, 573
- Marriage : Conditions in Palestine, Dr. Hilma Granqvist, 835 ; in Africa, J. H. Driberg, 727 ; Weeds in the Garden of, G. Pitt-Rivers, 493
- Mars during the last Two Oppositions, E. M. Antoniadi, 765
- Marsoulas Cave, Haute-Garonne, Recent Excavation in the, J. T. Russell, 273
- Mason System for Harvesting and Drying Green Fodder Crops, The, 176
- Matematiche, Storia delle, Prof. G. Loria. Vol. 2 (*Review*), 44
- Maternal Behaviour and its Endocrine Basis, B. P. Wiesner and Miss N. M. Sheard, 254
- Mathematical Papers, Preparation of, 932
- Mathematics : a Text-book for Technical Students, B. B. Low (*Review*), 358 ; Applied, for Engineers. Vol. 3 : Differential Equations with Applications, T. Hodgson (*Review*), 9 ; for the Practical Man, Prof. L. M. Milne-Thomson (*Review*), 358 ; for Self-Study Series. Arithmetic for the Practical Man ; Algebra for the Practical Man ; Trigonometry for the Practical Man ; The Calculus for the Practical Man, J. E. Thompson (*Review*), 358 ; Teaching of, Dr. P. B. Ballard (*Review*), 742
- Materia Medica, Chinese, Prof. B. E. Read, 444
- Mauritius, Lavas of, Prof. S. J. Shand, 553
- Maya : The History of the, from the Earliest Times to the Present Day, T. Gann and J. E. Thompson (*Review*), 637
- Mayan Site in Yucatan, New, C. L. Lundell, 789
- Mayow, John, in Contemporary Setting : a Contribution to the History of Respiration and Combustion, Prof. T. S. Patterson, 157
- Mayow's, John, Place in Chemistry, Prof. J. Read, 157
- Measuring : Lengths and Thicknesses, A Method of, with High Precision, M. Mennesson, 878 ; the Effective Resistance of a Condenser and of a Long, Straight Wire, A Method of, E. B. Moullin, 290
- Mechanical : Engineers, Institution of, Report for 1931, 465 ; Hardness Influenced by Magnetisation, Prof. S. R. Williams, 939
- Medical : and Agricultural Research, Co-operation in, 881 ; Bacteriology, Prof. J. M. Beattie (*Review*), 77 ; Education, Methods and Problems of, 20th series, 768 ; Research : Council : W. S. Morrison appointed a member of the, 343 ; Report of the, 1930-31, 550 ; in Great Britain, 550 ; The Scope and Needs of, Sir Walter Morley Fletcher, 822 ; Statistics : Prof. M. Greenwood (*Review*), 188 ; An Introduction to, Hilda M. Woods and W. T. Russell (*Review*), 188
- Medicine, The Advance of, Lord Moynihan (Romanes Lecture), 934
- Medieval Maps, Planetary Positions on, D. Macnaughton, 725
- Mediterranean : Kala Azar, S. Adler and O. Theodor (6), 662 ; Nutrient Salts in the, 730
- Meganyctiphanes norvegica* (Sars), Reproduction of *Nyctiphanes couchii* (Bell) and, off the South Coast of Ireland, Miss W. E. Frost, 141
- Melbourne University, Physical Research in, Prof. T. H. Laby, 715
- Melde's String vibrated by Rotating Pulley, Satyendra Ray, 246
- Mellon Institute, Pittsburgh, Annual Report, 644
- Mendips, Eastern, Geological Structure of the, F. B. A. Welch, 373
- Mental : Defect, Inheritance of, Prof. F. A. E. Crew, 474 ; Deficiency, Dr. E. O. Lewis and others, 287
- Mercuric Cyanide, Reduction of, by Tin in the Presence of certain Metallic Salts, J. Golse, 34
- Mercury : Drops on Rolled Tin-foils, Diffusion of, F. W. Spiers, 214 ; Fluorescence, Metastable Atoms in, Lord Rayleigh, 344 ; Intermetallic Compounds formed in, A. S. Russell, Cazalet, Irwin, and Lyons, 657 ; Line :  $\lambda 4916$ , Hyperfine Structure of the, S. Tolansky, 204 ;  $\lambda 5471$  A., Hyperfine Structure of the, L. Sibaiya, 472 ; Spectrum of, Fluted Band at  $\lambda 3900$  A. in the, Prof. J. Okubo and E. Matuyama, 653 ; The Hyperfine Structure of the Resonance Line of, S. Mrozowski (2), 106
- Messel Medal of the Society of Chemical Industry, award of the, to Sir William Pope, 571
- Metal Alloys, Wrought Light, Influence of Temperature on the Elastic Behaviour of various, F. Bollenrath, 446
- Metallic : Silver, The Bactericidal Power of, with Respect to the Typhoid Bacillus and Coli Bacillus, A. Pling, 842 ; State : The, Electrical Properties and Theories, Dr. W. Hume Rothery ; Dr. A. Ferguson (*Review*), 116



- Metallurgical Researches of Michael Faraday, Sir Robert Hadfield, Bt., 46
- Metallurgy, The Literature of, Sir Henry Fowler, 429
- Metals : Action at a Distance of, on Bacteria and Yeasts, G. A. Nadson and C. A. Stern, 915 ; and Alloys, Ferrous and Non-ferrous, The Relative Corrodibilities of (3), Dr. J. Newton Friend, 446 ; and Coal, World Production of, Sir Robert Hadfield, Bt., 861 ; Atomic Moments of some, Prof. P. Weiss, 95 ; Corrosion of, Methods of Testing the, E. Herzog and G. Chaudron, 326 ; Creep of, H. J. Tapsell, 493 ; deposited by Cathode Sputtering, Factors of Reflection and Transmission of some, A. de Gramont, 553 ; Hardening of, in a Magnetic Field, E. G. Herbert, 31 ; Hot, Viscous Elongation of, Characteristics of the, G. Ranque and P. Henry, 69 ; Institute of : Journal of the. Vol. 46. Edited by G. Shaw Scott (*Review*), 153 ; May Lecture of the, Dr. F. Körber, 717 ; Journal of the. Vol. 47 : Metallurgical Abstracts and Index to Vols. 45, 46, and 47. Edited by G. Shaw Scott (*Review*), 780 ; Light, The Excitation Potentials of, (1) Lithium, H. W. B. Skinner, 213 ; Polish on, R. C. French, 169 ; Prof. F. Kirchner ; C. A. Murison, N. Stuart, and Prof. G. P. Thomson, 545 ; Pure, Flow of, The Principal Factors affecting the, A. Portevin and P. Bastien, 519 ; Rare, Determination and Separation of, from other Metals : (20), L. Moser and H. Hackhofer, 179 ; (21), L. Moser and H. Graber, 179 ; The Plastic Deformation of, Dr. F. Körber, 717 ; with Water, Reactivity of, Binayendra Nath Sen, 585
- Meteor, Great, in Southern Europe, 63
- Meteorite Craters : Dr. L. J. Spencer, 781 ; in Arabia, 932
- Meteorological : Literature, Abstracts of, 647 ; Tables, 656
- Meteorology, Manual of, Sir Napier Shaw, with the assistance of Elaine Austin. Vol. 4 : Meteorological Calculus ; Pressure and Wind (a revised edition of Part 4, 1919) (*Review*), 220
- Meteorology : and Geophysics, Rome, Central Office of, retirement of Prof. L. Palazzo ; appointment of Prof. E. Oddone as director, 54 ; of the Persian Gulf and Mekran, Dr. B. N. Banerji, 659
- Meteors, The Arizona Expedition for the Study of, 874
- Methane : Combustion of, Mechanism of the, Prof. W. A. Bone and R. E. Allum ; Dr. D. M. Newitt and A. E. Haffner, 551 ; Molecule, Oscillations of the, S. Bhagavantam, 830 ; Thermal Chlorination of, Dr. J. Mason, 97
- Methionine, Feeding Experiments with, T. E. Weichselbaum, M. B. Weichselbaum, and Dr. C. P. Stewart, 795
- Methyl Ethers of  $\beta$ -Naphthol and of  $\beta$ -Thionaphthol, Action of *o*-Phthalyl Chloride on the, W. Knapp, 915
- Methylphenylmalonyl Urea (rutonal), Influence of Nitration and of Amination on the Physical and Physiological Properties of, and of Ethylphenylmalonyl Urea (gardenal and luminal), A. Leulier and F. Postic, 255
- Metropolitan-Vickers Laboratories, Research in the, 322
- Mexico : Ancient, Funerary Offerings from, 718 ; Education in, Mrs. Cook, 408 ; Tomb, An Ancient, 229
- Mice : Allelomorphs in, A New Series in, Prof. L. C. Dunn ; Dr. R. A. Fisher, 130 ; Plague in Australia, 755
- Mickle, William Julius, fellowship, award of the, to Dr. P. Eggleton, 324
- Microbial Multiplication, J. Régnier and R. David, 69, 255 ; (*Bacterium coli*), M. Faguet, 663
- Microbiology : Industrial, the Utilization of Bacteria, Yeasts and Molds in Industrial Processes, Prof. H. F. Smyth and Prof. W. L. Obold (*Review*), 673
- Micro-Gravimetric Analytical Process, A New, J. Donau, 699
- Microlepidoptera of Eastbourne, R. Adkin, 467
- Microphone, New, and Loud-Speaker, Prof. G. Giuletti, 800
- Microscopic : Cracks produced by Electric Spark, T. Terada, M. Hirata, and R. Yamamoto, 168 ; Measurements, Prof. H. H. Dixon, 510
- Microscopy : Recent Advances in, Biological Applications, Edited by Dr. A. Piney (*Review*), 529
- Microtus hirtus*, Factors affecting the Breeding of, J. R. Baker and R. M. Ranson, 253
- Middle Ages : A New History of the, Prof. F. S. Marvin (*Review*), 417 ; 300-1500, Prof. J. W. Thompson. 2 vols. ; abridged edition (*Review*), 417
- Migration : of Birds and Moonlight, The, J. N. Dörr, 879 ; The Riddle of, Prof. W. Rowan (*Review*), 561
- Milk : Influence of Heating and Agitating before Separation on the Fat Loss in Skim Milk, J. Lyons and W. Finlay, 106 ; Standards under the Burma Food and Drugs Act, E. H. Bunce, 518 ; The Freezing Point of, H. C. Lockwood, 770
- Milking Capacity, Inheritance of, K. Madsen, 165 ; J. Edwards, 437, 867 ; A. D. Buchanan Smith, 688 ; Dr. J. Wishart, 868
- Mimicry, False, in Animals, 538
- Mind and Matter, Prof. G. F. Stout (*Review*), 452
- Mind Judicial, The, Prof. H. E. Armstrong (*Review*), 739
- Minds in Arrear : some Practical Aspects of Mental Deficiency, Dr. E. B. Sherlock (*Review*), 672
- Mineral : Acids, Conductivity of certain, and the Mobility of the Hydrogen Ion, M. Hlasko and W. Klimowski, 106 ; Treasures in South Africa (*Review*), 78
- Mineralische Bodenschätze im südlichen Afrika, Prof. H. Schneiderhöhn. Mit Beiträgen über die Diamant-lagerstätten Südafrikas von Prof. E. Kaiser und die Kohlenvorkommen Südafrikas von Prof. P. Kukuk (*Review*), 78
- Mineralogical Society, Dr. H. S. Washington elected an honorary member of the, 899
- Minerals, Rapid Determination of, M. Grosjean and J. J. Pittard, 627
- Mining and Metallurgy, Institution of, awards of the, 719
- Modern Trade Tendencies and Where they are Leading, H. A. F. Lindsay, 551
- Molds, Yeasts and Actinomycetes : a Handbook for Students of Bacteriology, Prof. A. T. Henrici (*Review*), 223
- Molecular : Asymmetry, Induced, Prof. R. Kulin, 512 ; Dissociation by Electron Impact, Dr. F. L. Arnot, 617 ; Spectra and Spectroscopic Analysis, G. Piccardi (1), 807 ; G. Piccardi and A. Sterna (2), 952 ; Spectrum and the Structure of the Molecule, Simple Relations between the, Dr. H. Deslandres, 698
- Molecules : in a Discharge Tube, Temperature of, C. W. W. Read, 208 ; in Crystals, Rotation of, J. D. Bernal, 870
- Mollusca : Freshwater and Land, from British Somaliland, Dr. J. Parkinson, 941 ; of California, Pliocene and Pleistocene, U. S. Grant and H. D. Gale, 135
- Molybdenum, Determination of, by Potassium Permanganate, E. Carrière and R. Lautié, 770
- Mond Photographic Equatorial of the Norman Lockyer Observatory, The, 838
- Monkey Behaviour and Associations (*Review*), 923
- Monkeys and Apes, The Social Life of, Dr. S. Zuckerman (*Review*), 923
- Monochromatic Spark Illumination, Constant, Forbes and Brackett, 136
- Mont Blanc, Visibility of, at the Summit of the Puy de Dôme, J. de Lagaye, 142
- Moon : and Venus, An Ancient Conjunction of the, Dr. P. V. Neugebauer, 513 ; Eclipse of the, of Sept. 26, 1931, 136 ; Full, Photography of the, H. G. Tomkins, 946 ; Geological Studies of the, Prof. O. Matousek, W. Goodacre, 442
- Moonlight, Intensity of, Photographs Measuring the, 405
- Morocco, Results of a Zoological Expedition to, in 1930, F. Werner, 879
- Morphology and Evolution, G. R. de Beer, 490
- Morris Radiological Research Fellowship, award of the, to Dr. A. E. Barclay, 92
- Mosses, Spores of, The Latent Life of the, at Low Temperatures, P. Becquerel, 842
- Motion of a Heavy Body about a Fixed Point, A Theorem of Staude-Wan der Woude relating to the, M. Manarini, 807
- Motoneurons, The Rhythmic Discharge of, J. C. Eccles and H. E. Hoff, 373
- Motor Benzole : its Production and Use, W. H. Hoffert and G. Claxton (*Review*), 9



- Mounts Croce, Ivigna, and Bressanone in the Upper Adige, Course of the Lines of Dislocation accompanying the Intrusive Masses of, G. Dal Piaz, 483
- Mourne Mountains, Tectonic Analysis of the, Dr. H. P. T. Rohleder, 945
- Mouse, St. Kilda House, T. H. Harrison and J. A. Moy-Thomas, 131
- Moving : Coil Reproducers and Flexible Disks, Dr. N. W. McLachlan, 441 ; Pictures of Celestial Objects, 28
- Mucorineae, Preparing and Mounting the Zygotes of, W. H. Schopfer, 626
- Mule, A Fertile, Dr. E. Warren, 130
- Mummers' Plays, H. C. Lake, 835
- Muscle, Sympathectomised, Myotatic Reflexes in, G. Phillips, 373
- Muscular Contraction, Theories of, A. D. Ritchie, 165
- Museums and Schools, 198, 293
- Mushrooms, Cultivation of, 27
- Musical Sands, C. Carus-Wilson, 798
- Musk Rat in Europe, The, 537
- Muslim Association for the Advancement of Science, 342
- Mycetozoa, Cytology of, Miss G. Lister, 131 ; Dr. Elsie J. Cadman, 246
- Mycological Classic, A (*Review*), 813
- Myxinoidea, The Genital System of the, Prof. J. L. Conel, 623
- 'Nagana' in South Africa, Source of, Dr. E. Warren, 429
- Naphthylene-bisiminocamphor, Rotation of, and the Theory of Werner Kuhn, 410
- Narcissi Culture, 502
- National : Economy and Fundamental Research, 377 ; Institute of Industrial Psychology, Annual Report for 1931, 432 ; Needs, L. A. Fenn, 98 ; U.S. Park Service, Branch of Research and Education of the, H. M. Albright, 933 ; Parks in America, 933 ; Physical Laboratory, Report of the, 1931, 825 ; Union of Teachers, Presidential Address to the, A. E. Henshall, 517
- Natural : History in Church Records, 430 ; History Societies, The World's, 608 ; Reserves in the Belgian Congo, King of the Belgians, 933 ; Science, Literature of, Studies in the, J. M. Drachman (*Review*), 263 ; Trigonometric Functions to Seven Decimal Places for every Ten Seconds of Arc, together with Miscellaneous Tables, H. C. Ives (*Review*), 9
- Nature be Explained ? Can, A. Duncan-Jones (*Review*), 452
- Nauka Polska*, Vol. 14, 433
- Nautical Magazine*, Centenary of the, 163
- Naval : Architects, Institution of, award of the Premium of the, to L. C. Burrill, 199 ; Observatory, Washington, Report of the, 1931, 476
- Navy, Health of the, in 1930, 685
- N'Changa District, Northern Rhodesia, Geology of the, G. C. A. Jackson, 589
- Neanderthal : and Modern Man, L. H. Dudley Buxton and G. R. de Beer, 940 ; Man in Palestine : 712 ; T. McCown, 790
- Nebaliacea, The *Discovery*, Prof. H. G. Cannon, 908
- Negative Glow in Discharge Tubes, On Periodic Movements of the, W. A. Leyshon, 373
- Neon, The Magnetic Rotatory Power of, R. de Malleman, L. Gabiano, and F. Suhner, 590
- Nephrolepis*, Development of the Sorus in some Species of, Isobel M. Case, 626
- Neptune's Satellite, Mass of, Prof. H. N. Russell, 405
- Neutron : Hypothesis, The, D. Iwanenko, 798 ; Possible Existence of a, Dr. J. Chadwick, 312 ; H. C. Webster, 402
- Neutrons through Matter, Passage of : Dr. H. S. W. Massey, 469 ; a Correction, Dr. H. S. W. Massey, 691
- Nevada, Ore Deposits of, D. F. Hewett, 548
- New : Era*, January, 212 ; Guinea Sorcerers, Dr. A. C. Haddon (*Review*), 669 ; Political Fellowship, 308 ; South Wales : Orchids, H. M. R. Rupp, 663 ; Upper Devonian Fishes from, E. S. Hills, 373 ; Year Honours, 50 ; Zealand : Rebuilding of Napier and Hastings, 718 ; Scenery Preservation in, 647
- Newton, the Man, Lt.-Col. R. de Villamil (*Review*), 300
- Newtonian Potential, The, and Multiform Functions, P. Dive and R. Wavre, 734
- Nichols, William H., Medal of the New York Section of the American Chemical Society, presented to Prof. J. B. Conant, 540
- Nickel : and Iron, Thermomagnetic Effects in, Shih-Chen T'ao and W. Band, 373 ; and Nickel Alloys in Marine Engineering, J. McNeil, 503 ; The 'Fogging' of, W. H. J. Vernon, 482
- Nicobarese Burial Customs, C. J. Bonnington, 907
- Night Sky, The Zodiacal Light and the Luminosity of the, Dr. K. R. Ramanathan, 280
- Nitrates, Complex, Chemical and Crystallographic Investigations on, A. Ferrari and C. Colla (2), 627
- Nitrite in Cured Meats, O. Jones, 770
- Nitrites, Complex, Chemical and Crystallographic Investigations on, A. Ferrari and C. Colla (1), 591
- Nitrobenzene : and Sulphuric Acid, A Compound of, Masson, 249 ; Molecular Refraction of, Dr. J. Newton Friend, 471 ; Optical Properties of a Thin Layer of, submitted to Electrostatic Stress, A. Cotton and H. Mouton, 662 ; Physical Properties of, Massy, Warren, and Wolfenden, 442
- Nitrocelluloses, Mechanism of the Decomposition of the, Desmaroux, 951
- Nitrogen : Balances in White Rats submitted to Egg Albumin Fat and to Egg Albumin Glucide Regimes, F. Maignon and M. A. Chahine, 255 ; Heat of Dissociation of, A. K. Datta, 870 ; in Yeast, Determination of, R. S. W. Thorne, 405 ; Nucleus, Nature of the Potential Barrier of the, E. C. Pollard, 733 ; Peroxide, Determination of, E. J. B. Willey and S. G. Foord, 475 ; Viscosity of, at High Pressure, A. Michels and R. O. Gibson, 27
- Nitrous Oxide, Raman Lines and Infra-Red Bands in, E. F. Barker, 132
- Nodular Growths, Distinction of Pyrite from Marcasite in, F. A. Bannister, 625
- Non-polar Auroral Light from the Night Sky in the Tropics, K. R. Ramanathan and J. V. Karandikar, 545
- Nooitgedacht, near Kimberley, The Glaciated Surfaces of, etc., G. Slater, 142
- North America, Jurassic History of, C. H. Crickmay, 319
- Northern : Rhodesia, General Geology of a Portion of, G. V. Douglas, 590 ; Trotternish, Skye, Differentiation in the Sills of, F. Walker, 553
- Northumbrian Coals, 230
- Nottingham, University College, award of the Massey Scientific Research Fellowship to Dr. L. A. Woodward, 177
- Nova Pictoris, 173
- Nuclear :  $\gamma$ -Radiation, The Artificial Production of, H. C. Webster, 325 ; Spin, Radioactive Disintegration and, G. Gamow, 470
- Nucleic Acids, P. A. Levene and L. W. Bass (*Review*), 44
- Nucleus, Free Protons in the, Number of, Dr. A. J. Rutgers, 361
- Nutrient Salts in the Mediterranean, 730
- Nutrition Abstracts and Reviews*, 53
- Nutritional Anæmia in Infancy ; with Special Reference to Iron Deficiency, Dr. Helen M. M. Mackay, assisted by L. Goodfellow, with a Statistical Appendix by A. B. Hill, 156
- Nutritive Values of certain Cereals, V. Famiani, 483
- Nyctiphanes couchii* (Bell), Reproduction of, and *Meganyctiphanes norvegica* (Sars) off the South Coast of Ireland, Miss W. E. Frost, 141
- Oat Seed, Fungicide for, 464
- Oats, False Wild, Fatuoids or, E. T. Jones, 617 ; J. Philp, 796
- Object with Rapid Motion, Interesting, 513
- Ocean Newspapers, 73
- Oceanography : International, Prof. R. de Buen, 432 ; its Scope, Problems, and Economic Importance, Prof. H. B. Bigelow (*Review*), 7 ; The Science of, F. S. Russell (*Review*), 7
- Octopoda, The (excluding the Octopodinae), G. C. Robson (*Review*), 636



- Oil: and Petrol from Coal, Prof. C. H. Lander, 640, 676; -Fields of the U.S.A. and Argentina, The, and Oil Prospects in Australia, Dr. W. G. Woolnough, 155; Origin and Accumulation, J. L. Rich, 693; -Wells, Displacement Pumping of, A. Millar, 441; -Fields of Zante, Dr. A. Wade, 207
- Oldway: Beds, Presentation of Implements from the, to the British Museum, Dr. L. S. B. Leakey, 537; Human Skeleton, The, C. Forster Cooper and Prof. D. M. S. Watson, 312, 903; Dr. L. S. B. Leakey, 715, 721
- Onion Epidermis, Electrical Potential Differences across, A. C. Giese, R. I. Giese, and Prof. S. C. Brooks, 724
- Ophiuchi: The Star 70, L. Berman, 874; XX, Spectrum of, P. W. Merrill, 909
- Ophthalmology: Fundamentals of (*Review*), 706; Text-Book of, Dr. W. S. Duke-Elder. Vol. 1 (*Review*), 706
- Optical: and Physical Societies, Impending Amalgamation of the, 575; Glasses, T. Smith, 584; Micrometer, A Direct Reading, W. Ottway and Co., Ltd., 538
- Optically Active Substances, Absorption and Circular Dichroism of, Prof. T. M. Lowry and H. Hudson, 33
- Orchids, British Palmate, H. C. Gilson, 282
- Ores, Genesis of, in Relation to Petrographic Processes, Prof. G. C. Cullis, and others, 120
- Organic: Nitrates, The  $\text{NO}_2$  Frequency in, Dr. A. S. Ganesan and V. N. Thatte, 905; Oxides, The Dissociable, C. Dufraisse and N. Drisch, 290
- Orthogonal Polynomials in Frequencies of Type B, A. C. Aitken, 254
- Orthographical Relief, Prof. T. Kiritô, 683
- Otto, Nikolaus August, 1832-1891, 892
- Quabain, 88
- Ovis astore*, a Three-coated Sheep, Prof. A. F. Barker, 128, 437; Dr. J. E. Nichols, 436; A. B. Wildman, 794
- Ovaries, Influence of Pituitary on the, Prof. L. Hogben, E. Charles, and D. Slome, 619
- Oxford University: provision of scholarships for students of Buenos Aires, 177; appointment of Major Kenneth Mason as Professor of Geography, 517; proposed Regulations for the new Final Honour School of Geography, 732; The Final Honour School of Geography, 768; Offer of the Rockefeller Foundation towards the extension of the Bodleian Library, 840
- Oxide of Rectifiers, Constitution of the, and of Photoelectric Cells using Cuprous Oxide, L. Dubar, 842
- Oxygen: and Everest, Sir Leonard Hill, 93, 398; Dr. R. Greene, 94; N. E. Odell, 244; Prof. R. Margaria, 397; Prof. Yandell Henderson, 649; Dissociation of, Heat of, A. K. Dutta, 317
- Oysters in Law, Prof. J. H. Orton, 96
- Palestine: Early Man in, Miss D. A. E. Garrod, 898; Neanderthal Man in, 712; Southern, Excavation in, Sir Flinders Petrie, 753
- Palæacariformes, a New Sub-order of the Acari, Dr. Ivar Trägårdh, 541
- Palæontographical Society, election of officers, 827
- Palæontological Zoning of the Lower Ordovician near Ingliston, Elizabeth A. Ripper, 326
- Palæozoic Fossils from Deep Creek and Evans' Creek, Saltwater River, Victoria, F. Chapman, 326
- Pallasite, A New, from Alice Springs, Central Australia, Dr. L. J. Spencer, 410
- Palolo Worm in March, Swarming of the, Prof. P. Fauvel, 944
- Parachor, Measurement of the, applied to the Study of the Constitution of Polysulphides, Polyselenides, and mixed Sulphur-Selenium Chains, A. Baroni, 142
- Paraffins, Solid, Rotation of Chain Molecules in, Dr. A. Müller, 436
- Paralepis*, Life History of, 547
- Paramagnetic Salts, Correlation of the Gyromagnetic Ratio and the Magnetic Moment of, E. C. Stoner, 733
- Paris Academy: List of members and *correspondants*, 1666-1793, 343; Annual of the, 199; Prize awards of the, 102
- Parsons, Sir Charles, and his Work, 747
- $\alpha$ -Particles, Anomalous Scattering of, by Hydrogen and Helium, H. M. Taylor, 56
- Passivity Phenomena, The Theory of, (14), W. J. Müller, H. K. Cameron, and W. Machu, 179
- Past Years: an Autobiography, Sir Oliver Lodge (*Review*), 74
- Patent Law, Scientific Research and, 593
- Pear Fruits, Stone Cells of, J. W. Crist and L. P. Batjer, 207
- Pear, Garden, Chromosome-Linkage in, Caroline Pellew and Mrs. E. Sansome, 318
- Pegmatite: Eigenschaften, Geochemie, Verbreitung, Verwendung. Band 1: Granitpegmatite, A. E. Fersman (*Review*), 384
- Penetrating Nuclear Radiation, Artificial Production of a, Webster, 837
- Penrose's Annual: the Process Year Book and Review of the Graphic Arts. Vol. 34, 1932. Edited by W. Gamble (*Review*), 223
- Perchloric Acid, Possibility of Destroying Organic Substances by, E. Kahane, 34
- Periodate Potential, The, E. Abel and O. Smetana, 915
- Periodic Precipitates, Formation of, in the absence of a Foreign Gel, Prof. N. R. Dhar and R. N. Mittra, 761
- Periodische System in neuer Anordnung, Das, Dr. D. O. Lyon. Zweite Auflage (*Review*), 707
- Periodometer, The, Dr. G. C. Abbot, 684
- Perkin and Kipping's Organic Chemistry. New edition by Prof. F. S. Kipping and F. B. Kipping (*Review*), 331
- Perkin, William Henry, Life and Work of, 408
- Perkins Observatory, 69-in. Mirror for, 17
- Permanganate Reaction of Manganese, The Direct Realisation of the, G. Denigès, 290
- Pernanisoptera*, nom. n. (Odonata), The Sub-order, and its Systematic Position, A. Martynov, 411
- Permian: Lavas of Devon, The, W. G. Tidmarsh, 698; of Texas, R. E. Evans, 474
- Persian Gulf and Mekran, Meteorology of the, Dr. B. N. Banerji, 659
- Personality, The Physical Basis of, Prof. C. R. Stockard (*Review*), 115
- Personnel Administration, Applied, J. E. Walters (*Review*), 637
- Pests: Common, how to control some of the Pests that affect Man's Health, Happiness and Welfare, R. W. Doane (*Review*), 637
- Petrographic Processes, Genesis of Ores in relation to, Prof. G. C. Cullis, and others, 120
- Petroleum: Algal Origin of, J. E. Hackford, 248; in Australia, 155; Production, Engineering Progress in, A. Beeby Thompson, 934
- Petrols, Action of, arising from the Catalytic Hydrogenation of Coal-Tar as Stabilisers, L. Jacqué, 141
- Pflanzenanatomie, Handbuch der, Herausgegeben von Prof. K. Linsbauer. Lief. 28. Abt. 2, Teil 2: Bryophyten. Band 7/1: Anatomie der Laubmoose, von W. Lorch (*Review*), 673
- pH during Reactions in Solution, The Photographic Registration of, P. Jolibois and G. Fourietier, 698
- Phenols in Tar Oils, Extraction of the, by Liquid Ammonia, Jarry, 519
- Phenoxypropine, A New Type of True Acetylene Compound, L. Bert and E. Ander, 590
- Philosophy: and Civilisation, Prof. J. Dewey (*Review*), 329; and the Ordinary Man, Sir Herbert Samuel, 897
- Philippine Earthquake Epicentres, Rev. W. G. Repetti, 367
- Phosphagens, A Comparative Study of the, D. M. Needham, Dr. J. Needham, E. Baldwin, and J. Yudkin, 373
- Phosphoric Anhydride, The Modifications of, K. Boratynski and A. Nowakowski, 290
- Phosphine, Photochemical Decomposition of, H. W. Melville, 546
- Phosphorites, Radioactivity of, and their Extracts, V. P. Rusakov, 447
- Phosphorus: from the Band Spectrum, Nuclear Spin of, Dr. F. A. Jenkins and Muriel Ashley, 829; Oxidation of, H. W. Melville and E. B. Ludlam, 585; Red, The Discovery of, Eder, Späth, and Wegscheider, 520; The Glow of, Krejci and Schacherl, 657
- Photocells: Crystal, Prof. W. Schottky, 27; the Valves which Operate by Light, C. C. Paterson, 66



