

## SCIENCE NOTES AND NEWS

At the first meeting of the Industrial Research Planning Committee held on Monday, the 20th March 1944, at 2-30 p.m., and Tuesday, the 21st March and Wednesday, the 22nd March 1944, in the Board Room of the Bombay House, 24, Bruce Street, Bombay, the following resolutions were adopted:—

(1) "This Committee is of opinion that a comprehensive national register of all the persons qualified to conduct scientific and industrial research is essential and that the task of initial preparation and maintenance of this register might be delegated to an unofficial agency like the National Institute of Sciences of India. For the purpose of preparation of this register the minimum qualification must be the B.Sc., B.E., or an equivalent degree in science or technology."

(2) "This Committee is of the opinion that a national register of persons actually engaged in scientific research should be prepared and kept up-to-date from time to time. This register should contain the names of those persons who after taking the University degree in science or its equivalent are engaged in research work in Universities, Research Institutions, Private Laboratories and Industry. The initial preparation of this register must be undertaken by this Committee itself. The subsequent maintenance of this register from time to time must be done by an unofficial agency like the National Institute of Sciences of India."

(3) "With a view to getting the names of research workers employed in industry a questionnaire should be sent to The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, The Associated Chambers and other Chambers of Commerce, All Directors of Industries, Universities, Defence Services, Government Departments."

The Committee decided to issue questionnaire with a view to elicit the completest information from Universities, Research Institutions, Industries, etc., with regard to the existing facilities for research available by way of research personnel equipment and library. Two sets of questionnaire were finally prepared and it was decided to address these questionnaire to Universities, Research Institutions and to such of those industries who have their research establishments and Chambers of Commerce, Directors of Industries of Provinces and States and the various Government Departments.

**National Register of Scientists** (under compilation by the Industrial Research Planning Committee under the auspices of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India).—All those persons who are actually engaged in scientific research are entitled to have their names recorded in the above register and are requested to fill in the prescribed form which can be had from the Secretary, Industrial Research Planning Committee, University Buildings, Delhi.

A. N. David, Civil Lines, Ajmer, reports:—

On 22-4-1944, at about 4-30 a.m., near Sauganer (State Jaipur, Rajputana), a glowing meteor, of the size of a big football, shot in north-to-south direction, almost parallel to the eastern horizon, and appeared to explode at ground-level, for it sent out red sparks and flashes of flame all round, clearly visible to the passengers in the U.P. Mail Train, but no noise could be heard.

On 2-5-1944, at about 8-30 p.m., at Ajmer (Rajputana), while it was yet twilight, a meteor, bluish in colour, and of the size of a small football, shot vertically down the western horizon, from an angle of 45° or so, leaving a livid streak of white light, which was straight at first, but gradually assumed an erratic shape (due apparently to the conflicting upper-air currents), but which remained quite immovable for about 20 minutes! It was prominently visible to the naked eye, a very unusual occurrence because of its long duration and length of track.

Harvard Announcement Card No. 680 contains a report on the success of the Mexican expedition relating to the total Solar Eclipse of January 25, 1944. The expedition, led by Dr. Joaquin Gallo, was stationed at Chicaly, Peru. The report follows:

Sky Clear, seeing good. Contrast between corona and sky light comparatively feeble, due perhaps to low altitude of the sun. Sky illumination intense in comparison with other eclipses observed by Gallo. All plates taken came out all right except one with the long focus camera. Developing of plates presented serious difficulties that were happily overcome. Seventy-five per cent. of observing programme was satisfactorily carried out. On first inspection no traces of polarization are apparent on polaroid plates. This is by no means a final result. Duration of totality was two minutes, forty seconds by actual count by Gallo against his previous computation of two minutes, forty-three seconds. Lima astronomers calculated two minutes, forty-seven seconds, and obtained from their observations two minutes and fifty seconds.—(From 'Astronomy News-Letter,' No. 16, of U.S.A.)

Reports have recently reached the United States of an important astronomical conference held in Moscow on September 14, 1943. In the issue of *Science*, dated February 4, 1944, Dr. Struve writes of an ambitious plan, presented at this conference for the development of a large southern astrophysical observatory. A copy of the *Moscow News* of September 11, 1943, made available to the C. D. A. L. by Dr. Roy K. Marshall, has further details about the conference.

The article in the *Moscow News* states that 9 of 19 Soviet observatories were "situated in territory temporarily occupied by the enemy". It is further noted that most of the equipment

and the library of the Pulkovo Observatory were removed to safer places before the observatory itself was destroyed by air and artillery bombardment. The Pulkovo staff is now carrying on work at Tashkent, Abastumani and Alma-Ata. The international latitude station at Kitab, Uzbekistan, is functioning regularly.

