

NOTES.

This number of THE OTTAWA NATURALIST begins a new club year and dues are, therefore, now payable. If all members will mail the dollar membership fee to the Treasurer, Mr. J. R. Dymond, Seed Branch, Dept. Agriculture, Ottawa, it will save his time and a considerable amount of postage.

Dr. John Stanley Plaskett, formerly in charge of the department of astrophysics in the Dominion Observatory at Ottawa, has been appointed director of the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory, which is being established at Victoria. The principal instrument of the observatory is a 72-inch reflecting telescope, the mounting of which is in place, and the mirror is nearing completion at the shops of the Brashear Company.

The U. S. Government makes larger appropriations for scientific research than any other nation, and the money has on the whole been used to advantage. The fact that the work there is mainly economic is not, altogether, a drawback. The difficulty has been that better provision was made for routine work than for exceptional performance. The present emergency has led to further large appropriations for scientific research, and we may hope that the truth expressed in the President's words "Preparation for peace is the best preparation for war" will lead to still greater efforts to promote science for the national welfare.

A fund of \$25,000 has been raised as a nucleus for the purposes of organizing a Museum of Natural History in the city of Portland, Oregon. A similar movement has been started in Spokane, Washington, and it is hoped that the city of Spokane will in the near future have a museum specially devoted to the American Indians of that region.

Sir Alfred Keogh, director-general of the British army medical service, presiding at a lecture at the Royal Institute of Public Health on February 14, is reported in Nature to have stated that in France at that moment there were only five cases of enteric fever and eighteen cases of paratyphoid fever, with seventy or eighty doubtful cases. He attributed this result to inoculation, the general good health of the army, to good food, and in addition, to careful sanitation. The health of the army at all fronts was said to be better than the ordinary health of the army in peace-time.