- Photochemical: Activity, Predissociation in relation to, R. G. W. Norrish, 33; Processes: a General Discussion held by the Faraday Society, April 1931 (*Review*), 354
- Photodichroism produced by  $\alpha$ -Particles, Dr. A. M. Taylor, 758
- Photo: -Elasticity, A Treatise on, Prof. E. G. Coker and Prof. L. N. G. Filon (*Review*), 264; Sir J. A. Ewing (*Review*), 264; electric: Cells, Dr. C. J. Smithells, 908; Photometer with Amplification for the Measurement of Feeble Illuminations, G. Rougier, 842; electrons and Negative Ions, Prof. V. A. Bailey, 166
- Photographic: Amusements: including Tricks and Unusual or Novel Effects obtainable with the Camera, F. R. Fraprie and W. E. Woodbury. Tenth edition (*Review*), 814; Methods (*Review*), 814; Plates, The Spectral Sensibility of, P. Rossier, 34; Research, Eastman Kodak Co., 126
- Photographie: Wissenschaftliche, eine Einführung in Theorie und Praxis, Prof. E. v. Angerer (*Review*), 814
- Photography: American Annual of, 1932. Vol. 46. Edited by F. R. Fraprie (*Review*), 384; Colour, The Technique of, F. R. Newens (*Review*), 814; its Principles and Practice, C. B. Neblette. Second edition (*Review*), 814; Screen-Plate Colour, C. L. Finlay, 560
- Photometric Eyepiece for Visual Quantitative Spectrum Analysis, A. F. Twyman, 770
- Photometry, Photographic, P. C. Keenan, 100
- Photon: Spin of the, Experimental Proof of the, Sir C. V. Raman and S. Bhagavantam, 22, 62; The Spinning, and its Scattering by Molecules, S. Bhagavantam, 167
- Photoreduction of Carbonic Acid, Bicarbonates, and Carbonates to Formaldehyde, Prof. N. R. Dhar and Atma Ram, 205
- Photosynthesis and Photolysis, O. Richter, 879
- Phycomyces, A Physiological separation of the Phenomena of Growth from those of Sexuality in, W. H. Schopfer, 626
- Physical: Apparatus, Catalogue of New, Griffin and Tatlock, Ltd., 574; Constants, Fundamental, R. T. Birge, 135; Laboratories and Social Service, Sir William Bragg, 495; Society, election of officers, 540
- Physics: Institute of, award of prizes, 827; election of officers, 827; Lord Rutherford, 823; in the Making, Dr. A. Ferguson (*Review*), 352; in the Séance Room (*Review*), 921; Mathematical, Partial Differential Equations of, Prof. H. Bateman (*Review*), 850; Modern: a General Survey of its Principles, Rev. T. Wolf. Translated by C. J. Smith (*Review*), 886; Principles of (*Review*), 886; (Non-Atomic), Recent Advances in, Prof. F. H. Newman (*Review*), 352; The Differential Equations of, Prof. E. T. Whittaker (*Review*), 850; Theoretical: Modern (*Review*), 777; Prof. W. Wilson. Vol. 1: Mechanics and Heat, Newton-Carnot (*Review*), 777
- Physik, theoretische, Vorlesungen über, an der Universität Leiden, Prof. H. A. Lorentz. Band 5: Die Maxwell'sche Theorie (1900-1902). Bearbeitet von Dr. K. Bremekamp. Übersetzt von Dr. H. Stücklen (*Review*), 672
- Physiological Congress, Fourteenth International, Arrangements for the, 540
- Physiology: and the 'Aura', Prof. D. F. Fraser-Harris, 197; Dr. F. W. Edridge-Green, 275; A Textbook of, Prof. W. D. Zoethout. Fourth edition (*Review*), 456
- Phytase, Vitamin B and, Cuboni and Arnaudi, 101
- Pigmentary System, The, and the Dopa Reaction, E. Boyd, 626
- Pimpinella saxifraga*, Substances contained in the Root of, F. Wessely and Editha Nadler (2), 699
- Pit: -Dwellings in Arizona, 174; Props, Timber, S. M. Dixon and M. A. Hogan, 319
- Pithecanthropus: The Age of, Dr. L. J. C. van Es (*Review*), 633; The Geological Age of (*Review*), 633
- Planet, A Tenth Trojan, 549
- Planetary Positions on Medieval Maps, D. Macnaughton, 725
- Planets, Inter-Mercurial, Another Search for, 549
- Plant: Breeding, Chromosome Studies and, Dr. C. D. Darlington, 445; Cells, Single, Physiological Studies of, W. J. V. Osterhout, 659; Immunity, Dr. A. C. Leeman, 908; in relation to Water, The, Prof. T. G. B. Osborn, 768; Physiology, An Introduction to, Dr. W. O. James (*Review*), 887; Principle: A New, Urie Acid, R. Fosse, P. De Graeve, and P. E. Thomas, 878
- Plants: Certain Correlation Phenomena in, G. Zanoni, 555; Enzymatic Activity of Action of the Alkaloids and Carbon Monoxide on the, Prof. M. Padoa, 686; The Growth Hormone of, H. E. Dolk, K. V. Thimann (1), 734; The Phosphorus Compounds of, E. Mnich (6), 107; Xeromorphic Adaptations of, 47
- Platinum, Freezing Point of, Roeser, Caldwell, and Wensel, 136
- Plato and the Modern Age, Laurie Magnus, 473; W. G. L. Cass (*Review*), 381
- Platypus, Duckbilled, H. A. Roome, 872
- Poisons, The Sympathicolytic, Raymond-Hamet, 879
- Polar: Lights, Prof. S. Chapman, 820; Year Expedition, The British, 1932-33, 385
- Polish on Metals, J. T. Randall and H. P. Rooksby, 280; R. C. French, 169; C. A. Murison, N. Stuart, and Prof. G. P. Thomson, 545
- Politics, Science and, 37
- Polonium, Microcalorimetric Measurements of the Period of, Mlle. A. Dorabalska, 106
- Polyhedra, Regular, Isohedral and Isogonal Generalisations of the, Prof. D. M. Y. Sommerville, 254
- Polyphase Induction Motors: their Theory, Calculation and Application, L. Lagron, translated by R. C. Simpson and Dr. M. G. Say (*Review*), 708
- Polysaccharide, Die, Prof. H. Fringsheim, Dritte Auflage (*Review*), 40
- Polysaccharides, Molecular Structure of, Sir J. C. Irvine, 470
- Ponds and Streams: Field Book of, an Introduction to the Life of Fresh Water, Prof. Ann Haven Morgan (*Review*), 154
- Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Meeting of the, 162
- Porto Rico, Education in, 252
- Post-Glacial Prehistory in Ireland, C. B. Whelan, 371
- Potash, Action of, on some Aryl-fatty Mercaptans, L. Palfray, S. Sabetay, and Mlle. Denise Sontag, 290
- Potassium Chloride in Sylvinites, Determination of, E. Cornec and H. Krombach, 554
- Potato: Sickness, W. A. Millard, S. Burr, and L. R. Johnson, 367; Sprouting, Inhibition of, by Ripe Apples, Dr. O. H. Elmer, 620; Tuber Formation of the, Influence of Altitude on the, P. Lebard, 326; Virus: Complexes in the, P. A. Murphy, 625; Diseases: Composite Nature of, Dr. Kenneth Smith, 248; Tuber Indexing for controlling, J. E. Kotila, 100
- Potatoes, Nematode Disease of, Dr. D. G. O'Brien and E. G. Prentice, 727
- Potentiometric Determinations, A Recording Apparatus for, P. Dubois, 770
- Potts, Howard N., Medal, award of the, to Prof. G. P. Thomson, 895
- Power: Production, The Economic consequences of, F. Henderson (*Review*), 882; Stations and Air Pollution, Dr. S. L. Pearce, 51; The Quest for, from Prehistoric Times to the Present Day, H. P. Vowles and Margaret W. Vowles (*Review*), 380
- Precipitation: Periodic, Dr. J. N. Friend and R. H. Vallance, 205; Structures, Periodic, Dr. E. S. Hedges; Dr. M. Copisarow, 400; Dr. S. C. Blacktin, 401
- Precision Photographic Equipment, Leitz, 765
- Prehistoric: and Protohistoric Sciences, International Congress of, 479; Cornish Village, 196; Domestic Pottery from Southern India, L. A. Cammiade, 366; Gold Ornaments from Cornwall, 90; Society of East Anglia, Annual Meeting of the, election of J. Reid Moir as President, 464
- Pressure: Indicators, High Speed, Photomicrographic Method for Magnification and Recording in, J. Taylor and R. Wark, 725; The Photographic Effect of, Ny Tsi-Ze and Chien Ling-Chao, 951
- Primitive: Mind, The, and Modern Civilization, C. R. Aldrich (*Review*), 79; People: The Psychology of a, a Study of the Australian Aborigine, Prof. S. D. Porteous (*Review*), 346
- Projectiles, The Air Resistance of, P. S. Epstein, 70
- Protein: Metabolism in Plants, Natural Regulators of, Mothes, 874; Films, Examination of, A. Hughes, J. Schulman, and Prof. E. K. Rideal, 21



- Proteins, The Electrometric Titration of the, J. Errera, 179  
 Protons, Fast : Artificial Production of, Dr. J. D. Cockcroft and Dr. E. T. S. Walton, 242; Photographs of, M. A. Tuve, L. R. Hafstad, and O. Dahl, 620  
 Protozoology, Handbook of, Prof. R. R. Kudo (*Review*), 563  
 Prussian Academy of Sciences, Dr. D. H. Scott elected a corresponding member of the, 574  
 Psychic Sounds (*Review*), 562  
 Psychology : Comparative, in the Field (*Review*), 6; with an Anthropological Background, Beatrice Blackwood (*Review*), 346  
 Psychoneuroses, Recent Advances in the Study of the, Dr. M. Culpin (*Review*), 564  
 Psychoses, Functional, H. B. Lang and J. A. Paterson, 483  
 Public Analysts, Society of, election of officers, 433  
*Puccinia Malvacearum*, a Homothallic Rust Fungus, Miss Dorothy Ashworth, 620  
 Pueblo Ruins in Arizona, The Dating of, 250  
 Pustular Fever and 'Marseilles' Fever, P. Durand and J. Laigret, 554  
*Putorius furo*, Course of Bodily Temperature in Mammals, during Gestation, E. Murr, 591; Experimental Reduction, by Heat, of the Time of Gestation in the Ferret, E. Murr, 591  
 Pyocyanine and Biological Oxidations, E. Friedheim, 627  
 Pyroelectric Crystals, Behaviour of, Dr. C. M. Focken, 168  
 Python, The Incubating, F. G. Benedict, E. L. Fox, and V. Coropatchinsky, 843
- Quantum : Dynamical Correction for the Equation of State of Real Gases, H. Margenau, 735; -mechanics, Rotation of a Rigid Body in, Dr. H. Casimir (*Review*), 780  
 Quartz : Crystals, Modes of Vibration of, A New Method of Investigating the, J. A. Strong, 59; Grains in the Ordovician in the Neighbourhood of Leningrad, L. Cayeux, 914; Monochromator-spectrograph, The *F/1.8*, J. W. Perry, 878  
 Quekett Microscopical Club, election of officers, 311  
 Quercite, Configuration of, T. Posternak, 771  
 Quinhydrone Electrode, The, Lammert and Morgan, 728  
 Quinine : Cinchona and, The Ready Supply of, an Urgent Need, 413
- Race : as a Political Factor, Prof. J. W. Gregory (*Review*), 188; Mixture : Studies in Intermarriage and Miscegenation, Prof. E. B. Reuter (*Review*), 188; Progress be Rationalised? Can, Sir Arthur Keith, 572  
 Racemisation, Mechanism of, Dr. A. N. Campbell and Alexandra Jean Robson Campbell, 281  
 Radiation : at Oblique Incidence, Measurement of Reflection Coefficients for, H. E. Beckett, 806; in the Atmosphere, D. Brunt (1), 698; (Neutrons), Penetrating Power of the, excited in Beryllium by the  $\alpha$ -Rays, J. Thibaud and F. Dupré la Tour, 951; Penetrating, The Variation of, with Zenith Distance, G. Bernardini, 578; The Theory of, Prof. C. G. Darwin, 873; Dr. P. A. M. Dirac, 874  
 Radio : and Education, 588; Engineering, Experimental, Prof. J. H. Morecroft (*Review*), 595; Foundations of, R. L. Duncan (*Review*), 595; Sets, Earthing, 539; Transmission, Facsimile, T. L. Eckersley, 694  
 Radioactive : Atoms, Mobility of, on the Surfaces of Solid Bodies, H. Jedrzejowski, 842; Bodies,  $\beta$ -Ray Spectra of, Nomenclature for Lines in the, Dr. C. D. Ellis, 276; Disintegration and Nuclear Spin, G. Gamow, 470  
 Radioactivity : A Survey of (*Review*), 560; of the Waters from some Summits of the Vosges, R. Delaby, R. Charonnat, and M. Janot, 214  
 Radioaktivität, Lehrbuch der, Prof. G. Hevesy und F. Paneth. Zweite Auflage (*Review*), 560  
 Radioaktivität, Úvod do, Dr. F. Běhounek and Prof. J. Heyrovský (*Review*), 816  
 Radiolaria, Geometry of the Siliceous Skeletons of the, Prof. D'Arcy W. Thompson, 325  
 Radium : Content : in the Water of Oil Wells in the Novo-Grozny District, The, L. Komlev, 35; of the Petroliferous Waters : in the Grozny District, The, V. Baranov and L. Kurbatov, 34; of Tcheleken Island, The, N. Tagejeva and F. Starik, 34; -D, Beta-Rays of, Prof. E. Stahel; N. Feather and H. O. W. Richardson, 314; in the Presence of the Sulphates of the Alkaline Earths, Estimation of, A. Karl, 519; Medical Uses of, 275;  $\gamma$ -Rays of, The Colorimetric Study of the Absorption of the, D. K. Yovanovitch and P. Savitch, 34  
 Radon, Purification of, G. H. Henderson, 101  
 Railway Sleepers, Preservation of, F. J. Popham, 476  
 Rainfall : over the Earth, Zonal Distribution of, Dr. C. E. P. Brooks and Theresa M. Hunt, 806; reviewed, A. A. Barnes, 68  
 Rain-gaugings near Belper and Duffield, A. A. Barnes, 68  
 Raman : Band of Water, The, Dr. G. Bolla, 60; Bands of Water, New, E. Segrè, 107; Effect, The : Prof. R. W. Wood, 367; A. Dadiou, K. W. F. Kohlrausch, and A. Pongratz (18), 735; and Chemical Structure, Prof. K. W. F. Kohlrausch, 802; and Chemistry : R. Lespieau, M. Bourguet, and R. Wakemann, 69; the Allene Linkages, M. Bourguet and L. Piaux, 178; Lines and Infra-Red Bands in Nitrous Oxide, E. F. Barker, 132; Scattering, Polarisation of, S. Bhagavantam and S. Venkateswaran, 580; Spectra of some Cyclic Hydrocarbons, E. Canals, M. Godchot, and Mlle. Germaine Cauquil, 915; Spectrum : in Sugar Solutions, V. Polara, 483; of Ammonia in Solutions of different Concentrations, V. Ricca, 375; of some Cyclohexane Hydrocarbons, M. Godchot, E. Canals, and Mlle. Germaine Cauquil, 326; of Sulphuric Acid and the Action on it of an Electric Field, V. Ricca, 483  
 Rand, Pneumonia on the, 26  
 Rare : Earth : and Alkali Metals, Double Sulphates of, F. Zambonini and Silvia Restaino (14), 215; Sulphates, Physico-chemical Study of, Prof. B. Brauner and Dr. E. Švagr, 620; Earths in the Infra-Red, Absorption Spectra of the, R. Freymann and S. Takvorian, 662  
 Rat, Helminths of the, M. A. Tubangui, 799  
 Rationalisation, The Riddle of, Major L. J. Barley (*Review*), 882  
 Rats, Destruction of, 537  
 Ray Society, Election of Officers, 433  
 Rây, Sir Prafulla Chandra, Seventieth birthday of, 895  
 Reaction Velocity, Harned and Samaras, 320  
 Reade's Iriscope and the Aptitude of Solid and Liquid Surfaces to be moistened by Water, M. Guillot, 326  
 Reading University, Dr. W. B. Brierley appointed Professor of Agricultural Botany, 732  
 Reagents for Delicate Analysis and Spot Tests, B.D.H., 865  
 Receivers surrounded with a Great Thickness of Mercury, Chemical Kinetics in, M. Boll, 807  
 Red Nitrogen Band Spectrum, The, S. M. Naudé, 836  
 Refractive Dispersion and the Problem of 'Optical Exaltation', Prof. T. M. Lowry and C. B. Allsopp, 33  
 Refrigerants, Dr. Ezer Griffiths and J. H. Awbery, 254  
 Regenerative Braking on Trams, G. H. Fletcher, 864  
 Reindeer Ranching in Northern Canada, M. A. E. Kelly, 609  
 Reinmuth : Object, The, 249, 729; nearest Planet to the Earth, 801  
 Religion of Man, The, being the Hibbert Lectures for 1930, Rabindranath Tagore (*Review*), 739  
 Reptiles, Immunology in, E. Grasset and A. Zoutendyk, 619  
 Research Defence : and Anti-Vivisection, 948; Society, Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley elected Chairman of the, 467  
 Reservoir subjected to Flood, Performance of a, H. H. Jeffcott, 106  
 Retaining Walls, Pressure of, Prof. C. F. Jenkin, 585  
 Reversible Coagulation in Living Tissue, W. D. Bancroft and J. E. Rutzler, Jr. (8), 483; W. D. Bancroft, R. S. Gutsell, and J. E. Rutzler, Jr. (10), 734  
 Rhamnose, Biological Test for, A. Castellani, 837  
 Rhenium : Compounds, Briscoe, Robinson, and Stoddart, 63; The Highest Oxide of, Prof. H. V. A. Briscoe, Dr. P. L. Robinson, and A. J. Rudge, 618  
 Rheumatism, Physiology of, Ll. J. Llewellyn and A. Bassett Jones, 247



- Rhode Island Red Poultry, An Inherited Abnormality in, Ruth C. Bamber (Mrs. Bisbee), 762
- Rhodes Lecture, Prof. A. Einstein, 716
- Rhodesia, Southern, Climate of, 515
- Rhythmisation in a Motor Task, D. W. Harding, 61
- Rice, Nutation in, B. S. Kadam, 616
- Richards Gold Medal of the American Chemical Society, award of the, to Prof. A. A. Noyes, 275
- Ricketts, Experimental, F. Rogozinski (3), 107
- Rittenhouse, David, Bicentenary of the birth of, 500
- River Pollution, 367
- Road: The Story of the, from the Beginning down to A.D. 1931, Prof. J. W. Gregory (*Review*), 380; Traffic Signalling, Major Aldington, 163
- Rock: Crystal, Use of, by Palaeolithic Man, G. G. MacCurdy, 591; -Glass, Changed Composition of an Anorthoclase-bearing, L. Hawkes and H. F. Harwood, 625; Structures and their Interpretation (*Review*), 671
- Rockefeller Foundation Disbursements in 1930, 324
- Rocks: Fragmental, The Examination of, Prof. F. G. Tickell (*Review*), 528; Lead Content of, Prof. A. Holmes, 20; The Chemical Analysis of, Dr. H. S. Washington. Fourth edition (*Review*), 261; The Study of, Prof. S. J. Shand (*Review*), 79
- Roman Mining in Britain, G. C. Whittick, 572
- Romanes Lecture, The, Lord Moynihan, 934
- Room at Constant Temperature, Maintenance of a, H. Abraham, 214
- Root Structure, Effect of Malnutrition on, G. Bond, 626
- Rosarium Spontanearum Europæ Mediæ, Synopsis, Dr. R. Keller, 488
- Rosenblatt, a Theorem of, G. S. Dragoni, 142
- Roses, The Wild, of Central Europe, Dr. C. C. Hurst, 488
- Ross Institute and Hospital for Tropical Diseases, Annual Report, 791
- Rotation, A New Method of measuring very small Angles of, G. Siadbei, 842
- Rothamsted: Experimental Station, Dr. C. B. Williams appointed Chief Entomologist at the, 311; Secular Variation of Rainfall at, Dr. J. Wishart, 806
- Royal: Academy, The, Dr. Vaughan Cornish, 679; Portraits at, 680; Asiatic Society, award of the Gold Medal of the, to Sir Aurel Stein, 860; Astronomical Society: award of the Gold Medal to Dr. R. G. Aitken, 92; Presidential Address to the, Dr. Knox-Shaw, 272; election of officers, 275; Prof. G. Abetti, Prof. R. Emden, E. Esclanong, Prof. H. Ludendorff, and Prof. P. J. van Rhijn elected Associates of the, 894; College of Surgeons, Research Scholarships at the, 606; Geographical Society, awards of the, 611; Horticultural Society, a plaque commemorating the foundation of the, 392; Meteorological Society, election of officers, 163; Microscopical Society, election of officers, 164; Observatory, Greenwich, Annual Visitation, 876; Society: election of Prof. J. Hadamard, Prof. G. Lusk, Prof. W. Nernst, and Prof. T. Smith as foreign members of the, 865; Leadership and the, Dr. N. R. Campbell, 362; Sir R. T. Glazebrook, 434; Presidents of the, and their Portraits, 910; Selected Fellows, 391; of Edinburgh: election of Fellows, 391; award of the Keith Prize to Dr. A. W. Greenwood and the Neill Prize to Dr. C. H. O'Donoghue, 685; Swedish Academy of Sciences, Prof. R. W. Wood elected a foreign member of the, 199
- Rubber: Crystalline, E. W. Washburn, 28; Manufacture, Research in, 695
- Rubus, Chromatid Segregation in Tetraploid, M. B. Crane and Dr. C. D. Darlington, 869
- Ruhuhu Coalfields, Tanganyika Territory: Geology of the, G. M. Stockley and J. Walton, 481; Lamellibranchia from the Karroo Beds of the, L. R. Cox, 481
- Russia, The Five Year Plan in, 898
- Rutherford of Nelson, Lord, M. Duc de Broglie, 665
- St. Andrews University, Discontinuance of the L.L.A. Examination, 67
- St. Gothard Tunnel, Jubilee of the, 861
- St. Kilda: House Mouse, T. H. Harrison and J. A. Moy-Thomas, 131; Migration of Birds at, 171
- St. Martin's Summer in England in 1931, Sir Napier Shaw, 836
- St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, O. L. V. de Wesselow appointed Professor of Medicine at, 67
- Sal Alembroth, Prof. J. Ruska, 909
- Salmon of the West Coast of Scotland, P. R. C. Macfarlane, 835
- Salt: Range, India, Exploration of the, Dr. L. L. Fermor, 898; Secretion of, through the Gills of Fishes, A. Krogh, 626
- San Andreas Rift, The, and Adjacent Features near Redlands, California, G. A. Cumming, 553
- Sand, Shifting, Mechanics of, Prof. C. F. Jenkin, 309
- Sandal, Spike Disease of, 764
- Sandwich, South, Islands, Dr. S. Kemp, 282
- Sapogenin, Dehydration of, E. Späth and O. Hromatka, 915
- Saturated: Acyclic Hydrocarbons, Transformation of, into Ethylenic Hydrocarbons, C. Matignon, Kling, and Florentin, 698; Air at Temperatures up to 100° C., The Water-Content of, J. H. Awbery, 254
- Saxifrage Crosses, Dr. R. O. Whyte, 204
- Schädlingsfauna Palästinas, Die, Dr. F. S. Bodenheimer (*Review*), 301
- Scholasticism, The Revival of, W. W. L., 508
- Schools, The, and Research, Prof. J. Thorpe, 65
- Science: Abstracts for 1931, 433; An Odyssey of, Prof. A. Smithells (*Review*), 74; and Common Sense, J. Langdon-Davies (*Review*), 331; and Disarmament, Dr. C. Delisle Burns, 834; and Economic Values, 551; and Happiness, Progressive, 17; and Human Experience, Prof. H. Dingle; Sir Oliver Lodge (*Review*), 147; and Human Life (*Review*), 295; and Imperial Affairs, 1; and Industry, Relation of, Dr. S. G. Barker, 933; and Politics, 37; and Society, Prof. F. S. Marvin (*Review*), 329; as one of the Humanities, Dr. E. J. Holmyard (*Review*), 418; History of, International Committee of the, 839; in a Girl's Education, Miss I. M. Drummond, 518; Internationalism and, Prof. T. D. A. Cockerell, 831; Masters' Association, Annual Meeting of the, Presidential Address by Dr. C. Norwood, 65; Prof. A. M. Tyndall elected President for 1933, 66; Masters' Book, The. Part 1: Physics; Part 2: Chemistry, Biology, Conversazione Experiments (*Review*), 332; Talks by Gramophone, 539; Teaching: Problems of, 485; University, 773; The History of, and the New Humanism, Dr. G. Sarton (*Review*), 418; The Philosophy of, Prof. F. S. Marvin (*Review*), 42; The Politics of (*Review*), 415
- Scientific: and Industrial Research, Department of, Report for Year 1930-31, 303, 377; and Learned Societies of Great Britain and Ireland, The Official Year-Book of the, Forty-eighth Annual Issue (*Review*), 118; and Technical Books, Recent: Jan. 30, v; Feb. 27, iii; March 26, iii; April 30, v; May 28, iii; June 25, v; Centenaries in 1932, 10; Digests, Co-ordination of, 181; Films and Museum Specimens, Imported, 339; Management in Industry, 766; Outlook, The, Bertrand Russell (*Review*), 295; Papers, Collected, of William Henry Dines, B.A., F.R.S. (*Review*), 811; Publications in 1931, 370; Research: and National Life, 303; and Patent Law, 593; and the Electrical Industry, 52; Specimens and Apparatus into Great Britain, Importation of, 104; Terminology, Co-ordination of, 540; Worthies, XLVI: Lord Rutherford of Nelson, 665
- Scission Catalysts, Mode of Action of, in Hydrogenation Cracking of Hydrocarbons with a Polycyclic Nucleus, A. Kling and D. Florentin, 142
- Scoresby, William, Return of the, 862
- Scottish: Medical History (*Review*), 812; Medicine, History of, Dr. J. D. Comrie, 812; Prehistory, M. C. Burkitt (*Review*), 847
- Screen-Plate Colour Photography, C. L. Finlay, 560
- Screw Threads, Standardisation of, W. F. Watson, 622
- Sages, The Assembly of the, Dr. E. J. Holmyard (*Review*), 670
- Sagitta, Retrocerebral Organ of, S. T. Burfield, 796
- Saharanpur, The Dehra Dun and, Herbaria, 190



- Seaweeds: British, A Handbook of the, Prof. Lily Newton (*Review*), 563; Brown, Fats of, Dr. Barbara Russell Wells, 654
- Sedimentation in Coral Reef Regions, Miss S. M. Marshall and A. P. Orr, 441
- Seeds: Germination of, Action of Weak Radioactivity on the, D. Montet, 374; Moisture-Content of, Rapid Determination of the, R. M. Davies, 553
- Seismological Society of America, Proceedings of the Eastern Section of the, 467
- Seismology: Dr. H. Jeffreys, 487; Bibliography of, 647
- Selenographical Tables and Co-ordinates, Prof. T. Banachiewicz, 208
- de Sélvs-Longchamps, Michel Edmond, The Zoological Collections of, 897
- Seminole, The, Miss Frances Densmore, 935
- Senile Degeneration in Plants, Sir A. D. Hall, 795
- Sensation, Physiological Basis of, Prof. E. D. Adrian, 67
- Sensory Thresholds, Genetics of, Taste for Phenyl Thio Carbamide, A. F. Blakeslee, 735
- Sentiment and Reason, Some Aspects of the Modern Conflict between (Stephen Paget Memorial Lecture), Sir Arthur Keith, 948
- Sewage Effluents, Biological Estimation of the Quality of, Dr. L. Lloyd, 577
- Sexual: Hormones, Crystallised, extracted from the Urine of Pregnant Mares, A. Girard, G. Sandulesco, A. Fridenson, C. Gaudefroy, and J. J. Rutgers, 663; Periodicity: Light and of Prof. H. E. Armstrong, 906; L. J. Llewellyn, 868; Dr. F. H. A. Marshall, 344; G. Philip, 655; Dr. M. A. H. Tincker; J. T. Cunningham, 543; Diet as Factors in Relation to, Prof. T. H. Bissonnette, 612; Selection and External Appearance, O. L. Tinklepaugh, 61
- Shakespeare, Biology in, Prof. D. F. Fraser-Harris, 232
- Sheep: Black Disease and, Dr. A. W. Turner, 134; Wild, Hybrid, Dr. J. A. F. Roberts, 99
- Shipbuilding in Philadelphia, C. L. Chandler, 681
- Ship Canal in France, Proposed, 395
- Shoalhaven River Valley, Physiography of the, (6) Nerriga, F. A. Craft, 255
- Shyok Ice Barrier, The, Capt. C. E. C. Gregory, 873
- Sight and Sound*, No. 1, 574
- Silkworms: Action exerted on the Development of, by an open Oscillating Circuit of Copper and Zinc, G. Mezzadrolì and E. Vareton, 142; irradiated prior to Incubation Action of Ultra-short Electromagnetic Waves on, G. Mezzadrolì, 591; The Development of: G. Mezzadrolì and E. Vareton, 483; Influence of Italian Radioactive Soils on, G. Mezzadrolì and E. Vareton, 375
- Silver: Bivalent and Tervalent, Compounds of, G. A. Barbieri, 70; Sulphate, Solubilities and Activity Coefficients of, in certain Salt Solutions, J. Chloupek and V. Daneš, 771
- Sind and Sumeria, Prehistoric, E. Mackay, 61
- Sipunculus*, The Obscure Vesicles of, J. A. Thomas, 254
- Sisal, Cultivation of, F. J. Nutman, 62
- Skara Brae: a Pictish Village in Orkney, Prof. V. Gordon Childe. With chapters by Prof. T. H. Bryce and Prof. D. M. S. Watson (*Review*), 347
- Skeletal Muscle, Contraction of, during Deficient Formation of Lactic Acid, F. Lippay, 879
- 'Sky-Scraper', The First, 431
- Slaughter-house Methods and Equipment, appointment of a committee on, 864
- Slime Eels, Embryology of the, 623
- Smallpox, Diagnosis of, 226
- Smithsonian Institution, New Solar Observatory of the, 320
- Smoke Abatement, Regional, 196
- Smooth Surfaces, Contact of, Prof. H. E. Watson, 437; S. H. Bastow and Dr. F. P. Bowden, 438
- Snail, Fresh-water, Life History of a, J. L. Baily, 907
- Snakes, Large, Body Temperature and Heat Regulation of, F. G. Benedict and E. L. Fox, 291
- Snow: and Ice Crystals (*Review*), 778; Crystals, W. A. Bentley and W. J. Humphreys (*Review*), 778
- Soap: Plants, H. Friend, 52; Solutions, Surface Tension of, Dr. P. Lecomte du Noüy, 278
- Social: Economics (*Review*), 558; Service, Knowledge and, 73
- Society Islands' Canoes, Dr. E. S. C. Handy, 692
- Society, Science and, Prof. F. S. Marvin (*Review*), 329
- Sodium Hydrosulphide, Some Analytical Applications of, B. S. Evans, 518
- Soil and the Microbe, The, an Introduction to the Study of the Microscopic Population of the Soil and its Role in Soil Processes and Plant Growth, Prof. S. A. Waksman and Prof. R. L. Starkey (*Review*), 600; Conditions and Plant Growth, Sir E. John Russell. Sixth edition (*Review*), 527; Formation in South-West England, Climate and Parent Material in, A. J. Low, 655; Physics: and Chemistry of the, Prof. H. A. D. Neville (*Review*), 706; in Relation to Meteorology, Dr. B. A. Keen (G. J. Symons Memorial Lecture), 463; The, an Introduction to the Scientific Study of the Growth of Crops, Sir A. D. Hall. Fourth edition (*Review*), 706; The Study of the, Prof. E. J. Salisbury (*Review*), 527
- Soils, Weathering of, Degree of, Prof. G. W. Robinson and Dr. Minnie Richardson, 581
- Solar: and Terrestrial Relationships, 405; Corona: Photography of the, apart from Eclipses, B. Lyot, 141; Study of the, with the Spectro-heliograph otherwise than during an Eclipse, B. Lyot, 447; Eclipse of Aug. 31, 1932, Suggested Wireless Observations during the, Prof. E. V. Appleton and Prof. S. Chapman, 757; System, The Origin of the, Prof. H. Dingle, 333
- Solution of Gas in a Liquid, Rates of, Miyamoto, 693
- Somaliland, British: Climatic Changes in, Dr. J. Parkinson, 651; Freshwater and Land Mollusca from, Dr. J. Parkinson, 941
- Somerset, The Archaeology of, D. P. Dobson (*Review*), 924
- Sorcerers of Dobu: the Social Anthropology of the Dobu Islanders of the Western Pacific, Dr. R. F. Fortune (*Review*), 669
- Sorghum*: Chromosomes of, Prof. C. L. Huskins and Stanley G. Smith, 835; Sudan Grass and some Hybrids, The Amount of Hydrocyanic Acid in, H. Finmore and C. B. Cox, 35
- Sound: -Change and Indeterminism, A. S. C. Ross, 760; Films: Application of, to Timing Solar Eclipses, 549; in Schools, 174; Reproduction, Discs and Conical Diaphragms in, Dr. N. W. McLachlan, 549
- South: Africa: Botanic Gardens in, Sir Arthur W. Hill, 343; Prehistoric Stock of, Sir Arthur Keith, 90; African Grasses: An Introduction to the Study of the, with Notes on their Structure, Distribution, Cultivation, etc., Dr. E. P. Phillips (*Review*), 382; -Eastern Union of Scientific Societies, Congress of the, Prof. E. J. Salisbury elected President for 1933, 875; Sandwich Islands, Dr. S. Kemp and A. L. Nelson, with a Report on Rock Specimens, by Dr. G. W. Tyrrell, 731; -West Museum, Los Angeles, F. Hodge appointed director of the, 20
- Southern Ocean, Mapping of the, 283
- Soviet Academy of Science, Expeditions of the, 754
- Space-Time Continuum, Dr. F. H. Maberly, 317
- Spanish-African Fever, The Individual Specificity of the Spirochaetes of Recurring, C. Nicolle and C. Anderson, 951
- Species Hybridisation in Animals, R. I. Pocock, 394
- Specificity in Catalysis, Sir Frederick Gowland Hopkins (Robert Boyle Lecture), 322
- Spectroscopy and Valency, C. H. D. Clark (1), 734
- Speed Records, New Land, Sir Malcolm Campbell, 342
- Spencer's Last Journey: being the Journal of an Expedition to Tierra del Fuego by the late Sir Baldwin Spencer: with a Memoir. Edited by R. R. Marett and T. K. Penniman. With Contributions by Sir James Frazer and H. Balfour (*Review*), 43
- Spinels, Researches on, L. Passerini and M. Baccaredda (4), 142
- Spiral Nebulae: Two very Distant, 284; Velocities of the, Prof. W. D. MacMillan, 93
- Spirifer*, Genus, Studies of Evolution in the, C. L. Fenton (*Review*), 383
- Spirochaeta hispanicum*, Sensibility of the Pig to African Strains of, C. Nicolle and C. Anderson, 410
- Spirula* from the Dana Expeditions, Prof. Graham Kerr, 403



