

tion methods which have proved so successful. Since the appliances required for plant injection work are small and require care in handling, details of their construction are given and very clearly illustrated with several text-figures. The results of the extensive work of the authors and their collaborators on plant injection have been briefly summarised in respect of twenty-five different kinds of plants which mainly consists of fruit trees and vegetable plants.

The technique adopted for injection for curative purposes is dealt with under the two

heads, *injection of liquids* and *injection of solids*. The latter method being necessary in the case of trees that cannot absorb fluids. The injection of solids necessitates drastic operation on the trees yet it is less elaborate, requires fewer appliances and is more easily carried out.

The techniques described in the communication under review are an improvement over those previously used and described and will be found by workers in the field easy of application.

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## SCIENCE NOTES AND NEWS

### THE AGE OF THE PUNJAB SALINE SERIES

In the course of his Presidential Address to the National Academy of Sciences at their Annual Meeting held at Hyderabad (Deccan) in December 1943, Prof. Birbal Sahni of Lucknow reported the discovery of numerous microfossils, mostly plant remains, in the rock salt and Kallar of the saline series, as also in the associated gypsum and oil shales; and having satisfied himself regarding the undoubted *in situ* character of these fossils, Prof. Sahni pointed out that the testimony of these fossils was obviously entirely opposed to any idea of the saline beds being so old as the Cambrian; it was clear on the evidence of these fossils, he said, that the beds were certainly Tertiary, and probably belonged to the Eocene period. Prof. Sahni's researches in this field have been more intensively pursued from various aspects during the year 1944, and a full review and discussion of the entire evidence he has collected was embodied in his Presidential Address to the National Academy at their Poona meeting held in December 1944.

In view of the fact that the problem of the age of the saline series is one of the oldest major controversies of Indian Geology, and has "exercised the brains of some of the foremost geologists who have laboured in this country", Prof. Sahni's recent work naturally attracted considerable attention at once and stimulated a thorough review and discussion of all the available evidence—stratigraphical, structural, and palæontological—bearing on this question of the Cambrian *vs.* the Eocene age of the Punjab salt. A special Symposium on this subject was organised at Poona in December 1944 under the joint auspices of the National Academy of Sciences, and the Indian Academy of Sciences, and the papers read at this important meeting have been just published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy* (Section B, Vol. 14, pt. 6). Among the contributors to this symposium, the names of practically all the leading workers in this field appear—C. S. Middlemiss, E. H. Pascoe, C. S. Fox, D. N. Wadia, E. Lehner, E. S. Pinfold, and L. M. Davies,—and there are, in addition, two valuable contributions by E. R. Gee to whom "we owe the most detailed survey of the salt range area since the time of Wynne".

It is hardly possible in the course of this

short review to refer to the points raised and comments made by these authors; a perusal of their papers will serve to show how sharply and strongly the opinion is still divided on this question. The whole problem "is again in the melting pot", and the controversy is becoming positively exciting. The Symposium is to be continued at a joint meeting of the Academies to be held at Udaipur in December 1945; and all geologists will be keenly looking forward to the further developments in this field in the hope of arriving at a really final solution of this most intriguing and tantalising problem in Indian Geology.

### MAGNETIC NOTES

Magnetic conditions during August 1945 were slightly less disturbed than in the previous month. There were 21 quiet days and 10 days of slight disturbance as against 19 quiet days, 11 days of slight disturbance and 1 day of moderate disturbance during the same month last year.

The quietest day during the month was the 9th and the day of the largest disturbance the 22nd.

The individual days during the month were classified as shown below:—

Quiet days	Disturbed days
	Slight
1, 3-5, 7-11, 16-21, 23-25, 29-31.	2, 6, 12-15, 22 26-28.

No magnetic storms occurred during the month of August 1945, while one disturbance of moderate intensity was recorded during August 1944.

The mean character figure for the month of August 1945 was 0.32 as against 0.42 for August 1944.

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### ERRATA

In the note entitled "A Note on Hotelling's  $T^2$ ," appearing in Vol. 14, No. 7, July 1945 issue, in page 173, column 2, delete the 13th line reading "industrial and technical establishments trough".