

Bombay Fisheries Department.

OUR readers are no doubt familiar with the establishment of a small Fisheries Department at Bombay about 4 years ago with the original intention of increasing the supply of fish in the city of Bombay. We have had opportunities to review the activities of this enterprise and to express our satisfaction on its working under the charge of Dr. S. B. Setna. A short account of its activities during 1935-36 is contained in the "Annual Report of the Department of Industries, Bombay Presidency, 1935-36."

The Department has amply fulfilled its original purpose by popularising the use of launches for the rapid transport of fish and for storage of catches in ice; their benefits are now being realised fully by the fishermen themselves. In consequence, the quantity of fish brought into Bombay has increased considerably since the establishment of the Department, and the fishermen, even at distant places, have benefited greatly from its activities. Unfortunately, there is a lack of suitable landing sites for

fish and this has entailed a great hardship for the commercial interests.

Suitable apprentices from among fishermen are being trained by the Department to man the launches, and experiments with new types of fishing nets are being conducted to improve the yield. Definite steps have been taken by the Department for the development of Inland Fisheries and the scheme includes the propagation of "Gourami", a survey of the various sheets of water in the Presidency, fattening of fish in wells and tanks and fish culture on a large scale.

The Fisheries Officer was also engaged during the period under review in the formation of Co-operative Societies for the benefit of fishermen. The Fisheries Information Bureau, working under the auspices of this Department, attended to a large number of inquiries dealing with the various aspects of the fish-trade. The Bureau also collected statistics and other data bearing on the fish trade in the Presidency.

Indian Science Congress—Silver Jubilee Meeting, January 1938.

THE arrangements in connection with the forthcoming Joint Meeting of the Indian Science Congress and the British Association are now assuming final shape. A tour through Central India and Northern India before the session (from 16th-29th December) and a tour through Southern India after the session (January 11th-13th) have been arranged for the delegates. In addition, shorter excursions to places of scientific interest in Bengal and Bihar are being arranged during the period December 29th to January 2nd.

The Session in Calcutta is likely to be of great interest, for many of the foreign delegates are reading papers and taking part in the discussions, while members of the delegation are also being invited to give the four or five popular evening lectures. The following lectures have already been arranged:—Sir Arthur Eddington on "The Milky Way and Beyond"; Prof. F. A. B. Crew on "The Biology of Death" and Prof. H. J. Fleure on "Stages in the Growth of Civilization".

Of the papers that are being contributed to the Sectional meetings, the following may be mentioned as of special interest:—
In the *Mathematics and Physics Section* :

"Isotopic weights by the doublet method," by Dr. F. W. Aston; "Theory of scattering of protons by protons," by Sir Arthur Eddington; "Recent eclipse results, and the complex spectra of novae," by Prof. F. J. M. Stratton and "The application of electron waves to the study of surfaces," by Prof. G. P. Thomson. In the *Chemistry Section*: "Resonance and molecular structure," by Prof. Lennard-Jones and "Photosynthesis of carbohydrates *in vitro*," by Prof. E. C. C. Baly. In the *Geography and Geodesy Section*: "Geography and the scientific movement," by Prof. H. J. Fleure and "The great divide," by Prof. C. B. Fawcett. In the *Botany Section*: "The nature of the subterranean algal soil flora," by Prof. F. E. Fritsch; "The biology of crossing-over," by Dr. C. D. Darlington and "The structure of the chromosome" by Prof. Ruggles Gates. In the *Zoology Section*: "The Zoogeography of the freshwater fishes of Siam and East Asia," by Prof. L. F. de Beaufort. In the *Anthropology Section*: "The crisis in modern anthropology," by Baron de Eickstedt; "The functions of physical anthropology," by Prof. R. A. Fisher and "The anthropology of the Todas," by Prof. L. Cipriani.