- Spitsbergen : Geology, D. Sokolov and W. Bodylevsky, 584; Stor Fjord Region of, Stratigraphy of the, Dr. G. W. Tyrrell, 553; Tectonics and Petrology of the Dolerites of, Dr. G. W. Tyrrell and K. S. Sandford, 553
- Spore Dissemination through the Upper Atmosphere, 754
- Springs Research Committee, Report of the, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, 250
- Stainless : Iron and Steel, J. H. G. Monypenny. Second edition (*Review*), 356; Steels (*Review*), 356
- Stammesgeschichte : Vergleichende, Grundlagen, Methoden, Probleme unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der höheren Krebse, von K. Beurlen (*Review*), 745
- Standardisation, Imperial, 125
- Stark Effect for Argon, Dr. N. Ryde, 758
- Stars : B-type, Spectra of, Dr. O. Struve, 442; Equipartition of Energy among the, A New Cosmogonic Interpretation of the, G. Armellini, 215; Faint, Parallaxes of, A. Van Maanen, 658; Liquid, The Small Vibrations of, R. Wavre, 34; The Statistical Distribution of the, as a Function of the Type of Spectrum, P. Rossier (2), 107; White Dwarf, Prof. E. A. Milne, 803
- State and Industry in 1932, The, Capt. H. Macmillan, 557
- Steam : Properties of (*Review*), 355; Research in Europe and America, Dr. Max Jakob, 163
- Steel : High Speed, M. A. Grossmann and E. C. Bain (*Review*), 529; in Building Construction, 532; Structures Research Committee (Dept. of Scientific and Industrial Research), First Report, 533; Welds, Mild, made with the Electric Arc, D. Rosenthal and M. Mathieu, 807
- Stejneger, Leonhard, Antiquarian and Naturalist, 609
- Stellar Luminosities, Distribution of, Strömberg, 837
- Stemona tuberosa*, An Alkaloid extracted from the Root of, a Chinese-Annamese Drug, E. Lobstein and J. Grumbach, 411
- Sterilisation of Mental Defectives, Appointment of a Committee on the, 899
- Stock Diseases and Poisonous Plants, Prof. A. J. Ewart, 371
- Stokes's Formula in Geodesy, B. L. Gulatee, 279; W. D. Lambert, 831
- Stomatal Movement and Hydrogen Ion Concentration, Dr. E. Philip Smith and M. S. Jolly, 544
- Stream Line Locomotive and Car Design, Dr. O. G. Tietjens, 28
- Street Lighting, Modern, H. T. Harrison, 934
- Stroboscopy, High-Frequency, A Method of, J. A. Strong, 203
- Structures in Sea Water, Deterioration of, 658
- Strychnine, Oxidation of, B. Alessandro, 905
- Sturge Collection, The, an Illustrated Selection of Flints from Britain bequeathed in 1919 by William Allen Sturge, Reginald A. Smith (*Review*), 43
- Stylola* Egg, Elimination of Self-Sterility in the, H. H. Plough, 735
- Submarine Temperature Recorder, A, P. Idrac, 214
- Sugar : Beet Seed, Selection of, 274; Cane Research Conference, Imperial, Report of the, 684
- Sulpho-Salts having Spinel Structures, G. Natta and L. Passarelli, 142
- Sulphuric Acid : free from Nitric Acid, Preparation of, Dr. W. R. G. Atkins, 98; Nitrobenzene and, A Compound of, Masson, 249
- Sunset Glows and the Andean Eruptions, T. P. Blathwayt, 932
- Sunspot Activity during 1931, 284
- Superconductivity : for Alternating Currents, Prof. J. C. McLennan and others, 836; Hall Effect and, I. Kikoin and B. Lasarew, 57; The Phenomena of, with Alternating Currents of High-Frequency, Prof. J. C. McLennan, A. C. Burton, A. Pitt, and J. O. Wilhelm, 409
- Surface : Convection and the Distribution of Temperature near a Heated Surface, Dr. L. A. Ramdas and S. L. Malurkar, 201; Heating by Neutralised Positive Rays before and after Return to Normal State, M. C. Johnson, 553
- Surgeons, Royal College of, Library of the, 467
- Surrey, The Archaeology of, D. C. Whimster (*Review*), 924
- Sussex : Medieval, R. A. Pelham, 646; School Children, Pigmentation of, Dr. W. R. Dunstan, 547
- Swanley Horticultural College, W. E. Shewell-Cooper appointed Horticultural Superintendent of the, 517
- Swine Fever transmissible to Man in an Invisible Form, C. Nicolle and L. Balozet, 915
- Synthese, Centre International de, 935
- Talkatome Home 'Talkie' Equipment, The, 463
- Tantalum : Niobium, Titanium, and Zirconium, Separation of, and a New Analytical Grouping, W. R. Schoeller and A. R. Powell, 806; Tungsten, N Lines of, A Displacement in the, Dr. F. C. Chalklin and Mrs. L. P. Chalklin, 905
- Tara : a Pagan Sanctuary of Ancient Ireland, Prof. R. A. S. Macalister (*Review*), 745
- Tariff Commission and a Scientific Policy, Capt. H. Macmillan, 271
- Tariffs and Imported Scientific Books, 195, 271
- Taste-buds, Relation of, to their Nerve-fibres, T. W. Torrey, 483
- Teachers in Technical Institutions, Association of, Annual Conference, Presidential Address, S. H. Moorfield, 802
- Teak, Germination of, H. R. Blanford, 134
- Technical : Education in the Soviet Union (*Review*), 525; Institutions, Association of, Annual Meeting; election of Sir John Dewrance as President for 1932, 394
- Teleilat Ghassul, Rev. J. G. Duncan, 403
- Telenomus nigrocoaxalis* Aschm. (Chalcididae), Oviposition of, F. A. Squire, 544
- Telephone : Cable, A Modern, H. A. Affel, W. S. Gorton, and R. W. Chesnut, 274; Transmission, Time Factor in, O. B. Blackwell, 800
- Téléphonie, La, R. Dreyfus (*Review*), 600
- Teleprinter, The, Sir Kingsley Wood, 161
- Television : Multi-Channel, C. O. Browne, 124; Transmissions of the Derby, 861; Two-way, 788; Ultra-short Wave, Demonstration of, 682
- Tell Asmar, The Discoveries at, Dr. H. Frankfort, 501
- Tellurium, Quadrivalent, and Platinum, Solid Solutions by Precipitation and Isomorphism between Complexes of, G. Natta and R. Pirani (1), 952
- Temperature Inversions in the Atmosphere, Structure and Development of, C. K. M. Douglas, 245; Dr. Sobhag Mal, S. Basu, and B. N. Desai, 97
- Teratology, Experimental (*Review*), 298
- Termites in the Formation of Spongy Ironstone in Africa, Dr. M. Burr and P. S. Nazaroff, 27
- Tertiary Ring Complex of Slieve Gullion (Ireland), J. E. Richey, 325
- Testing of Materials for Service in High-Temperature Steam-Plant, R. W. Bailey and A. M. Roberts, 729
- Texas Caves, Excavations in, 574
- Textiles, Research in, 622
- Thames Estuary, The, Dr. B. Cunningham (*Review*), 350
- Thermal : Conduction in an Electric Field, W. Bonwitt and G. Groetzinger, 100; Measurements, Errors in, Prof. J. R. Partington, 615; Prof. W. E. Garner, 832
- Thermoclines in Tropical Lakes, Dr. E. B. Worthington and L. C. Beadle, 55
- Thermo-electric Pile, A Simple, J. Gabreau, 657
- Thermometer, Heating of a, by a Gaseous Current, E. Brun and P. Vernotte, 519
- Things : Inanimate, The Fascination of (*Review*), 704; Seen by the Camera, 681
- Thiophene Hydrocarbons contained in Oils with High Sulphur, Separation of the, M. and Mme. Leclère, 374
- Thorium : Salts, Influence of, on the Rotatory Power of Tartaric Acid and the Tartrates, E. Darmon and Yeu-Ki-Heng, 554; -C,  $\alpha$ -Rays of, The Fine Structure of the, S. Rosenblum and M. Valadares, 662
- Thyroid Gland, The Chemical Assay of, G. Middleton, 770
- Tiere, Entwicklungsphysiologie der, Dr. P. Weiss (*Review*), 888
- Tierischen Schädlinge des Ackerbaues, Die, Sofie Rostrup and Prof. M. Thomsen. Nach der vierten dänischen Auflage ins Deutsche übertragen und für die deutschen Verhältnisse bearbeitet von Dr. H. Bremer und Dr. R. Langenbuch (*Review*), 118



- Tierra del Fuego, Indians of, Somatology of the, M. Gusinde and V. Lebzelter, 699
- Tierreich, Das: eine Zusammenstellung und Kennzeichnung der rezenten Tierformen. Herausgegeben von F. E. Schulze and W. Kükenthal. Lief. 54: Myriapoda. 2: Scolopendromorpha. Bearbeitet von Dr. G. Attems. Lief. 55: Amphibia. Anura III., Polypedatidae. Bearbeitet von Dr. E. Ahl. Lief. 56: Acarina; Bdellidae, Nicoletiellidae, Cryptognathidae. Bearbeitet von Dr. S. Thor (*Review*), 744
- Tierreichs, Klassen und Ordnungen des, wissenschaftlich dargestellt in Wort und Bild. Von Dr. H. G. Bronn. (1) Band 3, Abteilung 3: Bivalvia (Muscheln). Bearbeitet von Dr. F. Haas. Lief. 1. Lief. 2: Schriftenverzeichnis. Lief. 3. (2) Band 4: Vermes. Abteilung 2: Aschelminthen. Buch 1: Rotatorien, Gastrotrichen und Kinorhynchen. Bearbeitet von A. Remane. Lief. 1: Rotatorien (*Review*), 743
- Tierwelt der Nord- und Ostsee, Die. Begründet von G. Grimpe und E. Wagler. Herausgegeben von G. Grimpe. Lief. 18. Teil 10a: Phyllopoda, von W. Rammner; Teil 10e<sub>2</sub>: Isopoda genuina, von H. F. Nierstrasz und J. H. S. Stekhoven, Jr.; Teil 10e<sub>3</sub>: Anisopoda, von H. F. Nierstrasz und J. H. S. Stekhoven, Jr.; Teil 10e<sub>4</sub>: Isopoda (*Review*), 154
- Tin, The Cry of, Dr. B. Chalmers, 650; Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade, 651; Dr. H. O'Neill, 833
- Tobacco: in South Africa, A Virus Disease of, Dr. E. S. Moore, 544; Research on, 440
- Tobago, Trinidad and, Forestry in, 478
- Tokyo and Yokohama, Reconstruction of, J. Gracy, 684
- Toluene, Benzene and, Chlorination of, Mason, Smale, Thompson, and T. S. Wheeler, 172; The Catalytic Oxidation of, G. Charlot, 411
- Tomatoes, Spotted Wilt of, Bald and Geoffrey, 692
- Tortoise inoculated with the Rabies Bacillus, The Nerve Centres of the, Remlinger, Manouélian, and Bailly, 69
- Touracos in England, Breeding of, Capt. H. S. Stokes, 163
- Transport: Numbers, Jones and Bradshaw, 404; Problem in the United States, The, 819
- Traps, Thorn-lined, H. Balfour, 511
- Trevithick, Richard, Statue of, 787
- Trevithick's First Rail Locomotive, W. W. Mason, 681
- Trigonometry, Plane, B. B. Bagi (*Review*), 44
- Trihydrol in Water, Physiological Effect of, T. C. Barnes, 735
- Trinidad and Tobago, Forestry in, 478
- Tropical: Medicine and Hygiene, Opening of Manson House by the Prince of Wales, 463; Soils, Horizons in, Reactions of, A. J. W. Hornby, 58; D. S. Gracie, 248
- Troy, Miss Winifred Lamb, 511
- Truncated Conical Shells (Loud Speaker Diaphragms), Air Column Resonances and Symmetrical Modes of, Dr. N. W. McLachlan, 202
- Tuberculin, Period of Preservation of Solutions of, E. Fernbach, 255
- Tulasne, L. R. and C., Selecta Fungorum Carpologia of the Brothers, translated by W. B. Grove. Edited by Prof. A. H. R. Buller and Dr. C. L. Shear. 3 vols. (*Review*), 813
- Tulipa silvestris* L., Resistance of the Stolonophyll of, to the Penetration of Mycelia, C. Cappelletti, 107
- Tumours, Human, The Lipoids of, Ada Bolaffi, 143
- Tungsten and Tantalum, N Lines of, A Displacement in the, Dr. F. C. Chalklin and Mrs. L. P. Chalklin, 905
- Tunicata, Distribution, Ecology, and Classification of, Dr. H. Thompson, 318
- Turba Philosophorum: ein Beitrag zur Geschichte der Alchemie, Prof. J. Ruska (*Review*), 670
- Turbulent: Flow, Examination of, with an Ultramicroscope, A. Fage and H. C. H. Townend, 409, 728; Pressure, Some Effects of, O. F. T. Roberts, 23
- Turkey Crosses, A. Lowther, 799
- Tusser, Thomas, 1577 Floruit: his Good Points of Husbandry. Collated and edited by Dorothy Hartley (*Review*), 348
- Twins Reared Apart, Prof. H. H. Newman, 692
- Two Thousand Years: After, a Dialogue between Plato and a Modern Young Man, G. Lowes Dickinson (*Review*), 381
- Ultra: -Sonic Waves in Liquid Columns, Drs. R. W. Boyle, G. S. Field, and D. K. Froman, 693; -Violet Light on Plants, Effect of, W. E. Tottingham and J. G. Moore, 26
- Uncertainty Principle in Modern Physics, The, Dr. H. T. Flint, 746
- U.S.A.: Books for the Blind in the, 466; Bureau of Standards, Annual Report of the, 92; Commercial Education in, 732; Coroners' Law in the, G. H. Weinmann, 198; Elementary Education in, 949; Education in the, 624; Geological Survey, Dr. T. W. Stanton appointed Chief Geologist of the, 467; National Academy of Sciences: award of the Henry Draper Medal to Dr. Annie J. Cannon; award of the Agassiz Medal to Prof. H. B. Bigelow, 92; elections to the, 753; Predicted Grasshopper Invasion in the, 863; Science doctorates conferred by Universities in, 372; Unemployed Technical Men in the, 125; The Education of American Indians, Negroes, etc., 877; The Professional Education of Teachers in the, 32; The Transport Problem in the, 819; Tornadoes in the, 898; Western, Physiography of, Prof. N. M. Fenneman (*Review*), 564
- Universal Ether, Study of (4, 5), V. Posepal, 771
- Universe: Quantity of Matter in the, Prof. Gianfranceschi, 19; The Expanding, Sir Arthur Eddington, 421; Sir Oliver Lodge, 434
- Universities: of the Empire: Fourth Congress of the, 1931. Report of Proceedings (*Review*), 816; Yearbook of the, 1932, edited by Sir H. Frank Heath (*Review*), 635; The Provincial, of Great Britain, 840
- University: College, London, Extension of, 272; Science Teaching, 773
- Upper: Air Temperatures and Humidities in the Indian Peninsula, K. R. Ramanathan and K. P. Ramakrishnan, 615; Atmosphere, Pressure and Temperature in the, Correlation of, S. Gopal Rao, 135; Atmospheric Ionisation, Some Measurements of, Prof. E. V. Appleton and R. Naismith, 841
- Ur: Royal Graves at, Some Bronze Specimens from the, C. F. Elam, 482; Second Dynasty Burial Rites at, L. Woolley, 273
- Uraninite: A New Canadian, H. V. Ellsworth and J. S. DeLury, 172; from Henvey Township, Ontario, H. S. Spence and H. V. Ellsworth, 367
- Ureco-secretory Coefficient, Calculation of the, considering the two Kidneys separately, C. Jung, 734
- Urinary Excretion of Ketonic Substances during Starvation in various Species of Animals, E. F. Terroine and H. Trimbach, 178
- Vacuum: Calorimeter for High Temperatures, A. L. G. Carpenter and T. F. Harle, 769; Pump Liquids, Dr. M. von Brandenstein and Dr. H. Klumb, 620
- Vagotonin, The Hormonal Individuality of, D. Santenise, 483
- Valencia University, Destructive Fire at, 756
- Valentian Rocks of Shropshire, The Stratigraphy of the, W. F. Whittard, 950
- Valonia ventricosa*, X-Ray Analysis of the Structure of the Wall of, W. T. Astbury, T. C. Marwick, and J. D. Bernal, 178
- Vanadium: and Molybdenum, Volumetric Determination of, G. Scagliarini and P. Pratesi, 483; Colorimetric Determination of, by the Method of Phospho-tungstic Acid, A. P. Vinogradov, 447
- Vanishing Life of Australia, F. Lewis; The Writer of the Article, 724
- Vapours, Optical Rotatory Power of, Prof. T. M. Lowry and H. K. Gore, 33, 213
- Variola-Vaccinia Flocculation Reaction, Further Investigations on the, J. Craigie and W. J. Tulloch, 226
- Varnishes, Neutralising, P. Woog, J. Givandon, and Mlle. Emilie Ganster, 34
- Ventilation of Vehicular Tunnels with Particular Reference to those at Blackwall and Rotherhithe, C. J. Regan, 730
- Venus and Mars, Conjunction of, in A.D. 864, Dr. A. C. D. Crommelin, 476
- Verbascum* Flowers, Chemical Investigation of, L. Schmid and E. Kotter, 915



- Verres, émaux, céramiques, Décoration des, Prof. Suzanne Zaborowska (*Review*), 8
- Vertebral Column, Development of the, Prof. E. W. MacBride, 872
- Vertebraria, Structure of, J. Walton and Jessie A. R. Wilson, 626
- Vertebrates, Comparative Anatomy of, H. W. Rand (*Review*), 780
- Vertical Tube Counter- and the Barometric-Effect of Cosmic Radiation at Sea-level, Prof. W. Kolhörster, 471
- Vesuvius, The Magma of, Dr. A. Rittmann, 873
- Veterinary Research in South Africa, Prof. P. J. du Toit, 232
- Vibrating Electrons in Ionised Air, Collisional Friction experienced by, Prof. E. V. Appleton and F. W. Chapman, 553
- Vibration of Truncated Conical Shells, The Symmetrical Modes of, with Applications to Loud-Speaker Diaphragms, Dr. N. W. McLachlan, 769
- Vibrations of a Lofty Building, T. Fukutomi, 693
- Vibrato, Natural History of the, C. E. Seashore, 591
- Vicia Faba, Perception of Gravity by Roots of, Lilian E. Hawker, 364
- Villages et Kasbas berbères : tableaux de la vie sociale des Berbères sédentaires dans le sud du Maroc, R. Montagne (*Review*), 80
- Viminaria denudata, Reaction of, to increased Water Content of the Soil, Lilian Fraser, 255
- Vine Leaves, Effects of Tartaric Acid and of Glucose on the Metabolism of, E. T. Everingham and Dr. W. H. Pearsall, 214
- Viruses, Filterable, Problems of, 48
- Viscosity : and its Relation to Temperature, R. M. Deeley, 125 ; of Liquids, Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade, 125 ; of Mixtures of Stannic Chloride with Aromatic Hydrocarbons, F. De Carli, 215
- Visibility : at Sea, W. H. Pick, 410 ; with Saturated Air, W. H. Pick, 68
- Vision : Central and Peripheral, Dr. F. W. Edridge-Green, 943 ; Discussion on, 947
- Visual : Acuity on Illumination, Basis of the Dependence of, W. W. Wilcox, 735 ; Thresholds, Influence of Coloured Surrounds and Coloured Backgrounds on, Prof. H. E. Roaf, 733
- Vitamin : A : Halibut Liver Oil as a Source of, J. A. Lovern, 726 ; Isolation of, Prof. P. Karrer, R. Morf, and K. Schöpp ; Prof. J. C. Drummond, Prof. I. M. Heilbron, and Dr. R. A. Morton, 88 ; Assays, Quantitative Methods in, 514 ; B : and Phytase, Cuboni and Arnaud, 101 ; Isolation of, Prof. Windaus and others, 161 ; C, Origin of, O. Rygh, A. Rygh, and P. Laland, 283 ; D : and Related Compounds, Crystal Structures of, J. D. Bernal, 277 ; Crystalline : F. A. Askew, R. B. Bourdillon, H. M. Bruce, R. K. Callow, J. St. L. Philpot, and T. A. Webster, 178 ; Commercial, British Drug Houses, Ltd., 17 ; Effect of an Insufficient Supply of, on the Growth of the Skeletons and Internal Organs of Chickens, E. J. Sheehy, 106 ; Synthesis of, C. E. Bills and F. G. McDonald, 50
- Vitamins : A, B, C, D, Photochemistry of, Dr. F. P. Bowden and Dr. C. P. Snow, 720, 943 ; Prof. I. M. Heilbron and Dr. R. A. Morton, 866 ; Crystalline, Properties and Structures of, J. D. Bernal, 721
- Voltage, Absolute Measurement of, Prof. W. M. Thornton and W. G. Thompson, 208
- Vortex : in a Field limited by a Cardioid, B. Caldonazzo, 69 ; Motion in Vibrating Columns of Air, Prof. E. N. da C. Andrade, 711
- Vorticity and Heat, The Transport of, through Fluids in Turbulent Motion, Prof. G. I. Taylor, 409
- Waldes : Ökologie des, mit besonderer Berücksichtigung des deutschen Wirtschaftswaldes, Prof. A. Dengler (*Review*), 631
- Wallach, Otto, The Life and Work of, Prof. L. Ruzicka (Pedler Lecture), 428
- War ? Character of a New, What would be the (*Review*), 219 ; Next World, Horrors of the, A. Marshall (*Review*), 219
- Warburton, Geology and Petrology of, A. B. Edwards, 627
- Washington Academy of Sciences, Sir James Jeans made an Honorary Member of the, 540
- Wasser in der Natur, Das, und im Dienste des Menschen, Dr. H. Heinze (*Review*), 223
- Waste : Communal and Industrial, Forms of, J. L. Hodgson, 444 ; in Education and Chemistry, Prof. H. E. Armstrong, 896
- Water : -Content in Undisturbed Soil and in Bales of Cotton, Rapid Estimation of, Dr. W. L. Balls, 505 ; Ethyl Alcohol, Acetic Acid, Ethyl Acetate, Study of the System, Mion, 178 ; -Jet affected by Tobacco Smoke, T. Terada, S. Tanaka, and K. Itô, 614 ; Molecules, Associated, Biological Effect of, Prof. H. T. Barnes and T. C. Barnes, 691 ; -Protein Ratio of Lean Meat, The, F. W. Jackson and O. Jones, 770 ; Supply, A Practical Handbook of, Dr. F. Dixey, 492
- Wattle : A New Species of, E. Cheel and M. B. Welch, 843 ; Barks, M. B. Welch, F. A. Coombs, and W. McGlynn (3), 843
- Wave Groups, Demonstration of, Dr. D. B. Macleod, 836
- Waves of Discontinuity in the more general Elastic Media, G. Lampariello, 554
- Weather : Forecasting, Dr. G. C. Simpson, 251 ; of 1931, The, 90
- Welding, Gas and Electric, Progress in, E. W. Thompson and A. Jeavons ; V. A. Prince, 209
- Westfälische Sedimentation, Die, und die asturische Phase in der innersudetischen Mulde, Prof. S. von Bubnoff (*Review*), 189
- West Indian Prehistoric Pottery, H. W. Krieger, 656
- Weston Standard Cells, Effect of Pressure on, T. C. Poulter and C. Ritchey, 764
- Whales in the Antarctic, Research on, N. A. Mackintosh, 806
- Whaling Records, Past and Present, C. H. Townsend, 443
- What Dare I Think ? Prof. J. S. Huxley (*Review*), 295
- Wheat : -Stem Sawfly in England, Parasites of the, Dr. G. Salt, 366 ; The Stimulation of Growth and Metabolism in the Tissues of, A. Radoëff, 879 ; Dwarf, Chromosomes of an Unfixable, Prof. C. L. Huskins, 134 ; Germ, Accessory Growth Factor of the Micro-organism contained in the, W. H. Schopfer, 771 ; Problem, The, 586
- White Cedar Tree, Chemistry of the Fruit obtained from the, F. R. Morrison and R. Grant, 35
- Willis Navigating Machine, The, 607
- Wind, The Dynamics of (*Review*), 220
- Windmills, Ancient, H. P. Vowles, 317 ; A. Gomme, 439
- Wings over Europe, R. Nicholas and M. Brown, 680
- Winter in the Ionosphere, R. A. Watson Watt, 761
- Wireless : a Treatise on the Theory and Practice of High-Frequency Electric Signalling, L. B. Turner (*Review*), 595 ; Observations, Suggested, during the Solar Eclipse of August 31, 1932, Prof. E. V. Appleton and Prof. S. Chapman, 757 ; Principles, The Study of, Dr. R. L. Smith-Rose (*Review*), 595 ; Waves, Downcoming, Polarisation of, J. A. Ratcliffe and F. W. G. White, 364 ; World, twenty-first birthday of the, 716
- Witchcraft on the Gold Coast, 464
- Witches in West Africa, Challenge to, Bishop of Accra, 862
- Witwatersrand : Gold, Origin of, 62 ; University, Fire at, 20 ; The Library of, 717
- Wolf-Rayet Stars, Temperatures of the, V. Ambarzumian, 725
- Wood : -boring Beetles in Structural Timber, Method of determining the Depth of Penetration of, J. B. Butler, 553 ; Decay in Motor-Cars in the Tropics, C. J. Humphrey, 431 ; Pulp in Paper, The Phloroglucinol Method for the Determination of Mechanical, H. B. Dunnicliff and H. D. Suri, 518 ; The Shrinkage of, M. B. Welch, 843
- Wool : Fibre, Bacterial Disintegration of the, R. Burgess, 691 ; Growth, Sulphur Assimilation in, A. T. King, 938 ; in Australian Merino Sheep, Growth of, K. M. Fraser, 511 ; Production ? Is Preformed Cystine essential to Sheep for, Dr. C. Rimington and J. G. Bekker, 687 ; Retting of, R. Waters, 467



- World: Chaos: the Responsibility of Science, Prof. W. McDougall (*Review*), 295; Order, Towards a New (*Review*), 882
- Worm-Lions, Ant-Lions and, Prof. J. S. Gardiner (*Review*), 39
- Xenopus levis*, Adrenal Gland of, H. Zwarenstein and I. Schrire, 914
- X-Ray: Absorption, *L*-Discontinuities in, E. Olsson, 94; Characteristic Spectra, Complex, Prof. M. N. Saha, Saligram Bhargava, and J. B. Mukerji, 435; Crystal Analysis and its Applications, Sir William Bragg, 610; Lines, Fluorescent, Intensity Ratio of, Prof. G. Hevesy and E. Alexander, 315; *L*-Levels, Relative Excitation of the Three, with Cathode Rays of Different Velocities, Prof. D. Coster and J. van Zuylen, 942; Spectra, Quadruple Lines in, E. Segrè, 627; Standards, Dr. L. S. Taylor, 908; Wave-lengths: J. A. Bearden, 404; Absolute Values of, and the Fundamental Atomic Constants, Prof. M. Siegbahn and M. Söderman, 21
- X-Rays: Discovery and Uses of, 271; Reflection of, Intensity of, by Perfect Crystals, G. W. Brindley, 213; Refraction of, by Perfect Crystals, G. W. Brindley, 733
- Yagé, a South American Drug Plant, C. V. Morton, 247
- Yeasts, Nutrition of the, F. Chodat and J. Landis, 771
- Yellow Fever, Vaccination of Man against, A. W. Sellards and J. Laigret, 915
- Young, Champollion, and Hieroglyphics, Dr. A. Ferguson, 638
- Yuma Ethnography, Prof. C. D. Forde, 318
- Yurok-Karok Basket Weavers, Miss Lila M. O'Neale, 727
- Zebra-fish, Feeding Habits of the, C. M. Breder, 763
- Zebu-Yak Hybrids, M. M. Zavodovsky, 727
- Zeeman Effect, *e/m* from the, J. S. Campbell and W. V. Houston, 693
- Zeolites, Studies on the (3), M. H. Hey, 410
- Zinc: and Cadmium, Comparison of the Electrolytic Deposits of, H. Figour and P. Jacquet, 879; and Manganese, Alloys of, N. Parravano and V. Caglioti, 375
- $\beta$ -Zirconium, Crystal Structure of, Dr. W. G. Burgers, 281
- Zodiacal Light, The, and the Luminosity of the Night Sky, Dr. K. R. Ramanathan, 280
- Zoological: Society's Gardens, The Harpy at the, 826; Survey of India, The, Lieut.-Col. R. B. Seymour Sewell, 530
- Zoologie, Allgemeinen, Grundriss der, Prof. A. Kühn. Vierte Auflage (*Review*), 925
- Zwischenstufen, Die sexuellen, Prof. R. Goldschmidt (*Review*), 3
- Zytologie, Einführung in die, Prof. L. W. Sharp. Mit Genehmigung des Verfassers aus dem Englischen übersetzt und vollständig neu bearbeitet von Prof. R. Jaretsky (*Review*), 600

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## A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF SCIENCE

*"To the solid ground  
Of Nature trusts the mind that builds for aye."*—WORDSWORTH.

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### CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Science and Imperial Affairs . . . . .	1
Hermaphrodites . . . . .	3
Comparative Psychology in the Field. By J. A. T. . . . .	6
The Science of Oceanography. By F. S. Russell . . . . .	7
Short Reviews . . . . .	8
Scientific Centenaries in 1932 . . . . .	10
Hydro-Electric Power Development in the Pyrenees. By Dr. Brysson Cunningham . . . . .	11
Obituary :	
Dr. J. P. Lotsy . . . . .	14
Prof. Hugo de Böckh . . . . .	15
Mr. J. H. Leonard . . . . .	15
News and Views . . . . .	16
Letters to the Editor :	
Examination of Protein Films.—Arthur Hughes, J. Schulman, and Prof. Eric K. Rideal, F.R.S. . . . .	21
Absolute Values of X-Ray Wave-lengths and the Fundamental Atomic Constants.—Prof. Manne Siegbahn and Martin Söderman . . . . .	21
Experimental Proof of the Spin of the Photon.—Sir C. V. Raman, F.R.S., and S. Bhagavantam . . . . .	22
Wave-length of the Green Auroral Line Determined by the Interferometer.—Prof. L. Vegard . . . . .	23
Some Effects of Turbulent Pressure.—O. F. T. Roberts . . . . .	23
<i>Deinotherium</i> in the Pleistocene.—E. J. Wayland . . . . .	24
Ether-Drift and Gravity.—Prof. R. Tomaschek and W. Schaffernicht . . . . .	24
Artefacts of Upper Palæolithic Facies from Coombe Deposits underlying the Gravels of the Flood Plain.—J. P. T. Burchell . . . . .	25
Diamagnetism of Liquid Mixtures.—Dr. John Farquharson . . . . .	25
General Expression for Intensity of Hydrogen Lines.—L. McLean . . . . .	25
Research Items . . . . .	26
Astronomical Topics . . . . .	28
Principles of Field Experimentation. By Dr. H. G. Sanders . . . . .	29
The Coal Measures of Belgium. By Prof. A. E. Trueman . . . . .	29
Dyestuffs and Enzymes . . . . .	30
Carbonisation of Coal . . . . .	30
High Speed Flying . . . . .	31
Hardening of Metals in a Magnetic Field . . . . .	31
University and Educational Intelligence . . . . .	32
Calendar of Geographical Exploration . . . . .	33
Societies and Academies . . . . .	33
Diary of Societies . . . . .	35

### Science and Imperial Affairs.

SINCE the War, both Houses of Parliament and those members of the general public interested in Imperial matters have devoted more attention to the affairs of the five countries under British control in East Africa than to any other part of the British Empire except India. Numerous white papers on East Africa have been presented to Parliament: in 1924 a special East Africa Committee was appointed, on which all three political parties and other interests were represented: in the same year Mr. Ormsby-Gore, Major Church, and Mr. Linfield made a tour of the five countries and presented a long report to Parliament in 1925: in 1927 a further commission, to consider the possibility of the closer union of the territories, was sent out under the chairmanship of Sir Hilton Young. Following the publication of the still more voluminous report of that visiting commission, the Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, Sir Samuel Wilson, proceeded to East Africa himself to discuss the recommendations of the Hilton Young Commission with the Colonial Governments concerned, and his report was presented to Parliament in July 1929. In June 1930, Lord Passfield, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, issued a "Statement of the Conclusions of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom as regards Closer Union in East Africa", and a memorandum on native policy: and finally Parliament appointed a Joint Committee of both Houses to consider the Reports on Closer Union in East Africa and other relevant documents. The report of that joint committee was recently presented to Parliament.



The reports of the Ormsby-Gore and Hilton Young Commissions were the subject of editorial comment in NATURE at the respective times of their presentation to Parliament. The Ormsby-Gore Commission, which was primarily concerned with the economic development of East Africa, quite properly dealt with political questions only in relation to their effect on such development. It was a report in striking contrast with previous reports on Colonial matters because of the exceptional prominence it gave to the dependence of economic progress on the generous provision of education and medical services, the adequate provision of scientific and technical services, and the prosecution of scientific research in connexion with social as well as purely economic problems. It directed attention to the regrettable abandonment by the East African Governments of the once famous Amani Plant Research Institute; to the need for the creation of a central veterinary research station, to serve the five territories; the establishment and endowment of a central research institute for the investigation of human tripanosomiasis (sleeping sickness); the inauguration of a great campaign against tsetse flies directed by qualified scientific experts; the re-establishment of a geological survey department in Tanganyika and the establishment of a similar department in Kenya; the organisation of anthropological research; the more energetic prosecution of plant and animal breeding experiments by the various departments of agriculture; and a scientific and comprehensive survey of the lake and marine fisheries of East Africa.

That practically all the recommendations of the Ormsby-Gore Commission in connexion with these matters were acted upon within two years was due to the energy and enthusiasm with which Mr. Ormsby-Gore and Major Church applied themselves to the task of stirring the authorities at home and in the Colonies to the need for immediate action. The fact that neither the Hilton Young Commission nor the Joint Select Committee on East Africa has found it necessary to add any further suggestions for the furtherance of scientific research is eloquent testimony to the thoroughness of their original survey.

It must be confessed, however, that the various bodies representing the interests of science in Great Britain displayed a lamentable lack of appreciation of the fact that the Ormsby-Gore report provided them with an unusual opportunity to participate more energetically in framing an Imperial policy. At that time they could have

made statesmen and politicians realise that the scientific community ought not merely to be consulted by, but represented on, any and every committee set up by Government to consider any aspect of economic development at home or overseas. Incidentally, what is equally important, they could have insisted on their competence to appoint their representatives themselves, and not, as is the custom on those rare occasions when the Government does appoint a man of science on a committee, to have their representatives chosen for them by Government officials.

Since the scientific community in general has taken so little interest in the prosecution of research and the provision of essential scientific services in the Colonies, it is not surprising that successive Governments have ignored them when appointing committees to consider Colonial services and development. There is no representative of science on the Empire Marketing Board, and until recently there was no member of the scientific community on the Research Grants Committee of that body. The scientific interest was not represented on the Committee appointed in 1925 under Sir George Schuster to consider the allocation of the East Africa Development Loan which was recommended by the Ormsby-Gore Commission, although this Committee was dealing with grants for the establishment of research institutions and for *ad hoc* researches. The Hilton Young Commission of 1927, the terms of reference of which included the co-ordination of the scientific and technical services in East Africa, contained no scientific member, although the missionary societies were represented. The Labour Government ignored the scientific community in appointing members of the Colonial Development Advisory Committee, although this Committee had to consider schemes for the provision of scientific research. It is worthy of note also that the Labour Government, which appointed the Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament on Closer Union in East Africa, deliberately excluded Major Church, its only representative in the Commons who had first-hand acquaintance with the territories under review, whose main contributions to the report of the Ormsby-Gore Commission had been the chapters dealing with medical and scientific research, and who could claim to represent scientific interests in Parliament.

The above list of Committees, appointed by various Governments during the past eight years, on which the scientific community should have been, but was not, represented, is by no means



exhaustive. It is long enough, however, to establish the fact that Governments will ignore scientific workers while the latter remain indifferent to the affairs of State, more indifferent, it appears, than any other section of the community, although statecraft is now mainly a question of making humanity fit for science, or at least of modifying the political and economic systems of the world to enable its inhabitants to enjoy the fruits of scientific endeavour.

That the scientific community is indifferent is borne out by the fact that on no occasion has it combined to protest publicly against the omission of its representatives from any of the important bodies enumerated above, all appointed to deal with subjects to which men of science could make important contributions, more authoritative and carrying far more conviction than if made by others with merely a vicarious interest in their work, and usually unable to appreciate the fact that the scientific outlook is even more important in dealing with Imperial or world problems than the mere application of the results of science to productive processes.

The question arises, however, are there many scientific workers themselves who are conscious of the significance of a scientific outlook as distinct from a scientific result? If there were many such, would it not be reasonable to assume that they would recognise this 'outlook' as the integrating force and create a unified representative body for the whole mass of scientific practitioners and believers in science in the British Empire? Such a body is obviously necessary if nations are to be encouraged to think scientifically. Unfortunately, the tendency towards specialisation, inevitable and of paramount importance for the advancement of scientific knowledge, has obscured the essential unity and the grander purpose of those trained in the sciences. This unity can be attained if the many specialist scientific and technical societies and institutions will recognise their limitations, and that as discrete fragments of the world of science they cannot hope to fulfil the nobler aim. They must join forces and create a strong body that can, a body the primary function of which is to inculcate a scientific outlook and promote the application of scientific method and results to national and Imperial affairs. This, in fact, is the avowed function of the British Science Guild, and there is little doubt that, with adequate support from the specialist scientific societies, such a body could get the respect for science which science deserves, and secure for science that representation in the councils of the nation which the nation and the Empire urgently need.