The article by Dr. Struve states that the Pulkovo Observatory will be re-established as a centre of positional work, together with the Engelhardt, Nikolaeff and Tashkent Observatories. An Astrophysical Observatory, with headquarters at Simferopol in the Crimea, and with three observing Stations, one in the Crimea at 2,000 metres, a solar station at 3,500 metres and a southern station, possibly in Africa. The equipment for the new observatory, for which plans are being drawn by Dr. Martinov, is to include one 120-inch reflector, two 80-inch reflectors, two 16-inch double astrographs, one 50-inch and one 30-inch Schmidt telescope, solar towers, a coronagraph and numerous other items. Plans are under way for the training of 60 or 70 astrophysicists to staff the new institution. Astronomers everywhere will be keenly interested in further news about these great plans for post-war astronomical research in the Soviet Union.

—(From 'Astronomy News-Letter,' No. 16, of U.S.A.)

One of the most valuable substances yet discovered for the treatment of wounds has just gone successfully through its tests on the eve of the Second Front. These tests date back to the Desert War, writes a *Daily Telegraph* reporter.

Among the medical supplies captured by the Eighth Army from Rommel's retreating forces, he adds, were quantities of "Marfanil", a preparation in the same group as M and B. Three R.A.M.C. Officers described in *Lancet* the way in which actual battle casualties have responded to the new treatment. "Of the many substances we have tested for infected wounds," they say, "only Penicillin has given better results. And at present for technical reasons it may prove easier to produce Marfanil in much larger amounts than Penicillin."

Penicillin, they point out, will certainly not be available in quantities to treat all the wounded who will be in need of it.

Clinical use of Marfanil has shown that it is active in the presence of pus unlike most of the sulphonamide preparations. It prevents the growth of organisms in a wound which have resisted every other kind of antiseptic. There is almost no irritation and no destruction of tissue, while success in controlling infection hastens healing.

Altogether 70 per cent. of patients showed some improvement while 50 per cent. showed a marked improvement.—London, by cable.

The All-India Manufacturers' Organization have sent the following telegram to The Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy: "In view of active work now progressing under Government of India Departments regarding Post-War Economic Reconstruction which Com-

mittee of the All-India Manufacturers' Organization has noted with satisfaction we urge in order to get complete benefit from these activities they should all be co-ordinated under a separate Member of Executive Council with his own Secretariat. We further urge that the appointment should go to an eminent Indian industrialist commanding complete confidence of Indian public."

The London University has recently conferred upon Dr. G. D. Bhalerao, Officer-in-charge, Veterinary Zoology Section, Imperial Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, the degree of Doctor of Science for his valuable researches on Helminthology. Dr. Bhalerao is the first Indian to obtain this distinction.

Pawley's Scholarship of Rs. 16,500 has been awarded to Mr. J. P. Chawla, for study of Aeronautical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Aeronautical Engineering, for a period of one year. This scholarship was endowed by Mr. W. D. Pawley, formerly Chairman, Hindustan Aircraft Corporation. Mr. Chawla has completed his training at the Aeronautical Engineering Department of the Indian Institute of Science, and is now employed in the Hindustan Aircraft Factory at Bangalore.

We acknowledge with thanks receipt of the following:—

"Journal of the Royal Society of Arts," Vol. 92, Nos. 4657-4661.

"Journal of Agricultural Research," Vol. 67, Nos. 10-12.

"Agricultural Gazette of New South Wales," Vol. 55, Pts. 1-3.

"Indian Journal of Agricultural Science," Vol. 13, Pt. 4.

"Allahabad Farmer," Vol. 18, Nos. 1, 2.

"Biological Reviews," Vol. 19, No. 1.

"Annals of Biochemistry and Experimental Medicine," Vol. 3, Nos. 3-4.

## BOOKS

*Systematics and the Origin of Species.* By Ernst Mayr. (Columbia University Press, 2960, Broadway, New York), 1942. Pp. xiv + 334. \$4.00.

*Photoperiodism in the Potato.* By C. M. Driver and J. G. Hawkes. (Imperial Bureau of Plant Breeding and Genetics), Dec. 1943. Pp. 36. Price 2/6.

*Optical Workshop Principles.* By Col. Ch. Deve, translated by T. L. Tippell. (Robert Maclehose & Co., Ltd., The University Press, Glasgow), 1943. Pp. 306. Price 20sh.

*Solvents.* By Thos. H. Durrans. (Messrs. Chapman & Hall, 11, Henrietta St., W.C. 2), 1944. Pp. xii + 202. Price 17/6.

*Wolf Children and Feral Man.* By the Rev. J. A. L. Singh and Prof. Robert M. Zingg. (Harper & Brothers, 49, East, 33rd St., New York), Pp. 379. Price \$4.00.

*The Purification of Water Supplies.* By George Brans by Williams. (Chapman & Hall, Ltd., 11, Henrietta St., W.C. 2, London), 1944. Pp. 95. Price 7sh. 6d.