### Hermaphrodites.

*Die sexuellen Zwischenstufen.* Von Prof. Dr. Richard Goldschmidt. (Monographien aus dem Gesamtgebiet der Physiologie der Pflanzen und der Tiere, Band 23.) Pp. x+528. (Berlin: Julius Springer, 1931.) 46.40 gold marks.

IT is now eleven years since Dr. Goldschmidt brought out the well-known volume of which an English translation appeared in 1923 as "The Mechanism and Physiology of Sex-Determination". The present work elaborates that section of his former book, which treated of what are generally termed hermaphrodites, a proper understanding of which is so essential to a full appreciation of the nature of sex itself. To that understanding no one has contributed more than the author; for it was through his remarkable researches on the races of the gipsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*) that the problem of the intersex has crystallised out of that vast conglomerate of miscellaneous knowledge comprised under the heading of sex.

Goldschmidt's interpretation of the phenomena with which he deals is, of course, based upon the fact that sex, like any other hereditary character, is normally determined by specific genes which are definitely located in the chromosomal material. Where the sexes are separate the difference between them is determined by a single gene, or by a gene complex behaving normally as one; whence it follows that in the ordinary way the sexes are produced in approximately equal proportions. Such equality may be upset in various ways—for example, by differences in viability at various stages in development, by the association of a lethal factor with one sex or the other, and by other means. In such cases, however, in spite of the upsetting of the numerical balance between the sexes, their physiological distinctness remains unaffected, and the ultimate result is normal males and normal females.

Such a scheme, based on the ordinary conceptions of Mendelian heredity, offers a satisfactory explanation of most of the phenomena connected with the inheritance of sex. But it does not explain the hermaphrodite. As already stated, attention was first focused on this problem by Goldschmidt's work with the gipsy moth, a species in which the form and colour of the female is very distinct from that of the male. An amateur breeder, Herr Brake, pointed out that in certain crosses between the European gipsy moth (*L. dispar*) and a form from Japan (var. *japonica*) there appeared forms more or less intermediate in sex characters. He called them gynandromorphs, and for some years



found a ready sale for them among those who collect Lepidoptera in the spirit in which others collect postage stamps. In 1910 Goldschmidt started his remarkable analysis of the case—an analysis spread over twenty years and involving visits to Japan in connexion with the determination and crossing of the geographical races, morphological and physiological investigations, and the critical breeding of tens of thousands of moths. The gist of his interpretation is as follows.

As in other Lepidoptera, the male is the homogametic sex with two sex chromosomes carrying a sex factor, the female carrying but one. In other words, the male is homozygous for a factor,  $M$ , which stimulates the male part of the genital complex, while the female is only heterozygous for this factor. In the cytoplasm, on the other hand, is something which stimulates the production of the female part of the genital complex. This substance ( $F$ ), being cytoplasmic, is maternally transmitted, and all the offspring receive an  $F$  of the same quality as that of their mother. In an ordinary race, such as the European *dispar*, the genetical constitution of a male is  $FMM$ , and that of a female  $FM$ . The female-producing tendency of the cytoplasmic  $F$  can be overcome by two 'doses' of  $M$ , but not by one dose. Hence the production of normal males and females in equal numbers, and of normal males and females only; and this is true for each given pure race of *Lymantria*. The explanation of the appearance of intersexes on crossing different races turns upon the assumption that the intensity of the action of  $F$  and  $M$  differs in the different races. Thus in *japonica* both  $F$  and  $M$  are 'stronger' than in *dispar*, that is, they exert their influence earlier in the course of development: conveniently they may be denoted as  $F_s$  and  $M_s$  to distinguish them from the  $F$  and  $M$  of *dispar*. The cross between *dispar* female ( $FM$ ) and *japonica* male ( $F_sM_sM_s$ ) results in two kinds of individuals of the constitution  $FMM_s$  and  $FM_s$  respectively. The former are normal males in appearance, but the latter are intersexes. For the 'strong' male factor ( $M_s$ ) from *japonica* partly overrides the female-producing cytoplasm ( $F$ ) from the 'weaker' parent which is inherited maternally by all the offspring from this cross. From the reciprocal cross, *japonica* ♀ ( $F_sM_s$ ) × *dispar* ♂ ( $FMM$ ) only apparently normal ♂♂ ( $F_sM_sM$ ) and normal ♀♀ ( $F_sM$ ) are produced. For a weak ( $M$ ) and a strong ( $M_s$ ) male factor together can override the strong cytoplasm ( $F_s$ ). But in  $F_2$  from this cross appears the fresh combination  $F_sMM$ , which must be regarded as the genetical constitution

of the so-called male intersexes that appear in this generation. For two doses of the weak  $M$  cannot completely override the strong  $F_s$ .

When in Japan, Goldschmidt distinguished eight races of *Lymantria*, and an elaborate series of breeding experiments enabled him to arrange them in a series of decreasing 'strength'. The difference between the extremes of this series was greater than between European *dispar* and the Japanese race used in the earlier work. Indeed, it was so great that when the weakest was used as the mother and the strongest as the father, males alone resulted. Subsequent experiment showed that while about half of these males were chromosomally males ( $FM_sM_s$ ), the rest were really females ( $FM_s$ ) in which the male factor ( $M_s$ ), introduced from the strong race, was so strong as to override entirely the cytoplasmic  $F$  of the weaker, and to cause a complete reversal of the sex as judged by chromosomal constitution. Conversely, Goldschmidt was also able to obtain from these two races insects of the constitution  $F_sMM$ , individuals chromosomally males but in appearance females owing to the complete overriding of the weak  $M$  by the strong  $F_s$ . Through crosses between the different races every grade of intersex could be obtained, but with given races the grades could be predicted even in highly complex crosses. Although the 'strength' or 'valency' of the sex factor differed for each race, it was in each race fixed, and Goldschmidt suggests that this fixity is at bottom quantitative, depending upon definite amounts of the sex-determining material present in any case. He supports his views by reference to the triploid intersexes in *Drosophila*, which cytological work has shown to depend upon the relative proportion of X chromosomes and autosomes.

In these cases among insects, to which may perhaps be added a few more among other invertebrates, the intersexuality depends upon the constitution of the zygote as determined at fertilisation. Goldschmidt then proceeds to consider a group of cases, also among arthropods, where parasitic infection by another arthropod may lead to partial, or even complete, reversal of sex; and he argues that this group of cases may also be brought into line with the conceptions derived from the *Lymantria* case. Perhaps the best known of this group is that of the crabs, in which infection by the rhizocephalan *Sacculina* leads to the male assuming in varying degree the female type of abdomen and appendages, and even developing ovarian tissue after the loss of the parasite. Goldschmidt suggests that the action of the parasite may be to upset the



normal balance between the *F* and *M* substances, either by destroying one or by increasing the other. There is, however, a peculiarity about this group of cases in that, with the possible exception of the styloped *Andraena*, the intersex is always the result of the male becoming more or less feminised. Such changes as occur in the female may be regarded as merely an arrest in the normal development. The case for what may be called 'reciprocal reversal' rests upon the colour changes in the clypeus of *Andraena* in different species, and one would like to know more about the genetics of this character before accepting Goldschmidt's view.

The so-called parasitic castration group shows, however, that the sexual characters inherent in the zygotic constitution of the individual may be largely modified by influences extraneous to the cell. This is of course markedly the case for the vertebrates, where the development of sexual characters is largely dependent upon the hormones or internal secretions developed by the gonad, and by other glands as well. The wide difference in this respect between arthropods and vertebrates is well shown by castration experiments. In *Lymantria*, as Meisenheimer showed many years ago, castration in the larval stage, whether simple or followed by transplantation of the gonad of the opposite sex, has no effect either on the sexual apparatus or on the secondary sexual characters. The turning-point is already past and the sex irrevocably determined before the operation has become a practical possibility. In vertebrates, however, as is well known, castration produces marked changes, the magnitude of which is to some extent dependent upon the stage at which the operation is performed. In general, it may be said not only to arrest the development of the sexual apparatus itself, but also to inhibit in many cases the appearance of secondary sexual characters. The normal condition may, however, be restored by implantation of a gonad of the same sex. Even more remarkable is the result of implanting a gonad of the opposite sex; for in this way a female may be caused to develop many of the characters of the male, and vice versa.

Goldschmidt's book provides an excellent and critical account of all the more important work that has been done along these lines. He points out, too, that although the sexual complex in vertebrates is so sensitive to hormonal secretions, we can nevertheless distinguish certain cases in which an intersexual condition must be regarded as directly dependent upon the zygotic constitution of the individual. The clearest cases are in the goat and the pig, particularly that of the remarkable New

Hebridean swine described by Baker, and Goldschmidt is justified in pointing out the parallel which they afford to his *Lymantrias*. For there can be little doubt that here also the peculiarities are hereditary, and due primarily to zygotic constitution. A valuable feature in Goldschmidt's book is his review of intersexuality in man, a subject hitherto much confused by the speculations of medical men who lack genetical training. Though most of the phenomena can be brought into line with those exhibited by the pig and the goat, there are certain others that are very puzzling. Among these are gynæcomasty and homosexuality, and Goldschmidt is inclined to look for an explanation in a defect of some endocrine secretion rather than in zygotic constitution, the criterion of intersexuality proper.

The last part of the book is devoted to a consideration of gynandromorphs as distinct from intersexes. This important distinction we owe to the author himself, who once aptly described the former as hermaphrodites in space and the latter as hermaphrodites in time. For, whereas the latter are sex compromises dependent upon the relative speeds at which the *M* and *F* substances get to work, the former are merely mosaics of purely male and purely female tissues. The formation of such a mosaic generally depends upon the elimination of a sex chromosome at some stage or other in cell division. Thus, if a fertilised XX egg of *Drosophila*, which would normally develop into a female, drops out an X from one of the two cells resulting from the first division, and if then development proceeds normally, one half of the resulting insect will be XX and the other half X in constitution. Hence one half of the body will be female and the other half male, that is, the insect will be a bilateral gynandromorph. But polyspermy or binucleate eggs may also be sources of gynandromorphs, and the reader will find a clear exposition of the various possibilities. Of great interest, too, is the account of the hereditary nature of gynandromorphs in the silkworm, the working out of which we owe to the author.

Taking it altogether, the book gives what is undoubtedly the fullest and most lucid exposition of the subject that at present exists. On some points the reader may disagree with the author's views, but the position of those with whom he may not hold is always fairly met, however sharply criticised. As befits a master of his subject, the dominant idea throughout is synthesis, the attempt to weave into a coherent whole a great mass of facts, using *Lymantria* as the guiding thread. The result is a



valuable and highly stimulating book, admirably documented on an excellent bibliography. On one point alone is it possible to quarrel with it. For, though well produced and fully illustrated, the price appears to us to be exorbitant. One can only hope that this will not restrict the sale of a work that in the interests of knowledge deserves a wide circulation.

### Comparative Psychology in the Field.

*The Intelligence of Animals : Studies in Comparative Psychology.* By Frances Pitt. Pp. 320 + 46 plates. (London : George Allen and Unwin, Ltd., 1931.) 15s. net.

FOR many years Miss Frances Pitt's books have adorned the front rank of observational studies in animal behaviour. One was always sure of finding fresh material, as reliable as it was interesting. Gradually, however, the gifted observer has become more frankly reflective, as in her "Animal Mind"; and now we have a record in which the inferences are definite contributions towards a solution of some of the deeper problems of biology. The outcome is a psycho-biological picture, convincing us afresh that we cannot describe the ways of animals, or account for their survival, unless we do justice to their 'mentality', including in that term all the creature's mental acquirements, characteristics, and predispositions. That intelligence and parental affection may have survival value will be admitted by most open-air naturalists, but Miss Pitt shows that we must also take account of subtler qualities, such as tameness and confidingness, wariness and shyness, a desire to be left alone, and a liking for neighbours. Inferences cannot, of course, claim the cogency of observations, but Miss Pitt states a strong case for the validity of psycho-biology, stressing the mind-body as much as the body-mind. Even temperament may have survival value in wild Nature.

The first studies have to do with call or decoy ducks, a domesticated race of mallards, which show how the 'wild' may give rise to the 'tame' and lose some of its most characteristic features, such as monogamous and migratory habits. The wild mallard is not turned into the tame decoy, but a selection of stay-at-home individuals, sustained for generations, results in the elimination of the wandering and migratory impulse. The tame type is in most cases quite content to stay all the year round upon two or three small pools, despite the fact that it has wings at its command and might wander far if it pleased. "The strict monogamy

that characterises the mallard suffers in the case of the decoy duck from the deteriorating influences of man and domestication." The duck remains faithful, but the drake generally makes use of his opportunities to 'transgress'—a term which is not, of course, meant to imply an avian code of morals in the strict sense.

In the second set of studies, centred in the semi-domesticated peafowl, Miss Pitt has many observations of great interest. It looks as if the peacock's display is in the main an expression of exuberant sex-excitement: he may show off to ducks; the hen is often bored by the display; there is little to suggest that the cock has any inkling of his own splendour. As the display involves considerable strain, as in rattling the quills, we search for some other utility if we abandon (as we are not yet prepared to do) the theory that it infectiously rouses the interest and sex-excitement of the hen. Miss Pitt interprets its biological function as "probably that of advertisement, so that the female may know the whereabouts of the male, and *especially her male*". For the hens are faithful to their chosen polygynous cock.

Very important, as it seems to us, is the conclusion that the showing-off attitude, with erection of the tail-coverts, is the same in the tiny chicks, in the young birds of both sexes, in the old hens, and in the adult males. "Under stress of emotion they all behave in the same manner." In other words, the sex-urge utilises and emphasises a general gesture. Chicks not ten days old, excited by the sudden appearance of a pet raven, erected their diminutive tail-coverts just as did their strutting sire.

Another observation on young peafowl is very interesting: that when they lost their mother, about three weeks after hatching, and were pining, they took courage when the hurriedly stuffed body was brought on the scene, and behaved to it, doubtless on the strength of established associations, exactly as if the mummy, which became flat and loathsome, were actually alive. There are many similar treasures in this delightful and reliable book, but we cannot do more than indicate the general nature of the observations.

The third part of the book deals with the horse, cow, sheep, and pig; and readers of Miss Pitt's "Animal Mind" will not be surprised that her estimate of the horse's mentality is lower than that usually approved, while her estimate of the other three ungulates is higher. Scientific and impersonal as we try to be, we cannot, while comparative psychology remains relatively inexact, readily get away from our individual experience of individual



animals. Thus we personally think that the horse's intelligence is much greater than Miss Pitt can see her way to allow.

The fourth section of the book is devoted to dog and cat, and it pricks some bubbles of reputation. We breathe more freely when we discover that the dog still remains worthy of being called intelligent, while the cat's mind is left as an elusive mystery behind its inscrutable green eyes.

The fifth part deals with the fox, as a type of the thoroughly wild mammal. As a sample of the careful phrasing that marks the whole book, we quote Miss Pitt's verdict on the fox :

"My opinion of the average fox is that it ranks high in the scale of intelligent mammals, but that much of its conduct is regulated by inherited response, though such instinctive aptitude is ever qualified by experience, by which the fox profits to a marked degree, its very educability proving its intelligence. . . . If not so super-intelligent as some sporting writers and the sentimental story-writers would have us believe, it is equally far removed from the thing of merely automatic responses that the behaviourist school make of our mammals."

This is well and wisely said, yet perhaps there is something to be gained by keeping the word 'conduct' for those rationally or ethically controlled human activities which rise above 'behaviour'.

The sixth section is perhaps the subtlest in the book, and thus the least convincing. It takes lemming, crane, and Skomer vole as illustrations of the thesis that temperament has survival value in the struggle for existence. The lemming's behaviour is characterised by the temperamental quality we call tameness, which is made possible by certain compensatory advantages, such as the habit of burrowing beneath the enveloping mantle of snow and the capacity for very prolific multiplication. The apparently contradictory intimidating display in a tight corner is the outcome of a mixed emotion of fear and anger. It is a useless and often risky form of 'bluff'.

Why is this delightful book of high scientific value? Because it is a vindication of the importance of the mental factor in determining the status of an animal, its survival and distribution—a vindication by an expert observer who is aware of the many pitfalls of psycho-biological interpretation. We quote her concluding sentence :

"Every bird, beast, and lower creature supplies us with a problem of the highest interest—namely, the elucidation of the factors that control its position in the web of life, of which factors those governing behaviour are the most vital, especially the mind that governs purposive action."

J. A. T.

## The Science of Oceanography.

*Oceanography: its Scope, Problems, and Economic Importance.* By Henry B. Bigelow. Pp. vii + 263. (Boston and New York : Houghton Mifflin Co. ; London : Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1931.) 12s. 6d. net.

IT is barely sixty years since H.M.S. *Challenger*, by her exploratory voyages round the world, built the foundations upon which the modern science of oceanography has grown up. For centuries man had roamed the seas and charted their boundaries, looking for new land or trade routes rather than for a knowledge of the sea itself. Exploration showed that less than one-third of the earth's surface is dry land ; now that most of this has been mapped, attention is being turned more and more to the remaining two-thirds, which forms a world of its own, and by the very reason of its vastness holds the key to many of the secrets of land phenomena.

The geologist must look to the nature of the ocean bed for help in the solution of some of the most pressing questions in the study of the earth's crust. This involves a knowledge of the sediments now being deposited on the sea floor, of the rate of their deposition, and the question of their subsequent solution. These phenomena are so intimately bound up with the physics, chemistry, and biology of the sea that they emphasise at once the unity of oceanographical science. The presentation of the whole story of the course of events at the present day would throw much light on the past history of our sedimentary rocks. The study of dynamic geology further demands a more complete knowledge of the contours of the great ocean beds, combined with gravity measurements to determine the density of the earth's crust.

To the biologist the sea represents a world in itself ; in fact, once the excitement of research on life in the sea has gripped the beginner, he is liable to forget that a zoology of animals on dry land exists. This is pardonable, when it is realised that there are probably few problems on land that have not their parallels in the sea, in which all life was evolved. Owing to the peculiarity of the environment also, the very fundamentals of life appear to be best open to attack, for it is in the sea that life is at its simplest and the living organism is least cut off from its surrounding medium by the development of protecting structures. It is for this reason, perhaps, that the marine biologist at once feels that any observations he makes are sadly lacking if he does not possess the necessary physical and chemical



data of the environment. For the sea is a whole, and must be treated as such for a correct understanding of the manifold problems that surround us. Where the whole water mass is in constant circulation, changes in one locality may be far-reaching and make their effects felt in the remotest regions. Perhaps nowhere is this more obvious than in the study of the great fluctuations in marine life, the ultimate effects of which are brought home to us in the fisheries from which we draw so much of our food supply.

We have travelled a short way only along the road of oceanography, but everywhere the signposts point to the need for networks of fuller and more complete observations over wide spaces and over long periods of time. Such need is, perhaps, most outstanding in the realm of physical and chemical oceanography, where the actual movements of the water masses are concerned; movements which, apart from their enormous biological implications, must have a bearing on meteorology and on navigation. It awaits to be shown whether correlation can be found between the conditions of water masses in one region and later meteorological conditions in far distant localities, a problem that alone involves many years of labour. But if such correlation should be found, its great economic value in the possibilities of long range weather forecasting is obvious to all.

Oceanographical investigation is expensive, entailing as it must do the running of a well-found ship. The solution of many of the most pressing problems is not insurmountable with mechanics to our aid; and here again the building and elaboration of effective apparatus is always expensive. For these reasons, with few exceptions, most schemes of research have been State-aided, and apart from the great exploratory voyages, the ultimate assistance of the fishing industries or the safeguarding of navigation have been held up as the main ends in view.

Last summer, however, one of the finest private marine institutions opened its doors at Woods Hole, alongside the two well-known existing laboratories. As a true marine laboratory, it has as its object the advancement of any knowledge that can be gained from an investigation of the sea. Operating from the laboratory is an ocean-going research vessel, the *Atlantis*, which has already completed her maiden voyage across the North Atlantic Ocean. The institution, which has been fully endowed by the Rockefeller Trust, is thus in a position to carry out a continuous study of the sea unhampered by the desire for immediate econ-

omic return for knowledge gained. The Director of the Woods Hole Oceanographical Institution, Prof. Henry B. Bigelow, has brought together in a masterly manner the present position of oceanographical research and its implications. One may conjecture that this report, which was laid before the National Academy of Sciences, was in no small degree responsible for the birth of the Woods Hole Institute. In the author's words, the book "is in no sense a text-book or a compendium of oceanographic knowledge". It does, however, very adequately lay before us some of the many problems still awaiting investigation in the science of oceanography, and as such deserves to be read by the research worker and the student.

F. S. RUSSELL.

### Short Reviews.

- (1) *Dorure-encadrement: technique des différents genres de gravure, comment reconnaître les fausses estampes et les faux papiers.* Par A. Broquelet. (Bibliothèque pratique de l'amateur.) Pp. 95. (Paris: J.-B. Baillière et fils, 1930.) 6 francs.
- (2) *Décoration des verres, émaux, céramiques.* Par Prof. Suzanne Zaborowska. (Bibliothèque pratique de l'amateur.) Pp. 90. (Paris: J.-B. Baillière et fils, 1930.) 6 francs.
- (3) *A Treatise on the Air Brush: with Progressive Lessons.* By Samuel W. Frazer and George F. Stine. Pp. x+203. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1930.) 12s. 6d. net.

THE first two works form a portion of a library for amateur craftsfolk, but being written by cognoscenti, they should prove welcome to others also. (1), in successive chapters, deals with a brief historical survey, modelling, moulding, pyrography, adhesives, methods of engraving, lithography, photography, protecting engravings, framing, watermarks, mounting and wood gilding. In the space allotted are provided a large amount of useful information and many appropriate diagrams and illustrations, two of the latter (on pyrography) being from sketches by the writer of (2), which deals with a most interesting branch of art. But this manual is less satisfying than (1), for there is too much vapouring and too little practical exposition. The chapters relate to decoration of glass of various kinds, enamels and ceramics. Stained and leaded glass are well treated. "Nous avons expliqué les différents procédés" (p. 65) is not self-evident. The writer is a mistress at her craft and has a vigorous stroke for illustrations; she shows vividly how to adapt natural to conventional treatment. Special mention may be made of the stork (Fig. 25) and the strawberry leaf (Fig. 49). The third book is a very masterly exposition of that modern tool, the air-brush. The literary style is unexceptionable, the information direct and well balanced, and the illustrations as effective as American work is apt to be. There is



no doubt that the use of the air-brush can be well learnt from this treatise. There are, however, many who would still prefer the older method of brush treatment.  
P. L. M.

*Applied Mathematics for Engineers.* By T. Hodgson. Vol. 3: *Differential Equations with Applications.* Pp. viii + 320. (London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1931.) 13s. 6d. net.

FOLLOWING the very lucid and interesting application of the calculus to dynamics, given in vol. 2, Mr. Hodgson has produced an excellent sequel in the present volume. The course has been thoroughly well planned and clearly dealt with. The subject matter embraces ordinary equations, simultaneous linear equations, partial differentiation and equations, with two good chapters on double and triple integration and spherical trigonometry.

The theoretical aspect has been well developed, though not, perhaps, with the strict rigour so dear to the pure mathematician, for this would be quite out of place in such a book. Nevertheless, just as much theory as is essential to the intelligent understanding of fundamental processes is given, so that the engineering student need no longer be a mere seeker after ready-made formulæ, but may acquire an efficient mathematical equipment by which he can be certain that his calculations are based upon a sure foundation. The chapter on partial differentiation is a striking example of the skill by which the author develops the theoretical basis. An index is unfortunately omitted from the *y* in the sixth line from the bottom of p. 80.

Not the least interesting part of the book is its manifold applications. These are carefully selected and demonstrated with great clarity. Beginning with the usual deflexion of beams, the author leads on to thermodynamic problems, harmonic analysis, and alternating currents, which are dealt with by vectors, by complex quantities, and by the Steinmetz operator. Numerous exercises for the student are also provided and these have evidently been carefully selected so that few problems of purely academic interest have been included.

(1) *The Macmillan Table Slide Rule.* By Prof. J. P. Ballantine. Pp. 4 + 4 slides + 4 plates. (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1931.) 2s. 3d.

(2) *Natural Trigonometric Functions to Seven Decimal Places for every Ten Seconds of Arc, together with Miscellaneous Tables.* By Howard Chapin Ives. Pp. vi + 329. (New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1931.) 45s. net.

(1) FOUR plates contain five figure tables of  $10^\circ$ ,  $10^{10^\circ}$ , arc sin  $10^\circ$ , arc tan  $10^\circ$ . The four slides consist of tables of  $10^\circ$ ,  $10^{-x}$ ,  $10^{2x}$ . By aligning the slides on the appropriate plate all the usual slide rule calculations which depend on log  $x$  and log log  $x$  can be performed. The alignment needs great care if a wrong reading is to be avoided.

(2) The main table gives on 270 pages natural sines, cosines, tangents and cotangents for every

10 seconds of arc, each page covering a range of 10 minutes of arc. The functions corresponding to an integral number of minutes are more boldly printed. The effect is pleasing and makes the table convenient in use. First differences and proportional parts are also given. The remainder of the book contains various subsidiary tables connecting chords, arcs, radii and central angles in a circle, adapted to the use of railway and road engineers. The book concludes with trigonometrical formulæ and an explanation. The origin of the values in the main table is not mentioned. The author states that the manuscript was twice checked and the proofs read four times and by three persons. The binding is strong and the printing is excellent.  
L. M. M.-T.

*Motor Benzole: its Production and Use.* By W. H. Hoffert and G. Claxton. Pp. xxi + 689. (London: The National Benzole Association, 1931.) 25s.

FARADAY discovered benzene, Perkin made synthetic dyes from aniline; it was found to be an easy step by nitration and reduction from benzene to aniline. Benzene became ennobled, the world preened itself in a coat of many colours, and birth was given to the great dyestuffs controversy which, perhaps, has now found an honourable senescence amongst the acts in the Expiring Laws Continuation Bill. Now a new child has been born, motor benzole, with a more aristocratic name. After one or two false starts in 1903 and 1907, it became an established fact as a fuel in 1913, and now National Benzole pumps are to be seen every few hundred yards on our highways. The proportion of the total production used—Prof. H. E. Armstrong terms it misused—by the motorist increases each year, and considerably exceeds that required by the dye-maker, who, however, has to pay the higher price based on the fuel value of the spirit.

Benzole is extracted in gas works and coke ovens, but nothing like the total quantity possible is recovered. Some day a commercial synthesis of benzene will be achieved. It takes a book of more than 600 pages, including 120 tables, to tell us about motor benzole from every aspect of practice and theory. It is authoritative since it is prepared under the auspices of the National Benzole Association, which has established a highly competent research department.

*The Problems of Evolution.* By Prof. A. W. Lindsey. Pp. xiii + 236. (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1931.) 8s. 6d. net.

THE object of this essay is to show how impossible it is to separate heritage and environment in the study of evolution. This involves the author in a discussion of the inheritance of acquired characters, and references are given to much recent research. The limitation in its application to the methods of evolution lies in the difficulty of associating the responses of somatic structures with the germ cells. The book will be useful to teachers and students of biology for their lighter reading. They must be critical, and they should try some experiments for themselves.



## Scientific Centenaries in 1932.

THE value of the commemoration of the centenaries of notable men of science, of famous institutions, and of important discoveries, was demonstrated in many ways in 1931. The various celebrations not only gave opportunities for recalling great achievements but also provided occasions for reviewing the progress made in scientific research and its application to industry, and for stimulating public interest in modern developments. But apart from any direct gain which arises from such celebrations, it is only just that tribute should be paid to the memory of those who in the past have added to the spread of natural knowledge.

Foremost among the centenaries which fall within the year 1932 is that of Sir William Crookes, who was born on June 17, 1832. From the time of his discovery of thallium in 1861, until his death in 1919, he was in the front rank of investigators; while from the day he first published the *Chemical News* in 1859, he gradually attained to the highest eminence as a leader of scientific thought. His presidential address to the British Association in 1898 will long be remembered, while his name is to be found among the Copley medallists and the presidents of the Royal Society.

Born three months before Crookes, the eminent French man of science, Charles Friedel (1832-99) was both chemist and mineralogist. He assisted to found both the French Chemical Society and the French Association for the Advancement of Science and was the successor of Wurtz at the Sorbonne. Another chemist, born in 1832, who achieved distinction was Walter Weldon, who from journalism turned to scientific studies, and by his introduction of the manganese recovery process in the manufacture of chlorine, cheapened, as Dumas said, "every sheet of paper and every yard of calico throughout the world".

To the year 1832 also belong the names of Cailletet, König, Varley, Wimshurst, and Sir Charles Bright. Louis Paul Cailletet (1832-1913), one of the greatest ironmasters of France, in 1877, at the same time as Pictet, liquefied oxygen. He has been called the 'father of modern cryogenics'. Rudolph König (1832-1901), a German instrument maker of Paris, was well known for his researches in acoustics; James Wimshurst (1832-1903), the Board of Trade ship surveyor, built influence machines which did much to revolutionise the science of static electricity; Samuel Alfred Varley (1832-1921) was the inventor of the compound-wound dynamo, while Sir Charles Bright (1832-88) will always be remembered as a pioneer in submarine telegraphy. He was only twenty-four years of age when, in 1856, he joined with Brett and Cyrus Field in planning the project for the first Atlantic cable.

To these names may be added those of Nicolas August Otto (1832-91), originally a commercial traveller, who is remembered to-day for his outstanding work on the internal combustion engine; Gustave Eiffel (1832-1923), whose great tower was

but one of many notable civil engineering works for which he was responsible; Alexander Lyman Holley (1832-82), "foremost among those whose genius and energy established in America and improved throughout the world the manufacture of Bessemer steel"; and Octave Chanute (1832-1910), another engineer, who became a pioneer of gliding and whose "Progress in Flying Machines" published in 1894 is a mine of information on early aeronautics. Chanute was born in Paris, but was taken at the age of six to America, where all his work was done.

The following were also born in 1832: Henry Seebohm, author of the "History of British Birds and their Eggs" (4 vols., 1882-85); Sir William Turner, formerly professor of anatomy in the University of Edinburgh and president of the British Association at the Bradford meeting in 1900; and Sir Edward Burnett Tylor, for whom a professorship in anthropology in the University of Oxford was instituted.

The losses in the ranks of men of science by death in 1832 were severe. Especially so was this the case in France, where an epidemic of cholera raged, which led to the death of eighteen thousand persons in Paris alone. Among the victims of the epidemic were Sadi Carnot (1796-1832), immortalised by his essay, "Reflections sur la puissance motrice de feu"; Baron von Zach (1754-1832), the Hungarian astronomer who from 1791 directed the observatory at Seeberg; and General Berge (1779-1832), of the French artillery, one of the earliest students at the École Polytechnique, who drew the plates for Monge's "Géométrie descriptive". The Marquis de Jouffroy D'Abbans (1752-1832), the French representative among the pioneers of the steamboat, and Baron de Sané (1755-1832), the eminent naval constructor, "le Vauban de la Marine", who built the historic *Orient*, also died in 1832, as likewise did the veteran chemist Chaptal (1756-1832), and the great naturalist Cuvier (1769-1832). Both these distinguished men played a part in public affairs under Napoleon, and Cuvier, as permanent secretary of the Paris Academy of Sciences from 1803 onwards, was one of the most prominent among the brilliant group of French men of science of that time.

To these names must be added that of the young French mathematical genius, Evariste Galois (1811-1832), who was killed in a duel and whose tragic biography has been written by Dr. G. Sarton, and also those of the Italian astronomers and ecclesiasts, Angelo Cesaris (1750-1832), and Barnaba Oriani (1752-1832), who made Milan Observatory famous; of Stephen Groombridge (1755-1832), the London merchant who compiled a star catalogue and helped in founding the Royal Astronomical Society, and that of Sir John Leslie (1766-1832), the successor of Playfair and the predecessor of J. D. Forbes in the chair of natural philosophy at Edinburgh.

Bicentenaries are naturally less numerous than centenaries, but many are of considerable interest.



In 1732, for example, both Maskelyne and Lalande were born. For forty-six years Maskelyne (1732–1811) was Astronomer Royal, and to him was due the founding of the *Nautical Almanac*. Lalande (1732–1807) also has many claims to our homage. Indefatigable in his exertions on behalf of science, by his lectures at the Collège de France he gained for astronomy an unexampled popularity, and one of his books was called “the great newspaper of astronomy”. It was to Maskelyne that Herschel first communicated the discovery of the heavenly body now known as the planet Uranus, but it was Lalande who wished to call it Herschel, a name it was actually known by for some years. Another astronomer born in 1732 was David Rittenhouse (1732–96), who succeeded Franklin as president of the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia and was among the first to welcome Priestley to America. The French mineralogist, Gabriel Jars (1732–69), the compiler of the “*Voyages métallurgiques*”; Alexander Cronstedt (1732–65), the Swedish discoverer of nickel, were also born the same year, as also was Richard Arkwright (1732–92), the greatest of the founders of our textile industry.

Carrying the survey a hundred years still further back, in 1632 Sir Christopher Wren and the great Dutch naturalist Leeuwenhoeck were both born, while that year saw the deaths of several mathematicians who were contemporaries of Kepler, Napier, and Galileo. The two British mathematicians, Thomas Allen (1542–1632) and Nathaniel Torporley (1564–1632), died in September and April respectively; the Dutch mathematician, Albert Girard (1595–1632), who collected and published the works of Stevinus and discovered various properties of spherical triangles, died in December; Lansberg (1561–1632), of Belgium, both mathematician and astronomer, whose tables were used by Horrocks, died in November; Christopher Borrus (1583–1632), of the Society of Jesus, who travelled to the Far East and in his charts of the Atlantic and Indian Ocean anticipated some of the work of Halley, died at Rome in May 1632, while another mathematician who died that year was Jobst Bürgi (1552–1632), whose system of anti-logarithms was worked out by him independently of the contemporary discoveries of Napier.

### Hydro-Electric Power Development in the Pyrenees.

By Dr. BRYSSON CUNNINGHAM.

AN interesting and efficient system of electric power generation and distribution, serving the Southern Railway of France (Chemins de Fer du Midi) and a number of important regional industries, has been developed, mainly during the past decade, from the natural water resources of the western Pyrenees. During a recent tour in southern France, I was afforded, through the courtesy of the Midi Company, an opportunity of visiting several of the generating stations, and the following is a brief description of the salient features of the undertaking, known as the Union des Producteurs d'Électricité des Pyrénées Occidentales (U.P.E.P.O), which controls more than half a million horse-power, say one-fourth of the total water power developed in France, as registered at the end of 1930. The gross potential water resources of that country are estimated to be between nine and ten million horse-power.

The Pyrenees, forming, as is well known, the frontier barrier between France and Spain, with a length of about 240 miles between Cape Cerbera on the Mediterranean littoral and the south-eastern corner of the Bay of Biscay, apart from their engaging geological structure, present an interesting hydrographic feature, in that there is a marked difference in the rainfall and snowfall between the eastern and western halves of the chain, the quan-

tity being much greater in the west. I certainly acquired a confirmatory impression of the western abundance during three consecutive days spent in the neighbourhood of Pau in September, when the rainfall was almost incessant and its intensity surprising. The notable absence of glaciers in the



FIG. 1.—Cirque de Gavarnie.

eastern Pyrenees is accounted for by the insufficiency of the falls of snow for their formation. Obviously then, the great preponderance of moisture in the centre and west has marked out this region as a suitable area of exploitation for the development of hydro-electric power, and it is within the limits of the latitude of Oloron in the west and the



Val d'Aran in the east that the leading stations of the U.P.E.P.O. are located.

From the hydrographic point of view, several other characteristic features of the range lend themselves admirably to water-power development. Despite the general absence of great lakes, such as those in the Alps, there is a number of natural

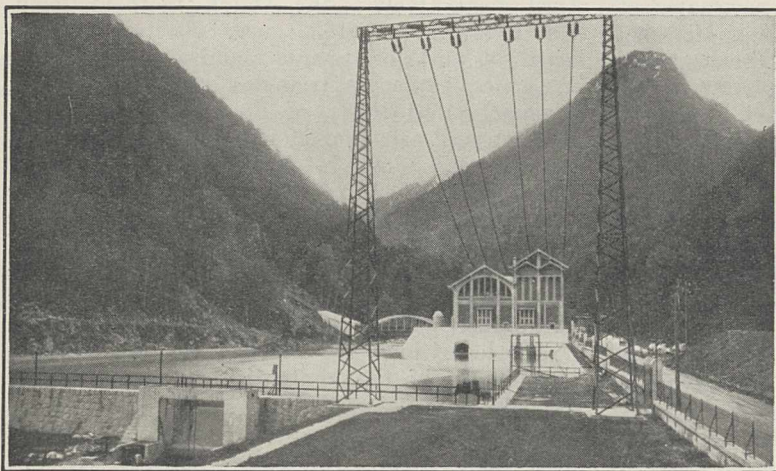


FIG. 2.—Miègebat generating station. The pipe lines are to the left and cannot be seen in the photograph. They enter the station across the bridge in the background.

basins of moderate extent which have been adapted as storage reservoirs for a working or a reserve supply of water, possessing potential energy of high value. In addition, waterfalls are numerous and lofty, being surpassed in Europe only by those of Scandinavia. The highest is the celebrated Cascade de Gavarnie with a fall of 1515 ft. The mountain streams or torrents which give rise to these falls are known locally as 'gaves'.

It is a curious feature of the topography of the Pyrenees that the upper ends of the valleys frequently expand into gigantic arcs of circles surrounded by towering, precipitous cliffs, crowned by snow and ice. These enlargements are designated 'cirques'. The most notable is the Cirque de Gavarnie at a height of 5000 ft. above sea-level, about a mile and a quarter in diameter, with rugged sides several thousand feet high, scored and intersected by hundreds of silvery cascades, including the Cascade de Gavarnie mentioned above (Fig. 1).

The U.P.E.P.O. came into existence in the early part of 1923, with the object of utilising to the best advantage the supplies of hydro-electric power in the western Pyrenees, by providing service lines to distant centres of consumption and by regulating the output of the various generating stations, using the surplus, after meeting the requirements of railway traction, for chemical and metallurgical industries. Eleven bodies are now affiliated to the Union, which possesses thirty 'centrales' or generating stations, totalling a maximum available power of 400,000 kva. and producing energy in a normal year to the extent of more than 1500 millions of kilowatt-hours.

Of the thirty stations, the Midi Railway Company operates five of the largest: three in a chain, or

stepped series, and two detached and isolated insulations. The chain lies in the upper valley of Ossau and commences at summit level with a source in the lake Artouste, a deep basin situated near the frontier line with its natural surface at a height of 1968.6 metres above sea-level. By means of a dam, the depth of water has been increased by 25 metres so as to form a reservoir with a capacity of 25 million cubic metres. From the lake a tunnel through the granite rock, 8.5 km. in length and about 6 ft. in diameter, conducts the water to a point just above the station of Artouste, which is entered by means of three pressure tubes under a gross head of 758 metres. The diameter of the tubes gradually decreases from 800 mm. to 600 mm. The flow actuates three Pelton wheels, each of 10,000 horse-power, coupled to three C.E.F. alternators of 7000 kw. capacity.

After passing through the Artouste Station, the water is received into two basins, each of 95,000 metres capacity, in succession, forming a working reservoir for the next station below at Miègebat, distant about 7.6 kilometres (Fig. 2). These basins also receive direct the waters of two mountain streams, or gaves: the Gave de Bious and the Gave de Brousset. The combined supply enters the Miège-

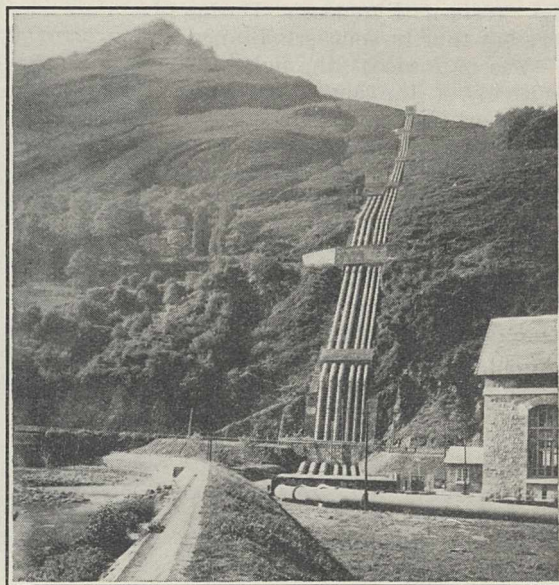


FIG. 3.—Soulom generating station and pipe lines.

bat Station through four pressure tubes of 950 mm. diameter, under a net head of 380 metres. The generating plant consists of five Pelton turbines of 10,000 horse-power each and five alternators of 7000 kilowatts.

The next and final stage is the drop to the level of the station of Le Hourat, which is adjacent to



the head of the railway line at Laruns. The water is conducted through a canal having a length of 5.75 kilometres to four pressure tubes of 1200 mm. diameter, falling through which under a head of 204 metres, it actuates five Francis turbo-alternators of 10,000 horse-power each. Altogether, throughout the entire length of the Ossau Valley, there is plant for the development of 130,000 horse-power, producing 230 millions of kwh. annually.

The detached stations are those of Soulom and Eget. The former (Fig. 3) adjoins the railway line at Pierrefitte and is not far distant from the charming mountain resort of Cauterets, which is reached by an electrically operated tramway. The station at Soulom receives supplies of water from the Gave de Pau and the Gave de Cauterets under very different heads—the former being low and the latter high—necessitating two distinct forms of generation. The net fall of the Gave de Cauterets is 240 metres, and the water is conveyed through three pressure tubes of 810 mm. diameter to two Pelton wheels of 3500 horse-power, each coupled to alternators. The fall of the Gave de Pau is only 106 metres, and in this case the three pressure tubes have a diameter of 1200 mm. and the generating plant consists of three Francis turbines of 3500 horse-power each. The total capacity of the station, accordingly, is 21,000 horse-power, and its annual output is 80 million kwh. It is the smallest of the Midi installations, and was inaugurated before the War. A curious feature which I noticed is the variegated colouring of the pressure tubes, which, at first glance, I thought might possibly be a relic of War-time camouflage, especially as it had a faded appearance. I was told, however, that it was an attempt at æsthetic treatment with the view of harmonising the appearance of the pipes with the mountain background. As such, it could not be considered altogether successful. If a pipe line can be hidden or rendered less obtrusive by shrubs and vegetation, the advantage from a scenic point of view is, no doubt, considerable, but variegated tinting of the pipes only seems to produce a tawdry and unquestionably artificial effect.

The last station to be noticed is that of Eget (Fig. 4), which is located in the high valley of La Neste de Couplan. It benefits in part from an arrangement made in 1870 by the French Minister of Agriculture in order to create dry weather reserves to feed the lakes of the region, the streams of the plateau of Lannemezan, and the district of Gers. The following four lakes have accordingly been impounded so as to provide increased capacities, namely:

Orédon	7,000,000 cu.m.
Cap de Long	7,000,000 "
Aumar	1,100,000 "
Aubert	4,500,000 "

In addition, the Midi Company, by means of a barrage, has formed in the valley of the Oule an artificial reservoir of 6,500,000 cu.m. capacity, receiving supplies from a catchment area of 30 square kilometres. This brings the available reserves for the Eget Station up to 25 million cu.m.

The head at the station is 710 metres, and the water passes through seven tubes of 560 mm. diameter to a corresponding number of turbo-alternators of 5000 horse-power each. The mean annual output is 90 million kwh., of which 30 millions, due to stream flow, must be consumed between the months of April and July, while the remainder, provided by lake supply, can be consumed as required.

Time did not permit me to visit any stations outside the Midi groups. With three exceptions,

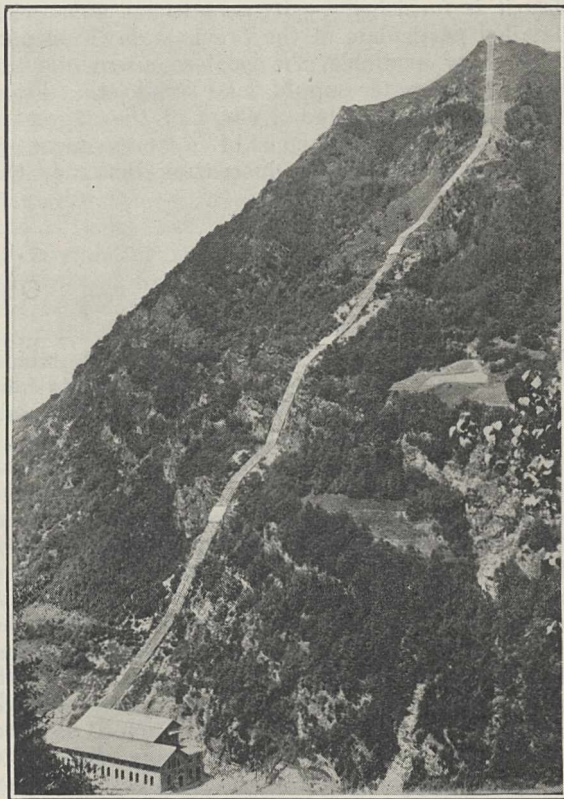


FIG. 4.—Eget generating station and pipe lines.

however, the rest are of relatively minor calibre, that is, less than an aggregate of 20,000 horse-power per station. The largest is one of 50,000 horse-power at Pinet, operated by the Énergie Électrique du Rouergue. Two others, of 35,000 and 33,000 horse-power respectively, belong to the Société Hydroélectrique de la Cère and the Sté. des Forces Électriques de la Vallée de Gavarnie.

An account of the stations can scarcely be considered complete without some reference to the system of distribution, which is very capably organised and constitutes one of the chief duties and responsibilities of the Union. The U.P.E.P.O. takes delivery of the energy furnished by its affiliated concerns at a tension of 60,000 volts at one or other of two transformer stations at Lannemezan or Laruns, belonging to the Midi Company, where, apart from a quota to meet local demands, it is transformed to a voltage of 150,000 and dispatched in the directions of Bordeaux and Toulouse. Each concern undertakes the transport of its own output to the points of delivery. Two lines of



50,000 kw. convey the current to Bordeaux and one of 50,000 kw. to Toulouse and beyond, the total distance exceeding 500 kilometres. At the two extremities of the high-tension system (Bordeaux and Toulouse) and at the intermediate point of Dax there are transformer stations to reduce the voltage again to 60,000. The various demands of traction and industry are met from these centres, as well as from those of Laruns and Lannemezan.

The duties of the central organisation of the U.P.E.P.O. at Tarbes are considerable. Each day it is furnished by its constituent units with detailed particulars of the previous day's output, the energy available, the local requirements, the state of the water supply, lake levels, etc. From these data is prepared a chart of the aggregate resources, and a scheme of apportionment is arranged to meet the fluctuating demand, the

deficiency at one centre being made good by the surplus at another. The whole system is planned, in fact, with the view of eliminating unnecessary waste, obviating local breakdowns or shortage, and ensuring a regular and sufficient supply for the needs of the important region which it serves.

My acknowledgments are due to the U.P.E.P.O., as well as to the Midi Railway Company, for information courteously placed at my disposal and for their kind assistance. The photographs of the stations have been supplied by the Midi Railway Company, from which I learn that, up to the date of writing, a length of 1256 kilometres (say 785 miles) of track is electrically operated, representing about thirty per cent of the whole system. A further 336 kilometres is now being equipped for electric traction, and the electrification of a length of 270 kilometres is under consideration.

### Obituary.

DR. J. P. LOTSY.

THE death of Dr. Johannes Paulus Lotsy, which occurred at Leyden in November at sixty-four years of age, terminates the career of one of the leading workers of the day on evolution and heredity.

Dr. Lotsy's botanical work began when he was sent out to the East Indies in 1896 to study the alkaloids contained in various species of *Cinchona*. The results of his work were published in 1898. He then settled down to a long career of teaching and research in Leyden, varied by frequent visits to almost every part of the globe. In 1906 he published the first part of his "Vorlesungen über Deszendenztheorien", the second part of which appeared two years later. This very useful work was based on his lectures on evolution at Leyden and comprised a comprehensive survey of the state of evolutionary thought at the time. At the same time another monumental work began to appear, "Vorträge über botanische Stammesgeschichte" (3 vols., 1907-1911), an unfinished treatise on the plant kingdom from a phylogenetic point of view.

Lotsy now began to develop the views on evolution and the species question with which his name will always be associated. During the years 1912 to 1916 he published a series of papers putting forward the view that the fundamental unit of taxonomy was the homozygous biotype, and that to this only should be given the name species. Subsequent work has shown that such a unit has no existence in ordinary allogamous populations, and later on Lotsy himself abandoned his opinion and went to the further extreme of doubting the existence of such homozygous biotypes in Nature even in pure lines.

In 1916 Lotsy published his well-known book, "Evolution by means of Hybridisation", in which he vigorously attacked de Vries's work on mutations in *Oenothera*, and claimed that the phenomena observed in that genus were due to the heterozygosity of the material. He advanced the view that the sole method of evolution was by means of hybridisa-

tion, and denied that gene mutations played any part. The book was written in a style entirely the author's own, and many of his views cannot now be maintained, but, nevertheless, it will remain a classic in evolutionary literature. Lately, moreover, evidence has accumulated showing that hybridisation plays a greater part in evolution than Lotsy's critics imagined. One of the most striking examples of this is the grass *Spartina Townsendii*, which has recently been shown, beyond doubt, to have originated from a cross between *S. alterniflora* and *S. stricta*, followed by a doubling of the chromosomes. Other cases could be quoted, and it seems clear that one of the means of evolution of new species is interspecific hybridisation followed by chromosome doubling.

During the last six years, having given up regular teaching on being made emeritus professor at Leyden, Lotsy visited New Zealand, South Africa, and other parts of the world for the purpose of collecting evidence for his views on evolution. He was a tireless worker in the field, and everywhere he went he amassed a wealth of material and brought together a great number of arguments in support of his views. In South Africa he worked especially on the genera *Cotyledon* and *Euphorbia*, and took back material of the former genus to Leyden, where he was breeding them on a large scale. He also turned his attention to hybrid populations in the human species, and a large part of the paper on his South African work, published in conjunction with Dr. Goddijn, deals with the various races he had studied there.

At the time of his death, Lotsy was engaged on a large work dealing with his ideas on evolution, and it is much to be regretted that he did not live to bring it to completion.

Lotsy was always a welcome visitor to Great Britain, his last visit being to attend the London meeting of the British Association. His views, always frank and forcibly expressed, were very stimulating and were generally appreciated; since,



however, he was apt at times to disregard the opinions of some of his botanical colleagues, his theories and conclusions have not perhaps received the recognition which they merit.

#### PROF. HUGO DE BÖCKH.

THE recent death at the age of fifty-seven years of Hugo de Böckh will occasion deep grief amongst those who in many lands enjoyed his gifts of friendship, admired his independent judgment and vigorous personality, and feel the loss to science. He was the son of a distinguished Hungarian geologist, and received part of his training under Karl von Zittel at Munich. In 1902, at the age of twenty-eight, he was appointed professor of mineralogy at the Hungarian School of Mines at Selmeczbánya, and there turned his attention to economic geology and to the tectonic problems which he realised would prove of practical value in mining. He wrote a text-book on geology in Hungarian, and amongst other investigations studied the applications of the Eötvös balance to subterranean prospecting. During the War he was appointed Under-Secretary for Mines in Hungary.

In 1923 de Böckh received the appointment which gave him his great opportunity—he became the geological adviser to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, and had a great influence in its development by his superintendence of its geological work. He was in charge of its surveys in Persia and Mesopotamia, Albania, Colombia, and Venezuela, and of the international survey of the oil-fields of Iraq. In this work his indomitable, restless energy, originality and insight, and his inspiring enthusiasm made him a most efficient leader in the pioneer field work.

Prof. de Böckh was asked to succeed Baron Nopcsa in 1929 as director of the Hungarian Geological Institute, and returned to Buda-Pest in 1930. He was given a seat in the upper house of the Hungarian Parliament. It was hoped that as soon as he had reorganised the Hungarian Geological Survey he would have time to publish the general conclusions of his world-wide study of oil-fields and their structures. He had published relatively little, partly owing to lack of time and to much of his work being confidential. His most important contribution was that, in conjunction with Dr. G. M. Lees and Mr. F. D. Richardson, to the British Association symposium on the structure of Asia (1929), in which he included some striking results of a study of the Magdalena rift-valley in Colombia.

Prof. de Böckh gave early this year a series of lectures under the auspices of the University of London, in which he summarised his general conclusions on current tectonic problems, and showed his independence of judgment by emphasising the need for caution with Eötvös balance observations and deductions from isostasy. It is to be hoped that those lectures will have been left in a form available for publication, as they state the matured judgments of a geologist of unusual insight and of unique experience and qualifications.

#### MR. J. H. LEONARD.

BY the death of John Henry Leonard, which took place at a Kensington nursing home on Dec. 4, the Trustees of the British Museum have lost the services of one who was the first to hold the office of guide-lecturer at the Natural History Museum. The appointment was, at the beginning, regarded purely as an experiment, and was the result of the steady campaign conducted by the late Lord Sudeley to make the great national museums more attractive and more interesting to the general public.

That the experiment was such an undoubted success at the Natural History Museum was due to Mr. Leonard's qualities, which rendered him so eminently fitted to discharge the duties of the post. To hold the attention of a group of people haphazardly brought together for a tour of part of the Museum, and with very varying capacity for understanding and appreciating what they were shown and were told, is no easy task, especially round exhibition cases in galleries of difficult acoustical properties. Mr. Leonard possessed the fundamental quality of a good carrying voice, and at the same time was successful in appraising the mentality of the average listener; he was always patient of questioners and took great pains to enlighten the genuine inquirer. With school children he was particularly successful, partly because he was naturally fond of young people; and there are many, of tender years when they first visited the Museum, who will ever bear him in kindly remembrance.

Born on April 19, 1864, Mr. Leonard was educated at Kensington Grammar School and at King's College and University College, London. He obtained the B.Sc. degree, his subjects being zoology, botany, and geology, in the last of which he gained honours. He taught science for a time, and was associated with the science sections at some of the exhibitions held at Earl's Court and Shepherd's Bush. He was appointed guide-lecturer at the Natural History Museum on May 20, 1912. Without having written anything, he has done no mean service in awakening an interest in natural history among those who, to the average annual number of 12,500, have attended his tours. He was also a lay reader for whose services in the pulpit there was always a good demand.

WE regret to announce the following deaths:

Dr. Melvil Dewey, formerly director of the New York State Library, originator of the decimal system of book classification, on Dec. 26, aged eighty years.

Mr. Beeby Thompson, formerly principal of the Northampton Technical School, who was a well-known consulting water engineer, on Dec. 12, aged eighty-two years.

Prof. Hermann Thoms, formerly director of the Pharmaceutical Institute of the University of Berlin and president of the German Pharmaceutical Society, aged seventy-two years.



## News and Views.

### Calendar of Geographical Exploration.

THE century in which we live, young as it is, has yet been remarkable for its achievements in exploration. Both poles have been reached, much of the previously unconquered Sahara has been explored, surveys have been carried out in the north polar basin, in the antarctic regions, and in north-east Siberia, where a new range of mountains is known, but not yet marked on our maps. Attempts have been made to scale the heights of Everest. Expeditions such as those organised by Sven Hedin, Sir Aurel Stein, and R. Chapman Andrews in Central Asia, and by L. S. B. Leakey in East Africa, have contributed rich stores of geographical, geological, and archaeological knowledge of these regions. In spite of the accumulated experience of centuries and the increasing mastery over the elements which modern science is bringing to mankind, explorers still face situations which call for courage and sacrifice. Men like Oates and Amundsen have continued the tradition of heroism, and their names are added to the long list of pioneers who have willingly sacrificed their lives for others.

INEVITABLY, the character of exploration is changing from the extensive to the intensive. Regional survey in its widest sense, including a study of geology, past and present climates, flora and fauna, and human cultures, is rousing interest in the popular, as in the scientific, mind throughout the world. Scientific regional survey is specially developed in modern Russia and has proved of economic importance in the opening up of the apatite district of the Khibinsk tundra and in the discovery of naphtha-bearing beds in the Urals. The revival of interest in geography in the British Isles is evidenced by its recent inclusion as a separate subject of study in British universities. Our calendar for 1932 will record some outstanding events in the history of exploration. Appropriately enough, the first entries (p. 33) include the names of Scott, Shackleton, and Hassanein Bey, whose work, both from the point of view of science and from that of heroism and endurance, shows our century taking its place in the best traditions of exploration.

### Geological Exploration of the Andes.

PROF. J. W. GREGORY is leaving England on Jan. 4 with an expedition to investigate some little-known parts of the coastal cordillera of southern Peru and their relations to the Andes and to the recent extension of South America into the Pacific. It is hoped to examine especially the structure of the part of the Peruvian coast that trends from north-west to south-east, and the geology of the desert belt between that coast and the western front of the Andes. A geological section is also to be prepared across the little-known belt between Ica and the Urubamba valley. The earth-movements and volcanic epochs of the Andes appear to have significant correspondence in date with the main stages in the formation of the Great Rift valley that were discovered in its exploration by Prof. Gregory thirty-

nine years ago. The expedition will descend from the Andean plateau down one of the head streams of the Amazon, and may return to England across Brazil. Miss McKinnon Wood will accompany the expedition especially to collect fossils. Mr. A. V. Coverley Price will join the expedition at Lima. The work will be helped during parts of the journey by Mr. M. A. Tarnawiecki and Señor Don Alberto Calderon.

### Old London Bridge.

THE Exhibition commemorating the centenary of the demolition of old London Bridge, which was opened on Nov. 5 in Regis House, close to the northern end of London Bridge, is to remain open until Jan. 24. The display has been organised by the Rev. H. J. Fynes-Clinton, rector of St. Magnus the Martyr, to raise funds for the restoration of Wren's tower and spire, and many societies and individuals have sent exhibits to it. The series of engravings, water-colours, and prints of the old bridge at various periods of its existence, with and without the houses upon it, and with the new bridge being erected close to it, are of very great interest to students of the history of London, while the two splendid models by Mr. J. B. Thorp are alone worth the trouble of a journey to the spot. The first of these is a 25-ft. model of the old bridge as it was about thirty years before the Great Fire. At the Southwark end are the water-wheels for corn grinding, while at the City end are the water-wheels erected in 1582 by the Dutchman, Peter Morice, for working the pumps which supplied water from the river to certain parts of the City. Mr. Thorp's other large model shows a London street with the Lord Mayor's show passing along it in 1616. Lectures are given on these models at short intervals. While these exhibits are perhaps of general interest, there are others which will appeal to the historian, the antiquary, and the engineer.

### Early Cloth Fulling.

At a meeting of the Newcomen Society held in Prince Henry's Room, Fleet Street, on Dec. 16, Mr. E. Kilburn Scott read a paper on early cloth fulling and its machinery. Though it has remained for modern science to explain what happens to woollen threads when cloth is treated with moisture, heat, and pressure, the process of fulling, which involves the use of all three, goes back to very early days. There are references to fullers in both the Old and New Testaments, in the city of Pompeii can be seen pictures of the various processes of the fuller's craft and a fullery complete with its basins, cisterns, and compartments, and no one knows when machinery was first introduced which superseded the use of the hands or the feet in fulling. The object of fulling is to fill the interstices of the cloth as woven, to add to its appearance, its strength, and its 'feel', and the coarser the cloth the greater amount of fulling required. Cloth to-day is either treated in fulling stocks, in which are incorporated stamps which are worked somewhat in the same manner as tilt hammers,



or in milling machines with rollers. The fulling stocks have been known for several centuries, but the milling machine was first introduced by John Dyer, of Trowbridge, Wiltshire, who took out patents in 1833 and 1838. Mr. Kilburn Scott himself was brought up in the works of Kilburn of Leeds and has been familiar with textile machinery all his life. His paper contained much of interest to the antiquarian, the inventor, and those connected with the cloth industry.

#### Progressive Science and Happiness.

AMONG the publications issued in the United States with the object of directing attention to the value of science and engineering in human progress, are the Research Narratives, published monthly as small folders by the Engineering Foundation, the joint research organisation of the four leading engineering societies of America. Hitherto, these narratives have covered a wide range of subjects, but the last three numbers contain the first contributions by various writers, dealing with benefits from engineering progress. Happiness, it is remarked, has ever been a condition that human beings have earnestly desired, but the question may be asked: How wisely has mankind used the means of happiness provided by engineering? One of the problems yet to be solved is the maintenance, without disastrous fluctuations, of the steady flow of enjoyment through well-ordered production, distribution, and consumption. "The present conditions", says one contributor, "are difficult to contemplate with mental serenity and undisturbed confidence, but they carry more of ultimate value than the prosperous years that preceded them." Many interesting views are expressed, and Dr. C. E. K. Mees, director of research of the Eastman Kodak Company, after remarking that happiness is not a thing which depends upon the possession of material things beyond a certain minimum, concludes his article by saying: "I believe that a large portion of mankind will abandon the feverish quest for material things and will employ its greater leisure in the development of art and the cultivation of its soul". The wise use of leisure is certainly one of the problems which is becoming of increasing importance, but perhaps the greatest problem of the moment is the provision for every one of that minimum of material things, the want of which is felt by so many millions.

#### Commercial Crystalline Vitamin D.

THE investigations carried out during the past few years by Bourdillon and his colleagues at the National Institute for Medical Research on the formation of vitamin D have now led to the preparation of a pure crystalline compound, as recently reported by Askew, Bruce, Callow, Philpot, and Webster, in *NATURE* for Oct. 31, p. 758. This compound, called by them 'Calciferol', is prepared by the irradiation of ergosterol in ethereal solution under strict anaerobic conditions, excess ergosterol being afterwards removed by fractional crystallisation and with the use of digitonin. The calciferol is separated from other products of irradiation by fractional crystallisation of the dinitro-

benzoates and subsequent hydrolysis of the ester. The process has now been repeated on a larger scale in the technical laboratories of Messrs. The British Drug Houses, Ltd., London. N.1. The sample of calciferol submitted is a white crystalline solid: it is stated to melt at  $114.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ., to have the same empirical formula as ergosterol, and to have the high vitamin D potency of 40,000 international antirachitic units per milligram. It is available for the use of research workers in tubes containing 100 mgm. The commercial production of pure vitamin D is a satisfactory culmination of the brilliantly directed but laborious research work of the Medical Research Council's investigators, and should lead to greater precision in therapeutics and to the possible discovery of new applications for its use.

#### 69-in. Mirror for Perkins Observatory.

DR. HARLAN T. STETSON, director of the Perkins Observatory, Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, informs us that the large 69-inch mirror for the new telescope was installed at the Observatory on Dec. 14. The disk of glass, weighing 3000 lb., was cast as an experiment in American glass making in the optical shops of the U.S. Bureau of Standards, in May 1927. The exceptional annealing of the glass, which required eight months of controlled temperature, facilitated greatly the polishing and figuring of the mirror's surface, which was executed in the factory of J. W. Fecker, in Pittsburgh. Exhaustive tests carried on at Pittsburgh by Dr. Stetson, Dr. J. S. Plaskett, of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, and I. C. Gardner, chief of the Division of Optical Instruments, of the U.S. Bureau of Standards, showed the surface to be of the highest order of excellence. Quantitative measurements revealed departures from the mean focus of twenty-five feet to be not greater than 0.01 in. for any zone. The completion of the Perkins telescope brings into the central States the third largest telescope in existence, the two other instruments of greater aperture being the 72-in. reflector of Victoria, B.C., and the 100-in. reflector at Mt. Wilson, California. These great telescopes in North America have all led the way to important additions to astronomical knowledge, and it may be confidently anticipated that the new instrument, under Dr. Stetson's direction, will carry on the tradition.

#### Sixth International Congress of Genetics.

ACTIVE preparations are being made for the sixth International Congress of Genetics, to be held at Ithaca, New York, in August 1932. A series of quarterly bulletins of information has been issued and a number of committees has been at work for more than a year. A recent bulletin outlines the arrangements being made with regard to exhibits in connexion with the Congress. Several laboratory rooms will be used for cytological and other genetical exhibits, including recommended varieties of various crop plants. A new feature proposed is a genetical garden of three and a half acres, in which extensive exhibits of *Zea*, *Nicotiana*, *Oenothera*, *Antirrhinum*, *Petunia*, *Brassica*, and *Melandrium* will be grown from



seeds sent by geneticists in all parts of the world who are investigating these genera. Exhibits illustrating fruit breeding will be shown at the Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, New York, and an extensive series concerning human genetics is being arranged in connexion with the Third International Congress of Eugenics, to be held in New York immediately before, on Aug. 21-23. A long series of animal exhibits, including domestic mammals and birds, fishes, insects, and molluscs, is also in preparation, the assembling of each group being in charge of a different person. Arrangements have been made for delegates to book passage on s.s. *Westernland* at a special rate of 200 dollars for the return voyage.

SUGGESTIONS have been made that the Congress should be postponed until world conditions improve, but Dr. C. C. Little, of Bar Harbor, Maine, Secretary-General of the Congress, has issued a communication stating that the Council, after prolonged consultation, has decided not to postpone the Congress. Among the factors which influenced the Council in deciding to carry on the arrangements as originally intended, are the facts that a number of prominent European geneticists have already indicated their intention to attend, that a large number of lectureships for visitors to the Congress are being arranged by American universities, that obligations have already been made and commitments undertaken, and that early improvement in economic conditions is uncertain, making postponement inadvisable. Now that the matter is finally settled, it is hoped that all geneticists who can possibly do so will plan to attend.

#### Electric Equipment of the Dolomites Railway.

THE narrow gauge Dolomites railway which joins Calalzo, in the Piave valley, to Dobbiaco, a distance of about forty miles, has now been working very satisfactorily for over two years. As the railway passes through Cortina d'Ampezzo, it is much frequented by tourists. The railway is operated by electricity and so there is no smoke and steam to detract from the beauty of the scenery. Fears were entertained in case, during heavy falls of snow, water would get into the motors and interfere with their working. A special arrangement was therefore devised for them so that when necessary they could be made 'enclosed' motors. Even in snow-clearing operations, when they were considerably overloaded, the motors suffered no damage. In the *Brown Boveri Review* for October, A. Brodbeck gives an account of the electric equipment of this railway. It receives its power from a three-phase network at Calalzo at a pressure of 18,000 volts; but for operating the railway, direct current at 2700 volts is adopted. This is done by the use of only one substation situated near Cortina, a little more than half-way from the power terminus. The conversion of the alternating to direct current is done at the substation by means of two mercury arc rectifiers each of 11,000 kilowatts capacity at 3000 volts. It is interesting to learn that a momentary load of 200 per cent does them no harm, and that they can withstand a 25 per cent overload for half an hour. Owing to

the comparatively small currents they take, they require little space and their efficiency is extremely high, being 99.1 per cent over a large range of output. The use of rectifiers in railway plants is increasing, and we anticipate a rapid increase in the future.

#### Novel Slot Electricity Meter.

WE learn from *A.E.G. Progress* for October that many hotel, boarding-house, and convalescent-home keepers now instal in their bedrooms a special slot meter to collect the cost of the electric energy consumed by the visitor. It is not uncommon for travellers to carry about with them all kinds of portable electrical appliances which are readily connected to the plugs in the bedroom, notwithstanding the printed regulations to the contrary. This sometimes leads to the blowing of fuses and is a source of fire risk to the building. It is therefore now not uncommon to put slot meters in the bedrooms, so that by the insertion of a coin the guest purchases a given amount of energy. Unlike an ordinary prepayment meter, the coin mechanism can be returned to the 'off' position by resetting a simple device. In this way the new visitor cannot consume at the expense of the previous one any energy that still may be available. The resetting device is actuated by a key, kept by the proprietor, who cancels for his own benefit the credit still due to the departing visitor. The company which makes this meter suggests that the constant source of revenue obtained in this way should be utilised to make the rooms more comfortable, and furnish them with plug points for all kinds of electric devices.

#### Indian Antiquities.

SIR EDWARD GAIT'S review of British research work in India in the fields of archaeology, philology, and ethnology in his address to the first meeting of the Royal Society of Arts in the current session (*Jour. Roy. Soc. Arts*, Nov. 13) records a remarkable achievement, especially when it is taken into account that such research, often demanding intense application, in the majority of cases has been no more than the distraction of a busy official career. India can now boast of an ancient civilisation and a literature, of which the older elements may go back so far as 2000 B.C.; but when British rule began in the eighteenth century, Sanskrit literature and lore had lapsed into disrepute, the ancient monuments had been allowed to fall into decay, and the course of events in the Hindu period had been forgotten. From the time when the study of Indian antiquities was placed on an organised basis by Sir William Jones, who had gone to India as a judge of the Supreme Court in 1783, and the Asiatic Society of Bengal was founded, British officials have engaged in all branches of Indian studies with enthusiasm. Forgotten scripts, forgotten languages, and even forgotten empires have been rescued from oblivion, while the investigation of the customs, races, and religions of the people of India has been pursued in a scientific spirit without reference to racial or political prepossessions. Thanks largely to the efforts of



Lord Curzon, ancient monuments have been restored and the care of antiquities made a matter of administrative charge. It is to be regretted that Sir Edward Gait has to record a falling off in the number of British civil servants who now devote themselves to such studies; but on the other hand there is a measure of compensation in the fact that the number of natives of India who are interested in the history and antiquities of their own country is on the increase.

#### Birds of Paradise.

IN the Bird House and the small Tropical House adjoining it, the Zoological Society of London now exhibits a dozen species of birds of paradise, several of them recent arrivals along with the rare Matschie's tree kangaroo (see NATURE, Dec. 12, p. 996), also coming from the Rawlinson Mountains in north-east New Guinea. Most noteworthy is the Emperor of Germany's Bird of Paradise (*Paradisea guilielmi*), a species new to the collection; it bears a general resemblance to the well-known Lesser Emerald Bird of Paradise, but has the crown as well as the throat green, and the side-plumes shorter and of a different and less downy texture, more recalling the nuptial plumes of the egrets. Among those species that have been in the collection some time, special mention may be made of the Twelve-wired (*Seleucidus ignotus*), because of the peculiarity it exhibits of having the legs bare for some distance above the hock, as in a wading-bird. This peculiarity is shared by a very different bird from the same zoological region and also in the collection, the great black Palm-cockatoo (*Microglossus aterrimus*); this is noteworthy, for neither affinity nor habits can be invoked for the explanation of this nudity in these two species. A very humble bird by comparison, but also of much scientific interest, is a newly received specimen of the melanistic mutant of the blackcap: this variation, which is found in the Canaries and Azores, has been known for upwards of a century, and is called Heineken's Blackcap. The bird is on view in one of the small cages in the Bird House.

#### British Empire Hardwoods and Turnery.

IN Museum No. 1 in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, a temporary exhibit of articles turned from Empire hardwoods by the skilled hands of Mr. A. L. Hetherington, assistant secretary in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, has been arranged. While indulging his hobby of turnery, Mr. Hetherington also carried on important research, for he worked upon some eighty different kinds of Empire woods, many of which are new to the turner, the results of his work being demonstrated by excellently carved boxes, chalices, tazzas, goblets, dishes, ash trays, and other articles. Particularly beautiful are a chalice made from sapodilla wood (*Achras Sapota*), two tazzas made of African blackwood (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*), a goblet of bulletwood (*Mimusops littoralis*), a string box of puriri (*Vitex littoralis*), and two match stands of gidgee (*Acacia Cambagei*). Mr. Hetherington has added to the value of his demonstrative work by writing an account of the various

kinds of wood used, with particulars of their peculiar working properties. This book has recently been published by the Empire Marketing Board under the title "British Empire Hardwoods from the Point of View of Turnery." After discussing the properties of eighty kinds of wood, he goes into further particulars about those he considers of greatest importance for ornamental turning. All who are interested in wood turnery should make an effort to visit Kew within the next few weeks and inspect this interesting collection.

#### Forest Survey by Aeroplane.

IN the development and protection of Canadian forests, aircraft have come to play a most important part. The *Canadian Surveyor* for October in a general account of aviation in Canada explains how aerial photography is used to show the character, distribution, and accessibility of the timber, thus facilitating exploitation on sound lines. Even more valuable is the use of air patrols for noting forest fires, and of air transport in carrying crews and equipment for extinguishing the fires. In Ontario alone during the year 1929 more than three hundred fires were thus detected. Aircraft are also used in combating insect and other pests. These attempts are still in an experimental stage, but the results so far are promising. Areas of fir and spruce affected by spruce budworm and of hemlock and balsam affected by hemlock looper have been dusted with calcium arsenate from the air. The method is certainly cheap and fairly thorough. Experiments in Manitoba have shown the effectiveness of dusting wheat with sulphur in order to fight the destructive wheat stem rust. Aircraft are also being used to expose spore traps, in an endeavour to determine the spread of wheat rust and white pine blister rust.

#### Quantity of Matter in the Universe.

IN the discussions taking place at the present time on the structure of the universe, the amount of matter distributed throughout the whole of space is determined by calculating the total mass of existing protons and electrons. In all the celestial bodies revealed by the means of observation yet available, the whole number of these corpuscles is found to be  $10^{79}$ . All other hypotheses must, therefore, be based on this figure and on the dimensions of the radius of the universe. In a note by Prof. Gianfranceschi, broadcast from the Vatican on Nov. 26, it was pointed out that limitation of the consideration of this question to that of the matter constituting the corpuscles is scarcely justifiable. Protons and electrons represent a special, but not the original, form of matter. They exert forces of attraction and repulsion originating in their character as electrified corpuscles and in their masses, that is, in measurable magnitudes. The possibility of the transformation and formation of the corpuscles must, however, be assumed. In considering such changes, not merely the energy variations but also the inertia must be taken into account, and any theory of the universe which may be formulated, whether static or dynamic, should be based on these



active and passive principles jointly. The curvature of space is not produced solely either by the visible masses, which must be regarded as singular points of space, or by the energy transported in the form of photons, which in their turn can constitute only lines of singularity, but it must exist in a kind of background or support, filling the universe and composing real physical space. Thus it becomes necessary to be able to express the contribution of this real space, with its twofold element of energy and primordial inertia, to the geometrical scheme of the universe.

#### Flutter of Aeroplane Wings.

IN 1928 a monograph on the "Flutter of Aeroplane Wings", by Messrs. R. A. Frazer and W. J. Duncan, was produced at the National Physical Laboratory, summarising in a single useful volume the work that had been done by them on that subject up to that time. Since that period this work has been continued, while the associated problem of tail flutter in aeroplanes has also been the subject of study. A new volume has now been produced under the comprehensive title of "The Flutter of Monoplanes, Biplanes, and Tail Units" (Air Ministry : Aeronautical Research Committee. Reports and Memoranda, No. 1255 (Ae. 404) : The Flutter of Monoplanes, Biplanes, and Tail Units (a sequel to R. and M. 1155). By R. A. Frazer and Dr. W. J. Duncan. Pp. viii + 179 + 12 plates. (London : H.M. Stationery Office, 1931, 7s. 6d. net)), embodying results that have already been issued from time to time on wing and tail flutter under one cover. The subject is well illustrated by cinematograph pictures of some simple experiments designed to show the various types of flutter that may arise in practice, and the nature of the dynamical problems they expose. While much of the work is of a mathematical complexion, recommendations are included regarding the design of tail units and of biplane wings that should be exceedingly useful to designers. Altogether the monograph is a comprehensive record of a valuable series of investigations. It is understood that the subject of airscrew flutter, which has been under study for some time, will be produced in due course as a separate report.

#### Lead Content of Rocks

PROF. ARTHUR HOLMES points out that there is a serious discrepancy between the data for lead in rocks (*a*) as given by Prof. Hevesy and Dr. Hobbie and (*b*) as cited by him in the letters on this subject which appeared in NATURE of Dec. 19, 1931. The latter figures (under Pb on p. 1040) refer to the preliminary results obtained by the gravimetric method, whereas those announced on p. 1039 are the final results obtained by the use of the radioactive indicator method. Both sets of figures will appear in a forthcoming detailed record of the investigation. It appears that Prof. Hevesy substituted the final results for the preliminary figures after Prof. Holmes had passed the proofs of his own letter. The effect of the corrections, however, is to emphasise the validity of the conclusions based on the original figures. It now appears that in the composite sample of granitic rocks the

total lead is eight (not five) times the radioactively generated lead. Thus, if the atomic weight of the lead originally present in the earth be taken as 207.22, that of the lead now present in granitic rocks should be about 207.19. Actual determinations on ore-lead correspond very closely with these figures.

#### Prof. Alexis Saposhnikoff.

NEWS has been received that Prof. Alexis Saposhnikoff, the well-known Russian chemist, who, as recorded in NATURE of April 25, 1931, was arrested about a year ago and condemned to ten years' deportation, has had his sentence so far ameliorated that he is transferred daily to the 'Technical Bureau' under guard, where he works without pay, returning to prison in Leningrad at night. An escaped prisoner reports that he was confined with the "old Prof. Saposhnikoff. Frequently he gave us lectures on poison gas. He spoke well but I did not understand much. Prof. Saposhnikoff had been in prison for a year. The Interrogatories of the OGPU took place between eleven and three o'clock. Prof. Saposhnikoff was often disturbed and returned always very anxious. He and others had their food in the common canteen. Nothing was brought to them from outside, and visits were prohibited. It was like being in a tomb."

#### Announcements.

THE Astronomical Society of the Pacific has awarded its Catherine Wolfe Bruce Gold Medal for the year 1932, "for distinguished services to Astronomy", to Dr. J. S. Plaskett, director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, Victoria, B.C.

It is announced by the Johannesburg correspondent of the *Times* that fire broke out in the main building of the University of the Witwatersrand on Dec. 24, destroying the Gubbins Library and Mrs. Hoernlé's ethnological collections, the Leonard Memorial Law Library, and a natural history collection. The damage to the building is estimated at £20,000.

It is announced by Science Service that Mr. Frederick Hodge has been appointed director of the South-west Museum, Los Angeles, California. Mr. Hodge is well known for his work on ethnology, having conducted several expeditions in order to study American Indian tribes. He was formerly editor of the *American Anthropologist* and of the "Handbook of American Indians", and in 1916 he was president of the American Anthropological Association.

At the meeting of the London Mathematical Society on Jan. 14, there will be a discussion on "Generalisations of Fourier's Integral". The discussion will be opened by Dr. Norbert Wiener, of Massachusetts, and Prof. G. H. Hardy, Prof. E. C. Titchmarsh, and Prof. G. N. Watson, among others, will take part in it. At the meeting on Feb. 4, Mr. M. H. A. Newman will deliver a lecture on "Topological Methods in the Theory of Continuous Groups". Members of other scientific societies who may be interested are invited to attend these meetings, which take place at 5 o'clock at Burlington House.



## Letters to the Editor.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, nor to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts intended for this or any other part of NATURE. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.]

### Examination of Protein Films.

THE simplest types of molecular architecture are to be found in materials in the form of films. The examination of films of protein materials is attended with many difficulties, absent in the case of simpler organic substances like the fatty acids.

Whilst the long chain organic compounds containing polar groups can readily be converted into the state of uniform unimolecular films on liquid surfaces on account of their solubility in volatile non-polar solvents, this method is not available for proteins. The method of dispersing the protein in alkaline or acid solutions and spreading the dispersion on a water surface was adopted by Gorter and Grendel, who with the aid of a Langmuir trough obtained a series of interesting measurements on the force-area curves of various proteins. Optical ultra-microscopic examination of such films by Zocher and Stiebel revealed that, except in a few cases, for example, haemoglobin and casein on strongly acid solutions, protein films spread in this manner were not uniform, whilst the magnitude of the mean limiting thickness obtained, 9-10 Å., indicates either that films obtained in this manner even when uniform must be in a relatively close packed state or that part of the protein must have disappeared into the bulk phase. Denatured protein films alone appear to be formed from disperse solutions by the operation of the forces of surface tension; a somewhat lengthy procedure.

We have found it possible to spread a number of proteins such as egg albumen, gliadin, and glutenin in the form of highly disperse uniform films on the surface of water in the following manner: a thin quartz fibre which may for convenience serve as the arm of a microbalance is coated with pure paraffin wax of relatively low melting point. The surface of the wax is lightly dusted with the powdered protein. The protein is then rendered slightly moist by holding the fibre over steam until the increase in weight is some ten per cent of the weight of protein present. On touching a water surface with the fibre tip the protein spreads relatively slowly and apparently quite uniformly over the surface. The microbalance is readily calibrated by spreading myristic acid from the fibre, for both the force-area curves as well as the potential-area curves are well established for this material.

Some proteins, for example, keratin and the xerogel of gelatine, cannot be spread in this manner, and, indeed, unimolecular films of this latter protein do not appear attainable on water surfaces owing to the readiness with which the gelatine undergoes dispersion in the bulk phase. We have examined a number of such films with the aid of a Langmuir trough and, as was to be anticipated, their properties are distinct from the thicker films examined by Gorter and Grendel. In the case of gliadin, for example, a homogeneous film exerting a perceptible surface pressure is obtained with a surface concentration of  $0.36 \times 10^{-7}$  gm./cm.<sup>2</sup>. On compression a linear force-area curve is obtained up to a surface concentration of about  $0.7 \times 10^{-7}$  gm./cm.<sup>2</sup>. The form of the curve is altered by alteration of the acidity of the substrate. At higher compressions the film, originally fluid, under-

goes transition to a gel-like film. Over a limited range of pressure at least, this transformation appears to be reversible. The 'gel' form is curiously elastic, and the protein in this form may be related to that which, in the bulk phase, is generally described as denatured.

Examination of aqueous protein systems by the method of surface potentials gives us information even more complete than that obtainable from data on the force-area characteristics. It is found, for example, that no change takes place in the magnitude of the vertical component of the electric moments of the polar groups comprising the film material until the two-dimensional sol gel transition sets in; an indication that this latter form is associated with some type of interaction of the polar groups in adjacent polypeptide chains. A study of the three-dimensional gels of gelatine by this method reveals the fact that the surface phase has a different setting point from that of the bulk phase and is essentially lyophobic in character, but the spreading of fatty acids over sols can readily be followed. The change in the air-liquid potential occurring on the tryptic digestion of an albumen film on a water surface by means of trypsin in the substrate is relatively large, about 75 mv., and permits of closer analysis of such chemical reactions occurring at interfaces.

The dependence of the rate of tryptic digestion in a bulk phase on the acidity of the environment is likewise to be observed in the surface reaction, but with phosphate buffer solutions there appears to be a shift towards the acid side of about 1 pH in the optimum acidity. The characteristic curve of the reaction of trypsin and egg albumen shows that the digestion of the albumen apparently takes place in stages and that an inhibition of the reaction can occur by means of an addition of small quantities of already digested albumen solutions. The digestion of egg albumen by pepsin reveals a simpler mechanism and no final solution of the egg albumen film takes place.

Preliminary investigation holds out some promise of obtaining more precise information both as to the constitution and reactions—general and specific—of protein films by these methods.

ARTHUR HUGHES.  
J. SCHULMAN.  
ERIC K. RIDEAL.

### Absolute Values of X-Ray Wave-lengths and the Fundamental Atomic Constants.

THE wave-lengths of the X-ray spectra are now known with a considerable degree of accuracy (in favourable cases to at least 1 in 100,000). But this means only that the ratio between the wave-lengths and a certain distance within a crystal lattice (for example, the distance between the atomic layers parallel to the cleavage faces of calcite) is measurable with this accuracy. The computation of the dimensions of the crystal lattice from the data involved (electronic charge, density of the crystal, and so on) give the absolute value of the atomic distance with only moderate accuracy (say 3 in 1000). It has therefore been necessary to fix an arbitrary value for the atomic distance in question and thereby for the scale of the X-ray wave-lengths, the *X units*. The agreement between this scale and the C.G.S. units is for this reason ascertained only within the last-mentioned limit. On the other hand, if we were able to fix the scale of the *X units* in centimetres, this gives us a possibility of determining in absolute values the atomic distances and, indirectly, the other fundamental constants (for example, the electronic charge).



A very direct method of determining the X unit in absolute value (centimetres) is to register on the same plate, and with the same spectroscopic outfit, some X-ray spectral lines which have been measured with crystal gratings, and some lines of ordinary spectra the wave-lengths of which are known in angstrom units ( $10^{-8}$  cm.).

For this purpose only spectral lines of very short wave-lengths of the same order of magnitude as the X-ray lines (less than 100 Å.) can be used. From researches carried out in this laboratory on the spark spectra in the extreme ultra-violet of highly ionised atoms, a number of such lines are now available and may be used for the purpose. Independently of these lines, which have been measured in higher orders by comparison with well-known lines, there is also a second method available; namely, to use lines of short wave-length the value of which can be calculated theoretically for simply built atoms.

The hydrogen-like atoms of the lowest elements may be used with confidence for this purpose. Through the researches in this laboratory, the Lyman series, formerly known for H and He, has been found for the next elements<sup>1</sup> Li III, Be IV, and B V. The wave-lengths of the first member ( $1^2S-2^2P$ ) are respectively: Li III: 135.01; Be IV: 75.94; B V: 48.585 Å.

The accompanying spectrogram (Fig. 1) shows,

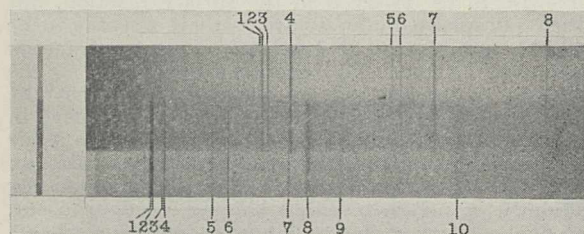


FIG. 1.—Above, spark spectrum of carbon; below, X-ray spectrum of copper and carbon.

#### KEY TO LINES.

Upper Spectrum: Wave-lengths in Angstrom Units.			Lower Spectrum: Wave-lengths in X Units $\times 10^3$ .		
1	C V: $1^1S-4^1P$		1	Cu $L\beta$	13.00
2	C VI: $1^2S-2^2P$	33.740	2	Cu $L\alpha$	13.31
3	C V: $1^1S-3^1P$	34.97	3	Cu $L\eta$	14.87
4	C V: $1^1S-2^1P$	40.28	4	Cu $L\zeta$	15.26
5		$2 \times 33.717$	5	O $K\alpha$	23.56
6		$2 \times 34.97$	6	Cu $L\alpha$ II	$2 \times 13.31$
7		$2 \times 40.28$	7	Cu $L\alpha$ III	$3 \times 13.31$
8		$3 \times 40.28$	8	C $K\alpha$	44.50
			9	Cu $L\alpha$ IV	$4 \times 13.31$
			10	C $K\alpha$ II	$2 \times 44.50$

below, a number of X-ray lines the wave-lengths of which are known on the X unit scale. Above is registered a spark-spectrum of carbon with wave-lengths covering the same region. These lines belong to carbon atoms with one and two electrons (C VI and C V). Their values are now known in angstrom units. The first line of the Lyman series of carbon (C VI), which is seen as a strong line on the spectrogram, may be calculated from the hydrogen atom model with more than sufficient accuracy (as  $33.740 \times 10^{-8}$  cm.). With the aid of all these lines in different orders it will be possible to establish the relation between the X unit and the angstrom unit (or the centimetre).

The spectrogram shown was taken with the spectrometer described by Siegbahn and Magnusson,<sup>2</sup> using a small plane-grating with 600 lines, the ruled surface

being 1 mm. in width. Before giving definite values we wish to make exposures under varied conditions and using different gratings.

MANNE SIEGBAHN.  
MARTIN SÖDERMAN.

Uppsala Physical Laboratory,  
Nov. 17.

<sup>1</sup> Edlén, NATURE, 125, 233, Feb. 15, 1930; 127, 405, March 14, 1931.  
Siegbahn u. Magnusson, Zeit. für Phys., 62, 435; 1930.

#### Experimental Proof of the Spin of the Photon.

In a paper under this title which has recently appeared,<sup>1</sup> we have described and discussed observations which have led us to the conclusion that the light quantum possesses an intrinsic spin equal to one Bohr unit of angular momentum. In the four weeks which have elapsed since that paper was put into print, the experimental technique has been much improved in the direction of attaining greater precision. It appears desirable forthwith to report our newer results, which confirm the conclusion stated above.

As mentioned in earlier communications,<sup>2</sup> the experiment we set before ourselves was to determine the extent to which the depolarisation of Rayleigh scattering of monochromatic light is diminished when it is spectroscopically separated from the scattering of altered frequency arising from the molecular rotation in a fluid. An important improvement on our previous arrangements is the use of a pointolite mercury arc, which enables an intense beam of monochromatic light to be obtained which is rigorously transverse to the direction of observation. In the case of the feeble scattering by gases, a serious source of error is the parasitic illumination from the walls of the containing vessel. We have succeeded in eliminating this by using the gas under pressure in a steel cross with suitable arrangements for securing a dark background. The depolarisation of the scattered light is determined photographically with a spectrograph and a large nicol placed in front of the slit. The use of Schwarzschild's formula for photographic blackening enables the ratio of the horizontal and vertical components of scattered light to be calculated from the times of exposure in the two positions of the nicol which give equal densities in the spectra.

Using alternately a fine slit and a very broad slit on the spectrograph, the depolarisations of the Rayleigh scattering and of the total scattering respectively are determined. The following table gives the values for the case of oxygen, carbon dioxide, and nitrous oxide gases under pressure.

TABLE: DEPOLARISATION PER CENT.

Gas.	Observed.		Calculated.	
	Total Scattering.	Rayleigh Scattering.	Kramers-Heisenberg Theory.	Spin Theory.
O <sub>2</sub>	6.5	4.1	1.7	4.2
CO <sub>2</sub>	10.3	6.3	2.8	6.7
N <sub>2</sub> O	12.0	7.7	3.4	7.9

The depolarisations of the total scattering given in column 1 thus found spectroscopically are in good agreement with the best accepted values determined by other methods. Column 2 gives the observed depolarisations of the Rayleigh scattering, column 3 the values calculated from the Kramers-Heisenberg dispersion theory, and column 4 the values calculated from the theory of the spinning



photons discussed in our paper. It will be seen that the values given by the latter are strikingly supported by the experimental results.

C. V. RAMAN.  
S. BHAGAVANTAM.

210 Bowbazar Street,  
Calcutta, India,  
Nov. 29.

<sup>1</sup> *Ind. Jour. Phys.*, vol. 6, p. 353, Oct. 1931.  
<sup>2</sup> *NATURE*, 123, pp. 576 and 727; 1931.

### Wave-length of the Green Auroral Line Determined by the Interferometer.

SOME years ago Babcock<sup>1</sup> gave results of accurate measurements with an interferometer method of the green line which appears in the light from the night sky. We have reason to believe that this line is identical with the strong green line appearing in the auroral spectrum; but on account of the great interest attached to this line it will be of importance to measure accurately the wave-length of the green line from the aurora itself in order to settle the question as to the identity of the two lines.

As I mentioned in a report at the Congress of the Geophysical Union at Stockholm, I was preparing for such investigations to be carried out at the Northlight Observatory at Tromsø, recently built by grants from the International Education Board founded by Rockefeller.

The apparatus used consists of a Fabry-Perot etalon placed in front of the lens of a camera. Two silver-coated quartz etalons—about 2.5 and 5 mm. thick—

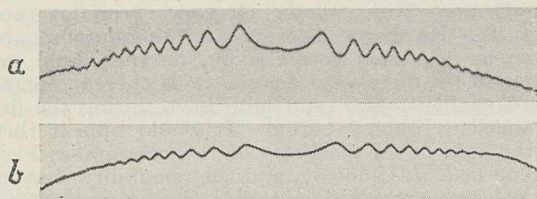


FIG. 1.

were made by Messrs. Adam Hilger, Ltd., London. Their optical thickness was measured by the National Physical Laboratory. The camera lens was an Ereman anastigmat of focal distance 10.5 cm. and of high light power  $F$ , 1:1.8. The part of the light having a wave-length shorter than about 5200 Å. was removed by a Wratten filter placed in front of the etalon. The whole apparatus was put into an isolated box, where the temperature could be measured and kept fairly constant.

Recently two exposures of interference fringes of the auroral line were made with the 2.5 mm. etalon at the Tromsø Observatory, one on Sept. 14 and the second on Oct. 29. Both exposures showed a large number of fringes (on the original plate 18-20 could be counted), and no sign of doubling or dissymmetry of the line was to be seen. The neon line 5852-488 Å. was used for comparison.

During the first exposures the regulation and measurements of the temperature were not satisfactory. During the exposures of Oct. 29, however, the temperature in the box on both sides of the etalon was measured at regular intervals.

Diagrams of the interference fringes corresponding to the exposures of Oct. 29 and obtained with a Moll microphotometer are shown in Fig. 1. The curves (a) and (b) correspond to the auroral line and the neon line respectively.

Details regarding standardisation of the plates and

methods of calculation will be given in a subsequent paper. I will state here merely the results from the observations of Oct. 29, which may be considered as satisfactory.

The wave-length was calculated in the following two ways:

(1) The vacuum wave-length is found from the equation

$$\lambda_N = \frac{2e\mu}{P_N} \quad (1)$$

where  $\mu$  is the refractive index and  $e$  the thickness of the etalon reduced to the temperature of observation,  $P_N$  is the order number for the centre of the auroral line ring-system. The true temperature was found by means of the neon line fringes.

(2) The comparison line was used directly and the wave-length found by means of the equation

$$\lambda_N = \frac{P_{0N}}{P_{N\mu_0}} \lambda_0 (1 + \epsilon) \quad (2)$$

where  $P_0$ ,  $\mu_0$ ,  $\lambda_0$  are order number, refractive index, and wave-length corresponding to the comparison line,  $\epsilon$  is a small correction due to difference of temperature of the etalon at the exposure of the auroral line and that of the neon line. This temperature difference was measured directly.

Calculation according to (1) gave for the wave-length of the auroral line

$$\lambda = 5577.340 \text{ Å. (I.U.).}$$

The second method gave

$$\lambda = 5577.345 \text{ Å. (I.U.).}$$

The main error in our experiments is due to uncertainty in the temperature measurements, but should not exceed 0.01 Å. We are improving our arrangements so as to obtain a higher constancy of temperature.

As an average of his measurements, Babcock found  $\lambda = 5577.350$ . Thus, within the limit of error, the green line of the aurora is identical with that of the night sky luminescence.

L. VEGARD.

Oslo, Nov. 17.

<sup>1</sup> *Astrophys. Jour.*, 57; 1923.

### Some Effects of Turbulent Pressure.

In a recent paper Ertel<sup>1</sup> has shown, at some length, that turbulent motion in the atmosphere reduces the pressure, recorded by a barometer, by  $\rho w'^2$  dynes/cm.<sup>2</sup>, where  $\rho$  is the density of the air and  $w'$  is the vertical component of the turbulent velocity. This result we can get quite simply from analogy with the kinetic theory of gases, as pointed out by McCrea.<sup>2</sup> Ertel estimates that a mean wind-speed near the ground of 10 m./sec. would lower the local pressure by 0.08 mb.; a calculation from the observations of Scrase<sup>3</sup> gives results of the same order.

It seems unnecessary that there should be equipartition of eddying energy in the three directions,  $Ox$  down-wind,  $Oy$  across, and  $Oz$  vertical; this, in fact, is shown from the observations of Scrase on pages 6 and 12 of the paper quoted. Considering in a general way the manner of formation of the eddies by friction at the earth's surface, one would suppose that the  $u'$  and  $w'$  components of the eddying motion would be of larger order than the  $v'$  (cross-wind) component, especially in observations taken over a short period, like one minute; but Scrase shows that the  $v'$  component is 30-50 per cent greater than the  $w'$ , particularly near the ground (1.5 metres).

Now consider two points  $P$  and  $Q$  at the same level and at, for example, 100 metres from one another across wind; then the surface 'roughness' at  $P$  and



$Q$  may well be different: or the immediate past history of the air: or  $P$  and  $Q$  may differ in height from the ground by perhaps 5-10 metres in undulating country. Any of these effects will cause a difference between the values of  $w'^2$  at  $P$  and  $Q$ . But a difference of 0.001 mb. in pressure over a distance of 100 metres in latitude  $55^\circ$  requires an air-flow of about 8 m./sec. for stability. So the only way to avoid, may be violent, readjustments is for the horizontal components of the turbulent energy to differ between  $P$  and  $Q$  by the same amount as the vertical components. This gives us at once that, for a steady state, the horizontal contributions to the eddy-energy at any point must differ from the vertical by an amount which is constant over a wide horizontal area.

When the mean wind velocity or vertical temperature gradients are varying every few minutes it will take time for the turbulent energy over some distance to readjust itself; this may account for the components of turbulent velocity measured by the standard autographic instruments being about three times as great, for the same mean wind-velocity, as those obtained from a light sensitive vane (Sclase, loc. cit.). On a larger scale this readjustment is very likely a cause of the 'wind-swinging' described in a letter by Johnson<sup>4</sup> some years ago; he says that it is accompanied by microbarograph oscillations of the order of 0.05 mb, with a period of 6-8 minutes.

This also has some bearing on the turbulent motion of liquid between two coaxial vertical rotating cylinders. Taylor<sup>5</sup> has studied this problem. The work of earlier experimenters showed him that the turbulence could not be two-dimensional; he calculated the disturbance, if restricted to symmetry about the axis of rotation, and verified his calculations by experiment. But why should there never be two-dimensional turbulence? Ertel's result may show us. With the usual cylindrical co-ordinates,  $r$ ,  $\theta$ ,  $z$ , two-dimensional disturbances would be in  $r$  and  $\theta$  only; this would reduce the mean static pressure at the level,  $z_0$ , considered; but as the average depth of the liquid is not changed, vertical, or  $z$ -, disturbances must occur at the same time as the  $r$ - and  $\theta$ -disturbances in order to support the liquid above  $z_0$ . Two-dimensional turbulence is thus not possible in the motion of liquid between a pair of vertical coaxial rotating cylinders.

O. F. T. ROBERTS.

University of Aberdeen,

Nov. 27.

<sup>1</sup> Met. Zeit., 47, p. 22; 1930.

<sup>2</sup> M.N.R.A.S., 89, p. 721; 1929.

<sup>3</sup> M.O. Geophysical Memoirs, No. 52.

<sup>4</sup> NATURE, 115, 263; 1925.

<sup>5</sup> Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc., A, 223, p. 289; 1922.

### *Deinotherium* in the Pleistocene.

THE discovery made by the East African Archaeological Expedition on Nov. 17 last, announced in the *Times* of Dec. 3 (see also NATURE, Dec. 12, p. 995, and Dec. 26, p. 1075), of *Deinotherium* remains in implementiferous Pleistocene deposits is extremely important. It is, however, not quite the first of its kind, for M. Delpierre, a Belgian geologist who had been working on the sediments of the Albertine rift near Ngeti, told me, a year or two ago, that he had discovered *Deinotherium* teeth and bones in beds which, on other evidence, he was convinced are of Pleistocene date. He affirmed, too, that these most unexpected fossils were not derived.

Now, at Kurungu in South Kavirondo, Kenya Colony, on Lake Victoria, there is a series of fossiliferous sediments, made known to geologists by the researches of Dr. Felix Oswald, which largely, though not entirely, because they yield *Deinotherium*, are

regarded as Miocene, in spite of the fact that the contained Mollusca are all living species. In January 1930, I discovered large developments of these beds farther north, on Rusinga Island and on the mainland near it. The strata are there interbedded with lavas and volcanic tuffs which might well prove valuable for dating purposes over a limited area. Lying on these sediments I found a crude *coup de poing* which, judging from the appearance of its surface, seemed to have been derived from the underlying beds; but as these were to be dated as Miocene, I considered any such derivation impossible, and so regarded the artefact as a purely surface find and of little consequence. The Oldoway discovery, however, would seem to render the alternative explanation possible.

A study of the map is sufficient to show, apart from indisputable geological evidence, that Lake Victoria, with its drowned coastline and reversed feeders, is younger than the main river channels, the upper courses of which are submerged beneath it. Yet on the Kavirondo evidence, part of it at least dates back to the Miocene. Clearly, then, a difficulty would be solved if the deposits at Kurungu and Rusinga could be regarded as, say, Plio-Pleistocene, or lower to middle Pleistocene, and laid down, in part at any rate, during the first pluvial period—I long ago pointed out that if anybody wanted a pluvial period in the Miocene, the Kurungu could provide the necessary evidence—and from what has been said above, this interpretation is seen to be no longer out of the question. But there is more. Controversy has arisen between Prof. J. W. Gregory and the East African Archaeological Expedition (1926-27 and 1928-29) concerning the age of the Kamasian beds in the Eastern Rift valley; Gregory correlates these with the Karungu deposits, and therefore regards them as Miocene; but Leakey, on the sound evidence of the discovery of stone tools therein, regards them as Pleistocene and laid down during the first (Kamasian) pluvial period. It would appear then, in the light of the discovery of *Deinotherium* in Pleistocene beds at Oldoway, and the possibility that my *coup de poing* was derived from beds of Karungu date, that Gregory's correlation is not unsound, as Leakey thought, and that the artefacts were in the Kamasian beds, which Gregory disputed. (In this connexion see NATURE, Dec. 19, p. 1019.) Moreover, if this contention is admitted, another riddle in the history of Lake Victoria is satisfactorily solved.

E. J. WAYLAND.

15 Westcliff Terrace Mansions,  
Ramsgate, Dec. 10.

### Ether-Drift and Gravity.

It is well known that, by means of electrodynamic experiments, no one has yet succeeded in ascertaining the cosmic movement of the earth, which, particularly in relation to the spiral nebulae, amounts to very high velocities. Apart from the still incompletely explained results obtained by Miller, which, from the work of Joos, should undoubtedly be considered as perturbations, Courvoisier at Potsdam and Esclançon at Strasbourg recently got positive results. These are interpreted by Courvoisier as indicating a Lorentz-contraction of the earth, in consequence of a movement of the earth towards the light-ether with a speed of 750 km./sec. and with an apex at  $A = 60^\circ$ ;  $D = 40^\circ$ . In 1926 one of us (R. T.) demonstrated—by means of a very much refined repetition of Trouton's and Noble's experiments—that such a Lorentz-contraction is not obtainable electrodynamically; although 1/2,000,000 of the effect asserted by Courvoisier must have been detected in this way.



As to the existence of the periodic variations of gravity, which Courvoisier observed to be of the order  $dg/g = 3 \cdot 6 \times 10^{-6}$ , the problem is different. Up to the present we have so little experimental knowledge about gravity that such alterations through cosmic movement of the earth, which undoubtedly exists, cannot be ruled out as impossible.

For these reasons we have tried to study the tidal variations of gravity with all the exactness attainable. We succeeded in increasing the sensitivity and, above all, in reducing the perturbations to such a degree that we are now able to give certain proof of periodic variations of gravity of the order  $dg/g = 10^{-8}$ . We used a bifilar gravimeter which, by suitable choice of dimensions, could be made so sensitive as to record a variation of gravity of  $10^{-7}g$  by a deflexion of about 2.3 mm. In order to prevent the apparatus from being disturbed by changes of atmospheric pressure and humidity, it was sealed up hermetically. In order to avoid vibrations of the ground, it was erected 20 m. inside a mountain, in a special room about 25 m. below the surface. Registration as well as exact adjustment was done from another room equally isolated. Thus the constancy of temperature during a measuring period of two to three days in each special case amounted to  $1/1000^\circ$ .

Even in the unreduced curves the results obtained did not show any greater variations than about  $2.3 \times 10^{-7}$ , as the order of the tide-effects of the sun and the moon.

Adjusting the curves to sidereal time, during the period of observation up to the present time (7 weeks), it appears that any cosmic influence on gravity cannot exceed the order of about  $10^{-8}g$ . Therefore the variation of gravity asserted by Courvoisier of about  $10^{-6}g$  in consequence of the cosmic movement of the earth does not exist.

On account of their geophysical interest the experiments are to be continued with further improvements.

R. TOMASCHKE.  
W. SCHAFFERNICHT.

Physical Laboratory of the University,  
Marburg/Lahn, Dec. 1.

#### Artefacts of Upper Palæolithic Facies from Coombe Deposits underlying the Gravels of the Flood Plain.

I HAVE lately recorded in these columns<sup>1</sup> the occurrence, south of the Thames, of a 'floor' yielding flint implements of Upper Palæolithic types and fragments of coarse pottery inter-stratified between Coombe Deposits. The relation of these Coombe Deposits to the Gravels of the Flood Plain has been clearly demonstrated, north of the Thames, by the officers of the Geological Survey.<sup>2</sup> For there the Flood Plain Gravels may be seen overlying the Coombe Deposits; the latter, as at Greenhithe, consisting, in ascending order, of Coombe Rock, coarse gravel, brickearth, and stony loam containing 'rafts' of Coombe Rock.

I am now able to report that this brickearth or 'sandy loam' yields artefacts presenting the same characteristics as do those from the brickearth at Greenhithe.

It is generally accepted that the Magdalenian horizon occurs resting upon the surface of the Flood Plain Gravels, whilst the Solutrian level immediately underlies them;<sup>3</sup> so that on stratigraphical evidence the Greenhithe series must belong to a period even more remote, that is, Aurignacian-Upper Mousterian times.

Through the good offices of the managing director of the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers Co.,

Ltd., I am conducting an examination of the deposits in question, and the results obtained will be fully published in due course. J. P. T. BURCHELL.

30 Southwick Street,  
Hyde Park, W.2, Nov. 27.

<sup>1</sup> NATURE, 128, 548, Sept. 26, 1931; 128, 909, Nov. 28, 1931.

<sup>2</sup> Mem. Geol. Survey, 1924, Dartford, pp. 107 and 109.

<sup>3</sup> Moir, J. Reid, Proc. Prehist. Soc. E. Anglia, 6, 200; 1930.

#### Diamagnetism of Liquid Mixtures.

AN investigation of binary mixtures of diamagnetic substances (one of the substances being water) made in this laboratory has shown a small but definite departure from additivity. The measurements are made with an improved Curie-Cheneveau magnetic balance.<sup>1</sup> In view of the controversy concerning chloroform-acetone mixtures, it has been of interest to examine this system.

The susceptibility-concentration curve is not straight, but any departure from additivity is small—unlike that found by Trew and Spencer.<sup>2</sup> The curve is of the same type as found by Buchner<sup>3</sup> for alcohol-carbon disulphide. There is a flat maximum at equimolecular proportions of the two substances, which shows the diamagnetic susceptibility at this point to be 3.4 per cent higher than additivity. The two minima on the curve show a departure from additivity of the same order. An interesting point is that at the two ends of the curve there is a slight rise in diamagnetism, showing, possibly, molecular dissociation when a small quantity of one liquid is added to the other. The departure from additivity is of the same order, three per cent, as that recorded by Ranganadham,<sup>4</sup> and slightly greater than the two per cent recorded by Buchner.<sup>5</sup>

Trifonov<sup>6</sup> has described a curve for chloroform-acetone concave towards the abscissæ. The values found here for the susceptibility of the pure substances are in agreement with other investigators,  $-0.60 \times 10^{-6}$  for acetone, and  $-0.498 \times 10^{-6}$  for chloroform.

JOHN FARQUHARSON.

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<sup>1</sup> Phil. Mag., 12, 283; 1931.

<sup>2</sup> Proc. Roy. Soc., A, 131, 204; 1931.

<sup>3</sup> Zeit. für Physik, 72, 344; 1931.

<sup>4</sup> NATURE, 127, 975, June 27, 1931.

<sup>5</sup> NATURE, 128, 301, Aug. 22, 1931.

<sup>6</sup> Ann. Inst. Anal. Physico-Chem., Leningrad, 3, 434; 1926.

#### General Expression for Intensity of Hydrogen Lines.

I HAVE obtained a formula for the total intensity of hydrogen lines in the general case of the transition  $n \rightarrow n'$ . The calculation is based on the principles set out in Sommerfeld's "Wave Mechanics" for the determination of intensities.

The corresponding formulæ for the special cases of  $n' = 1$ ,  $n' = 2$  were published some time ago and are as follows:

$$n' = 1 \quad \frac{2^7(n-1)^{2n-1}}{n(n+1)^{2n+1}}$$

$$n' = 2 \quad \frac{2^6(n-2)^{2n-3}}{n(n+2)^{2n+3}}(3n^2-4)(5n^2-4).$$

I have proved that in the general case the total intensity can be expressed in terms of hypergeometric series in the following form:

$$\frac{2^4(n-n')^{2n+2n'-1}}{n^2n'^2(n+n')^{2n+2n'}} \left\{ \left[ F\left(-n+1, -n'; 1; -\frac{4nn'}{(n-n')^2}\right) \right]^2 - \left[ F\left(-n'+1, -n; 1; -\frac{4nn'}{(n-n')^2}\right) \right]^2 \right\}.$$

L. MCLEAN.

69 Gloucester Place, London, W.1, Nov. 15.



## Research Items.

**Jemdet Nasr.**—An account by Mr. Ernest Mackay of the archaeology of Jemdet Nasr, Iraq, excavated by the joint Field Museum—Oxford Expedition, is published as *Anthropological Memoirs*, vol. 1, No. 3, of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago. The site, which is situated about fifteen miles north-east of Kish, has now been identified as the ancient Kid-Nun-(ki). It consists of a chain of mounds running east-north-east by west-south-west, about 850 metres long by 180 metres wide, the largest mound being roughly 360 metres by 180 metres. The pottery and small antiquities point to a close kinship with the lower levels of Susa and Musyan. Thus, the identity or close similarity in the design of seals of unusual or curious type is explicable only as due to a close connexion; resemblances in methods of working vessels of stone, and in the shapes of several types of pottery, point in the same direction. The painted pottery of Jemdet Nasr is probably rather later than that of Musyan and Susa ii.; but, on the other hand, it is earlier than the time of Cemetery A, at Kish. Notwithstanding the absence of burials, the objects found prove the existence of an advanced chalcolithic civilisation in Babylonia at an early period. The system of writing had barely emerged from the pictographic stage, but weaving, fishing, agriculture, and pottery-making, in which the inhabitants excelled, were practised. The brick-making is superior to any other in pre-Sargonic times; but in size and shape the bricks are peculiar, being flat instead of plano-convex. Many objects from the Indus valley resemble those of Jemdet Nasr. It is concluded that the inhabitants were not Sumerian but a people conquered by the Sumerians. Prof. Langdon, however, relying to a certain extent on later evidence, says it is impossible not to regard them as Sumerians. Taking 3500 B.C. as the date of the destruction of Jemdet Nasr by fire, he thinks occupation of the site may go so far back as 4000 B.C.

**Pneumonia on the Rand.**—Pneumonia used to be a formidable disease among the native workers in the Rand mines of South Africa. Following the use of preventive inoculation with pneumococcal vaccine, a marked diminution in the pneumonia incidence resulted. However, we learn from the annual report for 1930 of the South African Institute for Medical Research, that since 1926 this vaccine has apparently been exerting a somewhat lessened influence in preventing the disease, the mortality rate per 1000 population rising from 2.52 in 1926 to 3.60 in 1930. A study of the disease shows that the original strain of infecting pneumococcus, the causative micro-organism, has been largely replaced by other strains against which the original vaccine is less effective, and these new strains are therefore being incorporated in the preventive vaccine. Further, in a large proportion of the cases the pneumococcus is no longer the principal infecting agent, various other micro-organisms taking its place.

**Antlers of Deer.**—In a new analysis of the weights of the antlers and the bodies of various species of deer, Prof. Julian Huxley carries further the comparison which he began in a former paper (*Proc. Zool. Soc.*, p. 820; 1931). In the mass, the 527 adult examples of red deer show that antler-weight bears to body-weight a constant relationship, which includes a steady relative increase in the weight of the antlers. Although a close analysis of individuals, grouped according to the regions of their origin, does not support this result, probably because the examples are extreme, it is confirmed by an examination of regional groups

as a whole. On the other hand, roe deer definitely show a reverse correlation, for in them, judging from 405 wild adult individuals, relative antler-weight decreases with increasing body-weight. When we turn to New Zealand red deer, originally imported from Great Britain, we find exceptionally high relative antler-weights associated with exceptionally heavy body-weights, the former due to the latter, and the latter due to a particularly favourable environment. It seems probable, therefore, that diagnoses of species or sub-species of deer based upon absolute size or relative size of parts cannot be regarded as valid, until it has been shown that the characters selected as diagnostic are genetic and not direct environmental modifications.

**Morphology of the Insect Abdomen.**—Under the above title, Dr. R. E. Snodgrass of the United States Bureau of Entomology has published an important paper in the *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections* for 1931 (vol. 85, No. 6). It is generally accepted that the insect abdomen consists primarily of twelve segments, the first eleven of which are true somites and the last is the telson. The eighth and ninth segments are the genital segments and bear the gonopods. The genital opening in the female is located, typically, behind the eighth sternum and that of the male behind the ninth. The abdominal appendages of adult and larval insects are serially homologous with the legs and mouth-parts. Each consists of a basis and one or two movable appendicular processes. The basis appears to comprise the coxal and subcoxal regions of a typical appendage. The basis of an abdominal limb usually is incorporated as a plate of the body-wall or united with the sterna. The appendicular processes are very commonly (in the lower insects) the styli or their derivatives, including the clasping organs borne by the male gonopods of the higher insects. The other processes are the gonapophyses. No positive evidence can be adduced from the known facts of anatomy or embryology to establish the homology of either the stylus or gonapophysis. The author inclines to the view that the stylus is the telopodite of the appendage and that the gonapophysis is an endite process of the basis. The main objection to the view that the styli of *Machilis* are the homologues of telopodites is the fact that very similar organs are borne by the thoracic legs. The similarity in the two cases may be misleading, and there seems to be nothing to show that the leg styli are not merely coxal spines resembling in form the abdominal organs bearing the same name.

**Effect of Ultra-Violet Light on Plants.**—The production of a glass which allows the passage of ultra-violet light, and the discovery of the antirachitic properties of foods exposed to such radiations, has quickened interest in the effects of these rays on plant life. Experiments have been carried out by W. E. Tottigham and J. G. Moore (*Journal of Agricultural Research*, 43, p. 133) to compare the development, and to some extent the composition, of twelve species of economic plants grown under ordinary and vita glass, and to determine whether the use of the latter is of any commercial advantage. The heating effects with vita glass, due to its relatively high transparency to infra-red rays, were largely compensated for by ventilation, but it is realised that some of the results obtained may be attributable to increased temperatures. Marquis wheat developed a darker colour and more erect habit under vita glass, and seed production also benefited. Such differences were not found with



all varieties of wheat, however, nor under all seasonal conditions. Maize and tomato attained a larger size, and in the case of tomato produced more succulent fruit under vita glass, but with both species these larger plants were less hardy towards frost. Soy beans showed an increase in reproductive activity, together with earlier maturation, than plants grown under ordinary glass. As regards the rooting of cuttings, the results were somewhat inconclusive, but the balance was slightly in favour of vita glass in the case of chrysanthemums. The lipide content of the dry matter was in many instances higher in the vita glass plants, but alterations in the protein also occurred in some cases. Although practical application of the results from the commercial point of view seems as yet distinctly limited, there are indications that further investigations along these lines may lead to enhancement of the medicinal potency of plants.

**Cultivation of Mushrooms.**—The application of scientific methods to the practice of horticulture proceeds slowly but surely. It is nearly thirty years since the idea of using a pure culture of mushroom spores propagated on sterile manure was introduced. The gardener is now beginning to use it. The introduction of Bulletin No. 34, "Mushroom Growing", by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, is therefore very opportune, especially as it describes the new processes in simple language and compares them with the old. The preparation of mushroom beds, spawning, 'casing', and other treatment are all dealt with fully, and there is a section on harvesting and marketing. Perhaps the most valuable section of the book is that on diseases and pests. The grower and the student have long waited for some authoritative collection of the information about these subjects, and in the book under review the latest work on the Mycogone disease is summarised. A list of the important works on cultivation and diseases is appended, and will be of great value to the advanced grower and the student.

**Termites in the Formation of Spongy Ironstone in Africa.**—Peculiar outcrops of brown ironstone (limonite) of a spongy texture form a feature of the higher regions of Central Africa, particularly of Angola. Livingstone was the first author to direct attention to them so far back as 1857, and white residents in these parts of Africa found them an excellent building material. Dr. Malcolm Burr and Mr. P. S. Nazaroff, who have recently travelled in Angola, came to the conclusion (*Geol. Mag.*, vol. 68, 1931) that the ironstones present nothing else than subfossil remains of termitaria. The process of ferruginisation of termitaria can be observed even now, being independent from the activities of insects themselves, and is clearly a process of deposition of iron from rain water soaked through soil. When nests are near rocks rich in silica, such as quartzose sandstones, an analogous process of silicification occurs, and the old termitaria are converted into a completely silicified but spongy rock.

**Luminous Phenomena accompanying Earthquakes.**—The luminous phenomena of earthquakes have been described as forming the darkest chapter of seismology. Though many writers have been sceptical as to their reality, their existence has been established by Mr. K. Musya, who collected about fifteen hundred observations during the Idu earthquake of Nov. 26, 1930 (*NATURE*, vol. 128, p. 155). Prof. T. Terada has recently studied about forty examples noticed in Japan (*Earthq. Res. Inst. Bull.*, vol. 9, pp. 225-255; 1931). They have indeed been seen with all recent great earthquakes in that country. In the Idu earthquake, they were observed to a distance of 50 miles east of the epicentre, 68 miles north, and 43 miles

west. At some distance, as in Tokyo, the lights were not unlike sheet lightning. The first flash was seen immediately after the first shock, then three or four others followed at intervals of from one to ten seconds, but the duration of each flash was longer than that of sheet lightning. Close to the epicentre, the light assumed more definite forms, in one case of a straight row of round masses. The colour was usually pale blue or white, and, even in Tokyo, the lights were bright enough to illuminate the objects in a room. Prof. Terada concludes that the phenomena are real, and suggests several causes, such as landslides, to which they may be due.

**Spectra of Negative Ions.**—In a paper in the *Zeitschrift für Physik* for Oct. 14, Prof. R. Mecke makes the interesting suggestion that certain band spectra which appear when arcs are run in hydrogen between beryllium or magnesium poles, which had previously been supposed to be emitted from positive ions of the hydrides BeH and MgH, actually come from the negative ions of these compounds. His argument is based on the so-called displacement rule, which applies both to atoms and molecules, and states, for the latter, that molecules which possess the same number of electrons similarly arranged have closely similar spectra. If the bands of magnesium hydride in question were due to the positive ion, they should thus be similar to those of neutral sodium hydride, whereas they are in fact much more like those of neutral aluminium hydride. The beryllium hydride bands likewise resemble those of neutral boron hydride more closely than those of lithium hydride. The evidence presented is so striking that it seems that the only alternative to accepting these spectra as having their origin in molecules which have acquired an extra electron is to reject the displacement rule in relation to molecules. The importance of Prof. Mecke's discovery, if substantiated, is not merely spectroscopic, as it suggests that it may be profitable to investigate the quantum theory and chemical behaviour of negative ions, subjects which have received little attention.

**Crystal Photocells.**—The first November number of the *Physikalische Zeitschrift* contains an article by Prof. W. Schottky on the electrical properties of crystals of cuprous oxide held in contact with a metal. This system can be used either as a rectifier for small alternating currents or as a photoelectric device, but whilst the former effect has been widely employed in crystal detectors, it was not known until quite recently that the contact could be disturbed by illumination, and that a current would flow under the influence of light even without an applied potential difference. As is shown in a number of other papers in this and the following number of the same journal, the effect depends both upon temperature and the frequency of the radiation, and it appears that it is primarily due to properties of the crystal rather than to those of the metal. It is not entirely a contact action, since Prof. Schottky has shown that the active layer of crystal is probably not less than  $1\mu$  in thickness; the large free paths for electrons which this calls for are, however, also required by other crystal phenomena, and can be readily accounted for on the wave mechanics.

**Viscosity of Nitrogen at High Pressure.**—Some measurements of the viscosity of nitrogen are described by A. Michels and R. O. Gibson in the November number of the *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, which show how the properties of the gas approach those of a liquid when the density of the gas is made large compared with its atmospheric value. The measurements were made by the usual method of forcing gas through a capillary tube, but the apparatus was constructed so that it could be used at pressures



up to 1000 atmospheres. The results demonstrate immediately that the gas law (viscosity is independent of pressure) ceases to be valid at a few atmospheres pressure, the value of the viscosity changing by a factor of 2.5 over the whole range considered. Moreover, at pressures above about three hundred atmospheres the viscosity acquires the typical liquid property of increasing with decreasing temperatures if it is considered as a function of the pressure, although it continues to increase with increase in temperature if it is considered as a function of the density. A theory of the viscosity which has been proposed by Enskog can be tested from the results of these experiments, and leads to values for the diameter of the nitrogen molecule which lie consistently between  $2.9 \times 10^{-8}$  cm. and  $3.0 \times 10^{-8}$  cm.

**Crystalline Rubber.**—A short communication from E. W. Washburn in the first November number of the *Physical Review* contains the announcement that a group of workers at the United States Bureau of Standards have succeeded in obtaining a well crystallised hydrocarbon from typically colloidal rubber. This has been accomplished by dissolving purified rubber in a suitable solvent to form a dilute solution, and crystallising it out at rather low temperature. A photomicrograph is shown of some crystals which were grown at  $-55^\circ$  from a 0.05 per cent solution in ether. Their melting point has not yet been fixed definitely, but lies between  $-35^\circ$  and  $0^\circ$  C. The molten product has the appearance of ordinary rubber, and contains hydrogen and carbon with an atomic ratio closely eight to five. It has also been found possible to distil the rubber hydrocarbon, but fractionation by this process is relatively slow.

**Stream Lining in Locomotives and Motor Cars.**—Dr. O. G. Tietjens contributes an interesting paper on stream line locomotive and car design to the fourth quarterly issue for 1931 of the *Westinghouse International*. He is a research engineer to the company, and his experiments on small locomotives and cars, accurate to the minutest detail, bring out very clearly the importance of stream line design. He finds that an electric locomotive travelling at eighty miles an hour requires five times as much power as when travelling at forty miles an hour. Even higher speeds are contemplated because the competition of aeroplanes and motor cars makes high speeds imperative. In the case of a heavy locomotive and two heavy coaches, stream line design saves thirteen per cent of the power at a speed of 35 miles an hour and thirty-two per cent at a speed of 75 miles an hour. It requires 286 horse-power to drive an interurban street car at a speed of 80 miles an hour. Tests made in the Westinghouse wind tunnel indicate that the same type of car constructed with stream line design can be driven at 80 miles an hour with only 140 horse-power. The power required in the latter case is less than one-half that required in the former. A method is shown of converting the modern American tram-car with its blunt ends, sharp corners, and hundreds of air pockets into a stream line car. A new front and a new rear are given to it, the roof is made smooth, the sides are extended downwards, and the recesses for the windows are eliminated. This reduces the wind resistance to one-third its former value. The new styles of high-speed locomotives and cars will probably soon become common, revolutionising the appearance of the car and greatly increasing its economy and efficiency in operation.

### Astronomical Topics.

**Astronomical Phenomena for January.**—Occultation of Pleiades Jan. 18;  $\eta$  Tauri disappears 17<sup>h</sup> 4<sup>m</sup>, reappears 18<sup>h</sup> 3<sup>m</sup>; 27 and 28 Tauri disappear at 17<sup>h</sup> 45<sup>m</sup> and 17<sup>h</sup> 50<sup>m</sup> respectively.

Venus is an evening star, with about five-sixths of the disc illuminated; its meridian passage changes from 14<sup>h</sup> 5<sup>m</sup> to 14<sup>h</sup> 29<sup>m</sup> during the month.

Jupiter is approaching opposition, and is observable for most of the night. Mutual eclipses of the satellites (visible in England) occur on Jan. 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 23, 24: details are given in the B.A.A. Handbook.

Neptune is about  $15^\circ$  east of Jupiter, so it is also observable: it reaches opposition late in February.

Minima of Algol, at convenient hours of observation, occur on Jan. 4, at 22<sup>h</sup> 7<sup>m</sup>; Jan. 7, 19<sup>h</sup> 6<sup>m</sup>; Jan. 27, 21<sup>h</sup> 3<sup>m</sup>; Jan. 30, 18<sup>h</sup> 1<sup>m</sup>. Each eclipse begins about 4.7<sup>h</sup> before these times, and ends 4.7<sup>h</sup> after them. The interval between minima is 2<sup>d</sup> 21<sup>h</sup>.

**Moving Pictures of Celestial Objects.**—When the cinematograph was invented it was seen that it might be especially applied to celestial phenomena. Mr. Maskelyne took a film of the total solar eclipse of 1900, which was exhibited at the Royal Astronomical Society, and the idea has been repeated at some later eclipses, especially at that of 1927.

The University of Michigan has founded an Observatory, known as the McMath-Hulbert Observatory, at Lake Angelus, Michigan, which devotes itself to the production of moving pictures of celestial phenomena. Vol. 4, No. 4, of the *Publications* of the University gives a description of the methods and results. The driving clock of the equatorial has a very accurate electrical control; there are arrangements for varying the speed of the film within large limits, as the objects photographed range from sunspots to faint variable

stars. There are devices for varying the clock drive, and giving motion in declination for films of moving objects such as the moon. These are also available for correcting for the variation of refraction as the altitude changes; some tables for this purpose are given in the report.

The possibilities of the method were well brought out in a film that was exhibited at the Royal Astronomical Society a few years ago, in which Jupiter was shown in rotation, and the approach of a satellite to the planet was also recorded. It would seem that a comet like that of Morehouse of 1908, in which the tail showed rapid changes, would afford a fruitful field for work with the instrument; unfortunately, such comets are rare.

“*Annuaire*” of the Belgrade Observatory for 1932.—This volume is issued by Dr. V. V. Michkovitch, the director of the Observatory, being the fourth of the series. It has the honour of anticipating by a year the British Nautical Almanac in the introduction of the nutation terms of short period in the ephemeris of sidereal time at Greenwich midnight; the time is also given to the third decimal of a second: these changes are consequential on the great improvements in clocks that have been made in recent years. The volume also contains ephemerides, at intervals of ten days, of 189 stars from Eichelberger's standard catalogue; these are not contained in other almanacs, and were calculated at Belgrade. Another feature, which must have been troublesome to compile, is a list of the 169 minor planets discovered between Nov. 2, 1929, and June 30, 1931; the dates and discoverers are given, also the dates of subsequent observations, and indications of those for which orbits have been computed.



## Principles of Field Experimentation.

THE science of field experimentation has developed rapidly during the last decade, and its ever-widening importance justified a Rothamsted conference devoted entirely to its principles and technique.<sup>1</sup> As was only fitting, the first paper was contributed by Dr. R. A. Fisher, who detailed the three principles of modern field experimentation—replication, randomisation, and local control—and showed how these three are necessary in order to reduce, and to give a valid estimate of, the error which must always loom largely in this type of inquiry. Following this, Dr. J. Wishart illustrated the calculations appropriate to randomised blocks and Latin squares, which have proved the most serviceable forms of lay-out.

Later speakers enlarged on a variety of subjects. It is clear from a perusal of the papers that the need is often felt for inquiries carried out at a number of centres simultaneously, so that different conditions of soil and weather may be encountered, and hence that the conclusions may be of general applicability; if each centre adopts the same form of lay-out (though with separate randomisation of treatments) then it is possible to combine all the results in one calculation and attain considerable precision, and still not lose the individuality of the results. Details were given of the methods which experience has shown to be the best for experiments located at a distance from the research station. In these cases a sampling method has proved satisfactory, not only as a means of making developmental studies but also to provide a reliable estimate of the final yield.

Particular cases necessitate special technique. Horticultural experiments introduce difficulty through the longevity of the plants concerned, with the concomitant danger of accident, and the problem of measuring the vigour of the plant. In the case of variety trials, the National Institute of Agricultural Botany still prefers the well-known 'Beaven's half-drill strip' method. The only paper on grass experiments was contributed by Prof. Stapledon, who described the methods adopted at Aberystwyth: he laid much less stress on the statistical adequacy of the technique than on botanical analyses and the problem of how the result should be measured and converted into terms of nutritive value. The papers deal fully

with all the working details, and together they provide a most valuable compendium of experience.

A number of examples of the precision and type of results which may be expected from modern field experiments is contained in the Rothamsted Report for 1930.<sup>2</sup> The majority of problems attacked are manurial ones, and the complex lay-outs used give very detailed information. The response of the crop to two or three plant foods, each in varying amounts, can be tested in one and the same experiment, and, if occasion arises, this can be combined with inquiry into the different forms in which any nutrient can be supplied, or the responses of different varieties of the crop plant.

The reader is soon convinced of the necessity for complex experiments, for it is evident in nearly all cases that incomplete inquiry might give misleading results. As an example, it was found that potatoes only responded appreciably to potash and to large doses of nitrogen when a sufficiency of phosphate was supplied, and that superphosphate provoked more than three times as much response in the presence of plenty of nitrogen and potash as it did in the absence of dressings of these two nutrients. Relations of this type appear again and again, making the conclusions difficult to state in a simple manner: there is always a danger in these intricate cases that the reader may 'miss the wood for the trees', but in general the report is admirably and lucidly expressed.

The height of complexity is reached in two rotation experiments which were initiated in 1930: these will yield results year by year, but for their full completion they need twenty years and thirty years, respectively. The Report also contains a brief description of the work proceeding in the laboratory, and summaries of papers recently published by the staff; it is a valuable volume to workers in agriculture and the allied sciences.

H. G. SANDERS.

<sup>1</sup> "The Technique of Field Experiments": being the Report of a Conference held at Rothamsted on May 7, 1931, under the chairmanship of Sir A. D. Hall; with contributions by Sir A. D. Hall, Sir John Russell, Dr. R. A. Fisher, Dr. J. Wishart, Prof. R. G. Stapledon, S. F. Armstrong, A. H. Lewis, T. N. Hoblyn, H. V. Garner, Dr. J. Watson, T. H. J. Carroll, and others. Pp. 64. (Harpenden: Rothamsted Experimental Station, 1931.) 1s. 6d. net.

<sup>2</sup> Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden: Lawes Agricultural Trust Report for 1930. Pp. 172. (Harpenden: Rothamsted Experimental Station, 1931.) 2s. 6d.

## The Coal Measures of Belgium.

IN several Continental countries the geology of the coal measures has for long received great attention. This is especially true of those coalfields where the rocks are highly disturbed and the interpretation of the geological structure is often a matter of great difficulty.

In Belgium a succession of brilliant workers has applied palaeontological methods to the elucidation of the sequences and structures in the coalfields. Lately this work has been carried out under the direction of Prof. A. Renier, of Brussels, whose contributions to the geology of the Carboniferous of Belgium have been widely known for many years. In a recent memoir, Prof. Renier has summarised the development of these investigations, and has given a concise account of his views concerning the mode of deposition of the rocks and of their correlation, while Prof. Pierre Pruvost, of Lille, has contributed to the memoir a very valuable account of the fauna.\*

\* Considérations sur la stratigraphie du terrain houiller de la Belgique, par Armand Renier; La Faune continentale du terrain houiller de la Belgique, par Pierre Pruvost. *Mém. Mus. Roy. d'Hist. Nat. de Belg.*, No. 44, 1931.

Prof. Renier asserts that in the coal measures of Belgium the floor of every seam is full of the rootlets of *Stigmara*. The plant remains of these fossil soils are of very monotonous aspect, *Stigmara ficoides* being present at every horizon throughout the sequence. Renier emphasises that the tracing and recording of such fossil soils, even when they are, locally, not overlain by coal seams, is of great assistance in the investigation of the strata. This is in marked contrast with the general practice in many mining areas in Britain, where frequently there have been no records of any of the strata passed through excepting the coal seams.

Renier directs attention to the wide lateral extent of many coal seams, while at least one marine bed in the coal measures he recognises in areas so far apart as the Pas de Calais, Holland, and Westphalia. This wide extent of at least some beds in the Upper Carboniferous strongly supports the view that there was at times continuous deposition over wide areas. The views formerly held by some geologists regarding the deposition of the coal measures in small isolated basins,



more or less co-extensive with the present coalfields, receive no support from Renier's work.

In contrast with the uniformity of the floors of the coal seams, the roofs yield extremely varied faunas and floras. These have been examined and recorded with great precision. Renier quotes approvingly the words of Crépin, who laid down two rules for palaeontologists working on the coal measures so long ago as 1878. Palaeontologists, he advised, should never confine their researches to material collected from the rubbish tips of collieries, but should themselves descend the mines and study the Carboniferous vegetation *in situ*; further, they ought not to leave the collecting exclusively to workmen and others ignorant of the science, but to undertake some of the labours themselves.

The neglect of this advice—not only in Belgium—led for many years to serious errors in regard to the palaeontology of the coal measures. Thus, Prof. Renier shows that certain palaeontologists who have studied the coal measures of Belgium since Crépin's time based their conclusions almost entirely on museum collections, and decided that the flora was uniform in character from top to bottom of the sequence; recent work, on the other hand, based on the actual examination of each horizon, has made it clear that distinct floras can be recognised and used both in the identification of seams and in the correlation of the coal measures over western Europe.

Prof. Pruvost's account of the non-marine faunas

makes a fitting sequel to his monumental work on the faunas of the coal measures of the north of France. A beautiful series of plates is devoted chiefly to the fossil insects and other arthropods and to the fishes. A number of remarkable fossils is described, and this part of the memoir will be indispensable to all students of coal measure palaeontology. It is much to be regretted that no illustrations of any of the Mollusca are included (except in relation to their supposed borings); the Mollusca are much more frequent than other fossil animals at most horizons, and Pruvost relies on them to a great extent in his correlation.

Pruvost is not prepared, however, to accept any of the refinements in nomenclature which have been made in recent years. To a large extent he has followed the late Dr. Wheelton Hind, who was very conservative (and sometimes, unfortunately, rather inaccurate) in his interpretation of these species. But whereas even the latter was willing to recognise some twenty-five species of non-marine lamellibranchs in the coal measures of Belgium, Pruvost admits no more than twenty. In his 'lumping' of species he places *Anthracomya librata* Wright as a synonym of *Carbonicola similis* Brown, and *Naiadites elongata* Hind as a synonym of *Anthracomya phillipsi* Will. It is probable that his discrimination of the faunas is much more precise than the nomenclature which he uses, but his method must make it difficult for other palaeontologists to make full use of his labours.

A. E. TRUEMAN.

### Dyestuffs and Enzymes.

MANY dyes and related compounds have a specific toxic effect on certain micro-organisms which has been utilised in the treatment of the diseases caused by them. The mode of action of the dyestuff is not known, but it is probable that it poisons some particular system in the cell, without which the latter cannot carry on its metabolic activities.

Some recent researches by J. H. Quastel on the action of dyes upon enzymes may throw light not only on the nature of the toxic effect, but also on the constitution of the enzymes employed (*Biochem. Jour.*, vol. 25, p. 629; 1931 (with A. H. M. Wheatley); and *ibid.*, vol. 25, pp. 898 and 1121; 1931). In the first paper it was found that basic, but not acid, dyes inhibited the oxygen uptake by *B. Coli* in the presence of glucose, lactate, succinate, and formate. The degrees of inhibition varied both with the dye and the substrate used, so that the effect could not be due to a general lethal action. Since it is the basic dyes which are active, it appears that the cell dehydrogenases are essentially acidic in character; but basicity is not the only factor in toxicity, since the basic Bismarck brown has little action. The inhibitory action of the dye was less marked in phosphate than in veronal buffer. Similar results were obtained with muscle enzymes, but no inhibition was observed with any dye when brain tissue was used, probably because the dye failed to reach the enzyme.

In the second paper, the behaviour of fumarase from micro-organisms or from brain or red-blood cells

was studied. This enzyme converts fumarate to *l*-malate, which can be estimated polarimetrically. It was found that both acid and basic dyes were toxic, but a marked specificity was apparent; of the former, the Congo red series was the most toxic, of the latter, the triphenylmethane series. It was also observed that fumarate combines with its enzyme and prevents the combination, and hence the toxic action, of both acid and basic dyes; that proteins exert a protective action, and that the protective action of phosphates is less than in the case of the dehydrogenases.

The most recent experiments have been carried out with certain naphthylaminedisulphonic acids and fumarase, after observing that trypan red and Bayer 205, like Congo red and trypan blue, are toxic. None of the six acids tested were toxic, nor were their first *s*-carbamide derivatives. The second and especially the third *s*-carbamide derivatives were, however, very toxic, that is, the *s*-carbamides of *m*-aminobenzoyl-naphthylaminedisulphonic acid and of *m*'-aminobenzoyl-*m*-aminobenzoylnaphthylamine-disulphonic acid. The importance of this observation lies in the fact that there is a definite, though not strict, parallelism between the toxic action of these carbamides on fumarase and their trypanocidal potency, as determined by Balaban and King. It is possible that this method of investigating the toxicity of dyestuffs on enzymes may prove suitable for preliminary tests in the preparation of compounds likely to be of chemotherapeutic value.

### Carbonisation of Coal.

GRREAT expectations have been placed upon coal carbonisation at low temperatures as a source of motor spirit. Fuel Research Technical Paper No. 34 (H.M.S.O., 6d. net), on the "Light Spirits from the Low Temperature Carbonisation of Coal", shows that the experience with benzole production cannot be directly transferred to low temperature products.

The proportion of tar acids and unsaturated compounds is higher, necessitating greater consumption of chemicals in refining. The refined products were found by actual tests in petrol engines to be good motor fuels at least equal, when fresh, to commercial petrol. They still contained considerable quantities of unsaturated compounds which were liable to polymerise



on storage and they show increased gum and peroxide formation, accompanied by decrease in the highest useful compression ratio (H.U.C.R.). The report suggests the need for caution in assessing the value of low temperature processes as sources of motor fuel.

The pioneers of low temperature carbonisation seemed to take it for granted that the tars and oils produced would find markets ready for their absorption. Even now, this idea is still widespread. Experience brought disillusion, and it became clear that only after long research could one expect to develop uses for these novel products. Among other institutions the Fuel Research Station has studied systematically the influence of conditions on the general character of the tars and liquors. A more detailed chemical study of the tars was undertaken by the National Chemical Laboratory at Teddington with the view of discovering, if possible, new industrial applications for these products.

Much of this work has been published in periodicals and is now included in a Fuel Research Technical Paper No. 32, entitled "A Study of the Tars and Oils Produced from Coal" (H.M.S.O., 2s. net). This is in four parts: statistics, the treatment of low temperature tars from a commercial retort, the carbonisation of three British coals at varying temperatures, and

the influence of temperature on the properties of tars. Perusal leads to the conclusion that in the development of low temperature processes too much capital has been spent on large scale plant, and too little on laboratory investigation of the chemistry of the processes and their products.

One branch of the work of the Fuel Research Board is the physical and chemical survey of national coal resources, which now covers practically the whole of the British coalfields. The reports hitherto published have dealt with the detailed survey of seams of coal. Paper No. 20, which has just appeared (H.M.S.O., 1s. 3d. net), entitled "The Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Coalfield, Analysis of Commercial Grades of Coal, Part I.", breaks new ground by giving the analyses of the commercial products of about forty important collieries in the district. It can scarcely be doubted that the information will be of great use to those concerned with the selection and purchase of coal, whether at home or abroad. The report should also be of great value to the collieries concerned, and will excite envy in other industries not so fortunate as to have their products so examined and certified. Perhaps the most striking impression which the reader can gain from the figures is the high quality of the fuel marketed in this area. Most of the samples contain less than five per cent of ash.

### High Speed Flying.

AT an evening discourse delivered before members of the British Association on Sept. 29, Mr. H. E. Wimperis, Director of Scientific Research to the Air Ministry, gave an interesting résumé of accomplishments, and speculations as to future advances, in high speed flying. The very high accelerations set up have given rise to various problems, both structural in the aircraft and physiological in the occupant. A rate of three times that of gravity can be obtained in starting by the use of catapults. These are necessary for obtaining the minimum speed for flight for fast machines in a reasonable space. It is interesting to note that this rate of increase of speed is about a hundred times that of a steam-engined railway train. Even greater accelerations are experienced in curved flight—up to five times gravity—and as the machine is only designed to withstand a load of 8g, care has to be exercised, in making rapid turns of small radius, not to approach this. The centrifugal force on the pilot in such turns drives the blood from his brain to the more distensible parts of his body, and this is accompanied by a loss of sight, although not of mental clarity.

Such high speed machines are necessarily built as seaplanes, as it is impossible to make aerodromes with sufficiently flat surfaces, or large enough, to allow of reaching the very high minimum flying speed with safety. Even on smooth water, handling requires

considerable skill, as the angle at which the floats will leave the water due to hydro-planing is greater than the machine can maintain when it becomes air borne. Another peculiar trouble arises from the fact that at speeds of above 360 m.p.h. the rush of air actually heats a body passing through it, instead of cooling it. This complicates the question of cooling both the engine and the pilot's cockpit.

With regard to future progress, while there is no theoretical limit to speeds higher than 407.5 m.p.h., the present record, there are many practical difficulties to be overcome. Better streamlining would give up to another 60 m.p.h. for the same power, but some excrescences which spoil this, such as the undercarriage, tail, etc., appear to be inevitable. At the velocity of sound, namely, about 700 m.p.h., there is a doubling of the head resistance, which would appear to be an insurmountable barrier to aircraft of the present form, but with other aerodynamic outlooks this may be passed.

Another method of reducing resistance would be to fly at altitudes of, say, 100,000 feet, where the reduced density of the air would offer less resistance to motion. This would probably need some form of rocket propulsion, as the present-day engine would not function without a sufficient supply of oxygen, neither would the propeller have enough bite on the thin air to transmit the necessary thrust.

### Hardening of Metals in a Magnetic Field.

MR. E. G. HERBERT, of Manchester, contributed a paper to the Royal Society in January 1931 and two articles to *Metalurgia* in May and June of last year on the hardening of metals in a magnetic field. The Royal Society paper describes the fluctuations in the hardness of steel, duralumin, and brass caused by rotation in a magnetic field. Mr. Herbert shows that the time element is an important factor in the hardening produced magnetically. He has found that the hardness changes are sometimes very rapid, and in hard steel, freshly treated, changes may sometimes be observed from minute to minute.

Later research has shown that the effect produced in steel by the magnetic treatment is periodic in character, generally extending over many hours subsequent to treatment. In some experiments there were a sequence of six alternate increases and decreases of hardness occupying gradually lengthening periods of time. It was found that when a rotary magnetic field was used the maximum hardening effect could be produced by a single turn in the magnetic field at a suitable temperature followed by a period of ageing. The cloud-burst process of hardening by steel ball bombardment could be superimposed on the



rotating field method, the processes being apparently independent of one another.

Mr. Herbert adopts as a provisional theory that the rotating magnetic field gives rise to a fluctuation of a periodic character in the systems of electrons, which in turn causes periodic fluctuations in molecular cohesion. A very interesting possibility of a practical nature follows from these investigations, namely, the stabilisation of the metal at a selected phase in the fluctuations set up mechanically, magnetically, or otherwise. For example, the stabilisation of steel wire in a condition characterised by greatly increased ductility with undiminished tensile strength.

In *World Power* for October, Mr. Herbert describes some work in connexion with high-speed tools. At present the results obtained seem very anomalous; in some cases the magnetic field has a hardening effect on the metals experimented on, and in other cases it softens them. The results suggest that the magnetic effects have been merely superimposed on the normal age-hardening process. They may be quite different in character. A softening magnetic process added to age hardening might be expected to slow down the hardening process, while a hardening magnetic treatment added to the normal hardening might be expected to accelerate it. It was observed that an increase of hardness equivalent to an increase of 13 per cent on the Brinell scale was induced in high-speed steel by a single turn of the magnetic field, occupying about a minute and applied at a temperature of only 100° C. Such a treatment could easily be given to finished tools of the most complicated character as well as to drills, sawblades, and dies in which a high degree of hardness is desirable. It is probable that further experiments, especially as to what is the best temperature to employ, will give even better results. As no metal hitherto subjected to magnetic treatment has failed to react, it is possible that these effects are common to all metals. In the non-magnetic metals the hardness changes hitherto produced have been relatively slight, but research in this direction seems very promising. It has been suggested that these changes may not be confined to metallic or even to inorganic substances.

### University and Educational Intelligence.

LONDON.—Dr. F. A. von Hayek has been appointed for the session 1931–32 to the Tooke chair of economic science and statistics tenable at the London School of Economics.

The following titles have been conferred in respect of posts held at the Colleges indicated: *Professor*:—Dr. Charles Singer (history of medicine, University College); Mr. E. F. D. Witchell (mechanical engineering, Imperial College—City and Guilds College). *Reader*:—Mr. R. J. Tabor (botany, Imperial College—Royal College of Science); Dr. W. G. Bickley (mathematics, Imperial College—City and Guilds College); Dr. G. F. J. Temple (mathematics, Imperial College—Royal College of Science); Mr. B. W. Holman (mining, Imperial College—Royal School of Mines); Dr. Herbert Dingle (physics, Imperial College—Royal College of Science); Dr. H. S. Gregory (physics, Imperial College—Royal College of Science); Dr. S. G. Paine (plant bacteriology, Imperial College—Royal College of Science); Mr. J. P. Ross (surgery, St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College); Dr. L. C. Martin (technical optics, Imperial College—Royal College of Science); Dr. Elizabeth A. Fraser (zoology, University College).

The title of emeritus professor in the University has been conferred on the following:—Prof. E. J. Garwood, on his retirement from the Yates-Goldsmid chair of

geology at University College; Prof. C. Spearman, on his retirement from the chair of psychology at University College; Prof. W. E. Dalby, on his retirement from the chair of civil and mechanical engineering at the Imperial College—City and Guilds College.

The degree of D.Sc. in biochemistry has been conferred on Bireschandra Guha for a thesis entitled "Investigations on the Factors of the Vitamin B Complex and on the Newer Factors necessary for the Normal Nutrition of the Rat" (*Brit. Med. Jour.*, 1931, and *Biochem. Jour.*, 1931).

For the session 1931–32, the Department of Coal Gas and Fuel Industries with Metallurgy of the University of Leeds has arranged a series of evening courses, with practical work. The courses comprise studies in the manufacture of coal gas, refractory materials, the coke fire, and metallurgy. Further information can be obtained from the Registrar, University, Leeds.

THE professional education of teachers in the United States of America during the past ten years is reviewed in *Bulletin*, No. 30, 1931, of the Office of Education, Washington. One of the most striking changes brought to notice is in the relationship between the demand for and supply of certificated teachers. The number of students in training for teaching increased from 135,435 in 1919–20 to 274,348 in 1927–28; the number of students completing one-, two-, and three-year curricula during the same time increased from 21,012 to 49,627, whilst those graduating after a four-year course increased from 1296 to 8179. The oversupply of teachers in many places and the overcrowding in a few teachers' training institutions have led to the raising of the standard of requirements for admission to teacher-training courses. There has been also rapid progress in raising standards of certification. The average number of students per training institution has grown from 439 to 877, necessitating better facilities for their social and physical welfare. Of the strictly professional courses, student teaching is coming to be recognised as one of the most important, and it is much more frequently provided than formerly, but probably fifty per cent of teachers enter upon their duties without having been through such a course. Training colleges are increasingly concerning themselves with the careers of their graduates, and recognising an obligation not only to see them placed but also to help them in overcoming their inevitable difficulties during the first year or two of teaching.

COMMONWEALTH Fund fellowships will be available early in 1932 for British students who desire to continue their studies in American universities. Last year there were 121 candidates (99 men and 22 women) for ordinary and Dominion fellowships, and 29 fellowships were granted; 56 candidates applied for service fellowships (open to those in government service only), and 6 appointments were made. Of the 35 fellows appointed, 20 came from faculties of science. These fellowships are available to research graduates and also to students who have just taken their first degree. There is no fixed stipend attached to a fellowship, but each is of the approximate annual value of 3000 dollars. Each fellowship includes provision for an equipment allowance of 200 dollars, and a travel allowance, tuition fees, etc., 150 dollars per month for living expenses, allowance for travel during the Christmas recess, and allowance for three months' travel (which is compulsory) at the end of the first academic year. A fellowship is tenable for two years, with possible extension to a third year. There is very little limitation to the subject of study which a fellow may choose. Applications for fellowships must be



sent to the authorities of the college or university of which the candidate is, or has been, a member, and must reach the Secretary by Feb. 8, 1932. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Commonwealth Fund Fellowships, 35 Portman Square, London, W.1.

### Calendar of Geographical Exploration.

Jan. 1, 1841.—The Antarctic and the Ice-Barrier.

Under the direction of Capt. J. Clark Ross, R.N., an expedition consisting of two ships, the *Erebus* and the *Terror*, crossed the antarctic circle to prosecute surveys for the British Government. From the point of view of geographical discovery, this was the most fruitful of all antarctic voyages. Ross was an experienced arctic traveller and had located the north magnetic pole in 1831. Under his direction, ships for the first time deliberately pushed their way into the pack ice. This ice, previously thought to stretch on indefinitely to the remote land, proved to be a belt about a hundred miles wide, and the *Erebus* and *Terror* passed through it to open waters now known as Ross Sea. By Jan. 11, Ross had sighted the rocky coast of South Victoria Land and had noted the Admiralty Range running north-west along the coast, and a further range going southwards. Unable to reach the mainland, he landed on Possession Island and claimed the newly discovered land for Britain. Later he sighted an active and an extinct volcano, named respectively *Erebus* and *Terror* after the vessels. The great ice barrier, with peaks 200 ft.-300 ft. in height and extending for 250 miles, seen for the first time, checked his farther southward progress. Like the Frenchman, Dumont d'Urville, who had set out from Hobart on Jan. 1 of the previous year, he was compelled to give up the dream of reaching the south magnetic pole, though he penetrated nearer to it than any previous explorer.

Sixty-one years later, on Jan. 1, 1902, the *Discovery*, with Lieut. R. F. Scott, R.N., as its commander, and with E. H. Shackleton, R.N.R., as one of its lieutenants, met the pack ice and thence penetrated to Ross Sea. The ice-barrier had retreated 30 miles since Ross was there. Scott found that the land which Ross had believed to lie east of the ice-barrier, but which he had cautiously charted as an "appearance of land", was plainly visible, its higher summits rising 2000 ft.-3000 ft. above the sea. It was further discovered that McMurdo Bay, charted by Ross, was in reality the opening of a strait leading southwards between Ross Island and the mainland. Mt. Erebus proved to be not on the mainland, but on what is now mapped as Ross Island.

Jan. 2, 1923.—The Libyan Desert.

A. M. Hassanein Bey left Sollum, a small port on the Mediterranean near the western frontier of Egypt, on his difficult journey southward through the Libyan desert to Darfur. As a result of his work important new facts about the orography and geology of the region were recorded. His discovery of the rock basin oases of Arkenu and Owenat makes possible further desert travel in the still unexplored regions of the Libyan desert. His route linked up with Tilho's explorations in the French Sudan and confirmed the latter's conclusion that Lake Chad has no possible drainage outlet in an easterly direction.

Jan. 7, 1830.—The Murray River.

Charles Sturt launched a boat on the Murrumbidgee and sailed thence along the Murray to the sea. He had previously discovered a portion of the Darling River; this second "bold and desperate" venture solved the nature of the inland river drainage of south-eastern Australia.

### Societies and Academies.

#### CAMBRIDGE.

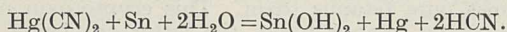
Philosophical Society, Nov. 23.—T. M. Lowry and C. B. Allsopp: Refractive dispersion and the problem of 'optical exaltation'. A thin film of liquid is placed between the plates of a quartz etalon and the interference bands are focused on the slit of a spectrograph. The order of the interference bands is deduced from pairs of refractive indices determined with a refractometer. Refractive indices can then be deduced to four places of decimals in the visible or ultra-violet regions up to the limit of transparency of the film.—T. M. Lowry and H. K. Gore: Optical rotatory power of vapours. Measurements have been made of the rotatory dispersion of camphor and of camphorquinone as vapour and in solution. In the region of absorption, camphor gives a curve with a composite maximum. This is explained by the composite character of the ketonic absorption band, as evidenced by the fact that the curve of circular dichroism covers a smaller range of wave-lengths than the absorption curve.—T. M. Lowry and H. Hudson: Absorption and circular dichroism of optically active substances. Measurements have been made of the absorption, circular dichroism, and rotatory dispersion of a series of bornyl xanthates. The two absorption bands are optically active but of opposite sign. The curve of circular dichroism therefore crosses the axis, as is observed experimentally in the methyl xanthate.—C. P. Snow: Fine structure of absorption bands in crystals. The absorption bands of compounds of the rare earths in the crystalline state show well-marked discontinuities similar to the line spectra of the atoms. This has recently been shown to be due to the 'shielding' of an inner incomplete electronic group throughout the series of the rare earths. There is a marked sharpening of the lines when the crystals are cooled to liquid air temperature and below. Reasons for this have been discussed (see Snow and Rawlins, *NATURE*, 125, p. 349; 1930).—R. G. W. Norrish: Predissociation in relation to photochemical activity. A large group of primary photochemical effects may be correlated with the condition known as predissociation in the molecular absorption spectrum. With aldehydes and ketones, however, although photodecomposition coincides with predissociation, it is difficult to envisage the mechanism of the change, since the chemical data for some fifteen examples indicate that no free radicals are produced. It would appear that molecular rearrangement involving more than one bond occurs within the molecule.

#### PARIS.

Academy of Sciences, Nov. 23.—H. Vincent and L. Velluz: The immunogenic properties of the diodosalicylic cryptotoxin. From experiments on guinea-pigs, it has been proved that the diodosalicylic cryptotoxin, the preparation of which is given, is capable of rapidly conferring immunity against pure tetanus toxin. This cryptotoxin neutralises the tetanus toxin, the latter not being destroyed but converted into a harmless complex. This non-toxic complex rapidly immunises animals.—C. Sauvageau: The third kind of plurilocal organs of *Ectocarpus secundus*.—Paul Montel: The upper limit of the moduli of the zeros of polynomials.—Eduard Čech: The theory of dimensions.—Maurice Janet: The minimum of the ratio of certain integrals.—J. A. Lappo-Danilevski: The decomposition of the normal integral matrix of a system of linear differential equations and the construction of the primitive



matrix.—Jacques Devisme: Some partial differential equations.—Abramesco: The Leja factor of uniform convergence of a series of polynomials.—R. Mazet: The unicity of the solution of problems of friction.—Constantin Woronetz: Lines of slip on a cylinder.—J. Baurand: Periodic waves at the surface of water.—Louis Bréguet: Aerodynamic suspension of the aerial vehicle.—J. Dufay and R. Gindre:  $\alpha$ -Herculis, a variable star of very small amplitude. Previous observations on this variable star have given discordant results. The photometer used in these observations gives an accuracy of about a hundredth of a magnitude, and 136 photometric comparisons were made. The results are given in the form of a curve, showing a period of 22 days. The form of the curve corresponds to a double star with eclipses.—F. Link and J. Devaux: The photometric and actinometric study of the moon during the eclipse of Sept. 26, 1931.—Paul Woog, Jean Givaudon, and Mlle. Emilie Ganster: Neutralising varnishes; properties of orientation of their superficial molecules. Molecular polishing. By the application of certain varnish coatings, lubricating oil can be prevented from spreading out over solid surfaces. The composition and mode of treatment of such a varnish are given, and the theory of the process is discussed.—Guy Emschwiller: The mechanism of the photolysis of the alkyl iodides. Either of the two theories, dissociation or activation, affords an explanation of the phenomena observed in the photolysis of the alkyl iodides.—D. K. Yovanovitch and P. Savitch: The calorimetric study of the absorption of the  $\gamma$ -rays of radium. Instead of the usual ionisation method, the authors use a microcalorimeter. A null method is used, the heat produced by the radium being balanced by electrical heating. Curves are given showing the heat developed by absorption in lead, silver, and copper.—Mlle. M. Th. François: The anomalies observed when using benzene and nitrobenzene in cryoscopy. It is usually held that benzene and nitrobenzene possess two  $K$  constants, one normal and applying to most organic substances, the other abnormal (hydroxyl compounds), practically half of the first. The author's experiments cited do not confirm this.—Augustin Boutaric and Charles Tournier: The study of colloidal solutions by the polarisation of the light diffused by them. For extremely small spherical particles, the theory of Lord Rayleigh shows that the diffused light should be totally polarised: if the particles increase in size, the proportion of polarised light should be reduced. Hence the study of the polarisation gives interesting information concerning the changes in a colloidal solution approaching the condition of flocculation.—G. Austerweil: The preparation and purification of salts by the use of zeolites.—J. Golse: The reduction of mercuric cyanide by tin in the presence of certain metallic salts. Although tin is without action upon neutral solutions of mercuric cyanide, when sodium chloride (or certain other salts named) is added, hydrocyanic acid is set free, and the mercury is reduced to metal in accordance with the equation



—Ernest Kahane: The possibility of destroying considerable quantities of organic substances by means of perchloric acid. After a preliminary treatment with a mixture of nitric and sulphuric acids, and driving off water and excess of nitric acid, the perchloric acid is added drop by drop, the liquid being maintained at 190° C. The oxidation is rapid and complete.—E. M. Bellet: The reaction between esters and alcohols in a slightly alkaline medium.—André Kling and Daniel Florentin: The mode of action of hydro-

genating and mixed catalysts in the hydrogenating cracking of phenols.—Dalloni: The geological constitution of Tibesti. The pre-Cambrian substratum.—H. Le Breton: The coast-line of post-neolithic age in Xu-Nghé and in Trois-Quang of the north (Annam, French Indo-China).—Chadefaud: The morphological signification of the stigma of the zoospores and the zoogametes in the Heterokontæ and Phaeophyceæ.—Théodore de Camargo: The influence of the potash-nitrogen ratio on the development of the coffee plant during the first period of growth.—Emile F. Terroine and Mlle. Germaine Boy: The distribution of the nitrogen compounds of the urine in the minimum endogenous nitrogen consumption and in protein nutrition: the problem of existence and of the magnitude of the albuminoid reserves.—Mlle. Marcelle Lapique: Chronaxy of subordination in an invertebrate.—Mme. H. Heldt: Observations on the laying, fertilisation, and the first stages of development of the egg in *Pencæus caramote*.—Maurice Piettre: Remarks on the physical state of the calcium phosphates in milk: the fractionation of their micelles leads to the existence of free calcium caseinate and of a calcium phosphate compound. By physical means, centrifugation, freezing, and especially by dialysis against water, glycerol or saccharose, increasing proportions of calcium phosphate can be separated, and by using sodium citrate a casein can be obtained containing only traces of lime. Hence it is concluded that in milk the colloidal lime exists as the triphosphate.—Bordier: A new helioactinometer. The amount of iodine set free from a solution of iodoform in chloroform under the influence of the solar photochemical rays is taken as a measure of the light received.—J. André Thomas: The production of tumours of sarcomatous appearance in the annelid *Nereis diversicolor* by inoculation with *Bacterium tumefaciens*.

#### GENEVA.

Society of Physics and Natural History, Nov. 5.—P. Rossier: The spectral sensibility of photographic plates. The author gives an analytical expression for the sensibility curve of the photographic plates used at the Geneva Observatory. This expression allows the study in some detail of certain applications of these plates to astronomical photometry.—E. Briner, H. Paillard, and R. Zurcher: Attempts at supplying an internal combustion motor with air mixed with ozone. In spite of the very low concentrations (about 1 in 10,000) in which it was introduced into the gas, ozone produced 'knocking'. On account of the peroxidising properties of ozone, the effect noted appears to support the theory attributing detonating combustion to the formation of very unstable intermediate peroxides.—R. Wavre: The small vibrations of liquid stars. The author applies the 'uniform method' to the study of the small movements of stars composed of a nucleus and a fluid envelope. Assuming the solid nucleus, he arrives at the results of Lord Kelvin concerning the oceanic tides. The contrary assumption of a liquid nucleus is a new problem which he has succeeded in solving. He develops also the influence of the terrestrial tide on the oceanic tide and gives the principal results.

#### LENINGRAD.

Academy of Sciences—*Comptes rendus*, No. 7, 1931.—N. Tagejeva and F. Starik: The radium content of the petroliferous waters of Tcheleken island. The water contains from  $6.75 \times 10^{-11}$  to  $4.37 \times 10^{-11}$  gm. of radium in 100 c.c. of water.—L. Kurbatov: The radioactivity of the mineral water of Nefte-dagh and Tcheleken.—V. Baranov and L. Kurbatov: The radium



content of the petroliferous waters in the Grozny district. The radium content of water in July-September proved to be considerably less than in March of the same year.—L. Komlev: The radium content in the water of oil wells in the Novo-Grozny district. Beginning with July 1929, a marked reduction on the radium content was observed, although the general chemical content of the water remained practically unchanged.—V. Ignatovskij: Functions which are orthogonal to the hypogeometrical series (1).

*Comptes rendus*, No. 8, 1931.—A. Fersman (1): A geochemical diagram of the Chibin mountains.—(2) The geochemistry of gold.—D. Prianishnikov: The formation of ammonia during the reduction of nitrates by the higher plants. Normal plants absorb ammonia more energetically than nitrates.—A. Popov: A new genus of fish, *Davidjordania* (Zoaridae), from the Pacific Ocean. *Lycenchelys lacertinus* Pavl. is made the type of a new genus, to which *L. ornatus* Sold. and *L. pæcilimen* Jord. and Fowl. are also referred. *Lycenchelys brachyrhynchus* Schm. belongs to the genus *Hadropareia*, and *L. fasciatus* Schm. is a synonym of *Lycodes fasciatus* Schm.—V. Scherbina: Chemical constitution of the nepheline from the Chibin mountains.

## SYDNEY.

Royal Society of New South Wales, Sept. 2.—H. Finemore and C. B. Cox: The amount of hydrocyanic acid in *sorghum* sudan grass and some hybrids. *Sorghum* contains a higher amount of prussic acid than has been hitherto recorded, and it loses this acid as the plant develops, but even on cutting and wilting the young plant by no means becomes innocuous. Of the results obtained, it was shown that the variety *Feterits* is the most poisonous. Contrary to opinions held in some quarters, it was found that sudan grass contains an appreciable amount of prussic acid.—F. R. Morrison and R. Grant: A contribution to the chemistry of the fruit obtained from the White Cedar tree (*Melia Azedarach*, L. var. *australasica* C. DC; Syn. *Melia australasica*, A. Juss) growing in New South Wales, with notes on its reputed toxicity. Proximate analyses of the fruit were obtained from trees growing at Grafton and Dubbo, New South Wales, respectively. The ripe fruit obtained from Grafton trees contains a sticky pulp, consisting of a starchy meal, a resin, an oil, and dextrose, with acid and other water-soluble substances. Feeding tests using guinea-pigs showed the Grafton fruit to be non-toxic, whilst fruit from trees growing at Dubbo and Parramatta, respectively, proved in some cases to contain a toxic constituent, which was found to be present in the resinous portion of the fruit. A very small quantity of basic material was extracted from an ether solution of the resin by means of 0.5 per cent sulphuric acid solution. Neither the basic extract nor the resin from which it was extracted produced toxic symptoms when administered alone, but a mixture of both produced fatal results.

Oct. 7.—J. C. Earl and C. H. Wilson: The condensation of  $\alpha$ - $\beta$  dibromocarboxylic acids with benzene in the presence of aluminium halides. Cinnamic acid dibromide and crotonic acid dibromide when treated with aluminium chloride and benzene give the corresponding derivatives of dihydrophenanthrene. By the use of ferric chloride or aluminium bromide, instead of aluminium chloride, linking between the two phenyl nuclei does not take place,  $\alpha\beta$ -triphenylpropionic acid and  $\alpha\beta$ -diphenylbutyric acid being formed from the cinnamic and crotonic acid dibromides respectively.

## Diary of Societies.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 1.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS, at 3.30.—E. R. Jarrett: Christmas Juvenile Lecture on Architecture.  
ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, at 7.  
JUNIOR INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, at 7.30.

## SATURDAY, JANUARY 2.

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN, at 3.—Sir William Bragg: The Universe of Light (Christmas Lectures) (3): Light and Colour (1).

## MONDAY, JANUARY 4.

VICTORIA INSTITUTE (at Central Buildings, Westminster), at 4.  
INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (Mersey and North Wales—Liverpool—Centre) (at Liverpool University), at 7.  
INSTITUTION OF RUBBER INDUSTRY (at Engineers' Club, Manchester), at 7.  
WOLVERHAMPTON AND DISTRICT ENGINEERING SOCIETY (at Victoria Hotel, Wolverhampton), at 7.30.  
BRITISH KINEMATOGRAPH SOCIETY (at Gaumont Theatre), at 7.45.  
ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS, at 8.  
SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY (London Section) (at Chemical Society), at 8.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 5.

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN, at 3.—Sir William Bragg: The Universe of Light (Christmas Lectures) (4): Light and Colour (2).  
INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (North-Western Centre) (at Engineers' Club, Manchester), at 7.  
INSTITUTION OF AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERS (at Royal Society of Arts), at 7.45.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS, at 3.—Prof. E. N. da Costa Andrade: The Vacuum, or the Importance of Nothing at All (Dr. Mann Juvenile Lectures) (1).  
INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (Wireless Section), at 6.  
INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (Tees-Side Sub-Centre) (at Cleveland Technical Institute, Middlesbrough), at 7.  
INSTITUTION OF HEATING AND VENTILATING ENGINEERS (at 20 Hart Street, W.C.1), at 7.  
INSTITUTION OF AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERS (at Queen's Hotel, Birmingham), at 7.30.  
INSTITUTE OF BREWING (North of England Section) (at Midland Hotel, Manchester).  
ROYAL MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY (Biological Section) (at B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square).

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 7.

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN, at 3.—Sir William Bragg: The Universe of Light (Christmas Lectures) (5): Light from the Sky.  
LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON, at 5.  
INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS (Birmingham and District Association) (at Chamber of Commerce, Birmingham), at 6.  
INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, at 6.  
INSTITUTION OF AUTOMOBILE ENGINEERS (Bristol Centre) (at Merchant Venturers' Technical College, Bristol), at 7.  
SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY (Bristol Section) (at Bristol University), at 7.30.  
ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE (Tropical Diseases and Parasitology Section), at 8.

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 8.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, at 3.30.—Mrs. Murray Chapman: Through Lapland in Winter with Sledge and Reindeer (Christmas Lecture for Young People).



ROYAL SOCIETY OF ARTS (Indian Section), at 4.30.  
 ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY, at 5.  
 ROYAL ANTHROPOLOGICAL INSTITUTE (Human Biology Research Committee), at 5.30.  
 MALACOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON (at Linnean Society), at 6.  
 INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, at 6.—S. B. Freeman: Modern Types of Propelling Machinery for Mercantile Marine Use (Thomas Lowe Gray Lecture).  
 INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (Meter and Instrument Section), at 7.  
 ILLUMINATING ENGINEERING SOCIETY (at Royal Society of Arts), at 7.  
 JUNIOR INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS, at 7.30.  
 GEOLOGISTS' ASSOCIATION (at University College), at 7.30.—Dr. W. F. Whittard: An Expedition to East Greenland, 1929 (Lecture).  
 SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY (Newcastle Section) (jointly with Institute of Chemistry) (at Newcastle-upon-Tyne).

#### SATURDAY, JANUARY 9.

ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN, at 3.—Sir William Bragg: The Universe of Light (Christmas Lectures) (6): Light from the Sun and the Stars.

#### Public Lectures.

##### MONDAY, JANUARY 4.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, at 3.30.—The President: South and East (Christmas Lecture for Young People).

##### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, at 3.—Sir Richard Gregory, Bt.: Comets and Shooting Stars.  
 IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, at 5.30.—Dr. T. M. Finlay: The Evolution of Landscape (Swiney Lectures) (1). (Succeeding Lectures on Jan. 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22, 25, 27, 29, and Feb. 1.)  
 BELFAST MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY, at 8.—Mrs. H. Richardson: Costume and History.

#### Conferences.

##### JANUARY 4 AND 5.

MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION (at London Day Training College).

*Monday, Jan. 4*, at 3.30.—Sir Arthur Eddington: The Decline of Determinism (Presidential Address).

At 5.—Prof. S. Brodetsky: Modern Dynamics in Astronomy, Relativity, and Quantum Theory.

*Tuesday, Jan. 5*, at 10 A.M.—Discussion on The Report of the Association of University Teachers on Entrance Tests and Initial Degrees.

At 11.15 A.M.—Dr. S. Verblunsky: The Foundations of Mathematics.

At 12.15.—Prof. A. Lodge: Interpolation by Central Differences.

At 2.30.—G. Frecheville: The Application of Mathematical Methods to Research Work in Agricultural Economics.

At 3.30.—Discussion on Calculus and Co-ordinate Geometry at the School Certificate Stage, with special reference to the Additional Mathematics Syllabus of the Joint Matriculation Board of the Northern Universities.

##### JANUARY 4 TO 11.

CONFERENCE OF EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (at University College).

*Monday, Jan. 4*, at 3.—Sir William Rothenstein: Presidential Address.

At 5.—Dr. E. Miller: The Difficult Child: Sociological v. Individual Interpretations (Lecture) (British Psychological Society—Education Section).

*Tuesday, Jan. 5*, at 2.30.—Discussion on The Film as an

Instrument of Humane Education (University of London Animal Welfare Society).

At 3.—J. H. Whitehouse: Public Schools and the Public Life (Lecture) (Society for Experiment and Research in Education).

*Wednesday, Jan. 6*, at 3.—Sir Richard Gregory, Bt.: Comets and Shooting Stars (Lecture) (School Nature Study Union).

At 5.30.—Prof. D. Laurie: Biology in Schools (Lecture) (Association of Assistant Mistresses).

*Thursday, Jan. 7*, at 2.30.—Mrs. C. B. S. Hodson: Desirability of including Simple Biology and Heredity Teaching in the School Curricula (Lecture) (Eugenics Society).

*Friday, Jan. 8*, at 2.—Discussion of Physical Education in Schools (Medical Officers of Schools Association).

##### JANUARY 5 TO 7.

EXHIBITION OF SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS AND APPARATUS (at Imperial College of Science and Technology), 3 to 6 and 7 to 10.

*Tuesday, Jan. 5*, at 8.—C. C. Paterson: Photocells: The Valves which operate by Light (Lecture).

*Wednesday, Jan. 6*, at 8.—T. Smith: Photographic Shutters and their Properties (Lecture).

*Thursday, Jan. 7*, at 8.—Sir Oliver Lodge: Reminiscences (Lecture).

##### JANUARY 6 TO 11.

GEOGRAPHICAL ASSOCIATION (at London School of Economics).

*Wednesday, Jan. 6*, at 9.30 A.M.—Opening of Publishers' Exhibition and Address by Miss E. H. McLean.

At 11 A.M.—Discussion between the Historical Association and the Geographical Association: What is Historical Geography?

At 2.—Sir Leslie Mackenzie: A Health Administrator's Attitude to Geography (Presidential Address).

At 5.30.—S. A. S. Hozayen: The Expansion of the Arabs and their Contribution to Geography (Lecture).

*Thursday, Jan. 7*, at 11 A.M.—Mrs. H. Ormsby: The Part played by the Limestones in the Human Geography of France (Lecture).

At 12.—J. Fairgrieve: Demonstration Lesson with Films.

At 2.—Demonstration of Amateur Films.

At 3.—J. Fairgrieve: The Use of Films in Teaching.

At 5.—Prof. P. F. Kendall: How Britain became an Island (Lantern Lecture).

*Friday, Jan. 8*, at 10.30 A.M.—Brigadier H. S. L. Winterbotham: New Developments of the 1" Map (Lantern Lecture).

At 11.30 A.M.—Prof. Gerhard Schott: The Humboldt Current in Relation to Land and Sea Conditions on the Peruvian Coast (Lantern Lecture).

At 2.45.—Discussion on The Difficulties of using the Lantern in Primary Schools.

Discussion on The Scope and Content of the Geography of the 'rest of the world' in the First School Certificate Examination.

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