

Pests of Ornamental Plants

THE attention of garden lovers and horticulturists is directed to Bulletin 97 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, entitled "Pests of Ornamental Garden Plants" (1937). This publication deals with an aspect of horticulture seldom adequately treated in text-books on insect and other pests. The problem of controlling pests in gardens is, moreover, different from that of the commercial grower. The author of this work is Mr. G. Fox Wilson, entomologist to the Royal Horticultural Society, and he has provided authoritative and practical advice on the pests in question. General measures of control are discussed and the different pests are described under their respective headings, such as lawns, the annual border, rock garden, glass houses and so on. The work is well and fully illustrated, while the price of 3s. 6d. net is very reasonable for a Bulletin strongly bound and containing more than 100 pp. of letterpress. It can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, Adastral House, Kingsway, W.C.2, or through any bookseller.

A Binocular Illusion

REFERRING to Prof. H. H. Dixon's letter in NATURE of April 30, Miss E. Armitage, Dadnor, Ross, Herefordshire, writes to suggest that the checkerboard appearances may be akin to that commonly observed when studying photographs of lunar phenomena, the 'walled plains' sometimes appearing as convexities and sometimes as concavities, according to which side the shadow appears to fall.

World's Congress of Faiths

A WEEK-END Congress of the World's Congress of Faiths (Continuation Movement), of which Sir Francis Younghusband is chairman, will be held at Regent House, Cambridge, on June 24-28, when the subject under discussion will be "The Renaissance of Religion". Addresses will be delivered by representatives of the various religions, with discussions to follow. Among the speakers who have already promised to address the Congress are Sir Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, Spalding professor of eastern religions in the University of Oxford, for whom Canon C. E. Raven, regius professor of divinity in the University of Cambridge, will take the chair, and Baron E. K. Palmstierna, formerly Swedish Minister to the Court of St. James, for whom the Master of the Temple, Canon H. Anson, will preside. Members of the Congress will be accommodated in St. John's College (men) and Newnham College (women). Particulars of membership and other arrangements may be obtained from the Secretary, World's Congress of Faiths, 36 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Presentation of Kelvin Gold Medal

THE Kelvin Gold Medal for 1938 was presented to Sir Joseph Thomson, master of Trinity College, Cambridge, in recognition of the eminent services he has rendered to engineering science, by Lord Rayleigh, in the Great Hall of the Institution of Civil Engineers

on May 3. The executive committee of the memorial fund to Lord Kelvin, representative of nineteen British and American Institutions, decided that the balance of the Fund, after defraying the cost of a window unveiled in Westminster Abbey to the memory of Lord Kelvin in July 1913, should be applied to the establishment of a Kelvin Gold Medal to be awarded triennially as a mark of distinction in engineering work or investigation of the kinds with which Lord Kelvin was especially identified. The award of the first Kelvin Medal was delayed by reason of the War, and it was not until 1920 that the first award was made to the late Dr. W. C. Unwin (Great Britain). The following awards have since been made: Dr. Elihu Thompson (United States); Sir Charles Parsons (Great Britain); M. André Blondel (France); Marchese Marconi (Italy); Sir Ambrose Fleming (Great Britain).

Presentation of James Alfred Ewing Medal

MR. S. B. DONKIN, president of the Institution of Civil Engineers, presented the James Alfred Ewing Medal to Mr. Charles Samuel Franklin immediately before the delivery of the James Forrest Lecture by Sir Frank Smith. This Medal was founded in 1936 in memory of Sir Alfred Ewing, an honorary member of the Institution, and is awarded for specially meritorious contributions to the science of engineering in the field of research, on the recommendation of the presidents of the Royal Society and of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Mr. C. S. Franklin is well known for his inventions and developments in connexion with beam wireless. The rotating beam aerials installed experimentally at Poldhu in Cornwall were designed by him, whilst he was also responsible for the concentric feeder system for supplying energy to radio aerials and enabling extremely high-frequency currents to be transmitted along a line without loss. These feeders are used in the beam system and are essential to television transmission circuits.

Ninth International Ornithological Congress

THE ninth International Ornithological Congress, which will be attended by ornithologists from every part of the world, will be held in Rouen on May 9-14. Later, the members of the Congress will proceed to Paris and the programme will terminate with a long excursion to the bird reserves in the Camargue. All questions concerning the preservation of birds will be dealt with at the meetings of the International Committee for Bird Preservation, which will be held immediately before the Congress. These meetings are confined to the official delegates of the national sections, which are operating in twenty-eight different countries, of the Committee. In connexion with the Congress an international exhibition of bird pictures is being held in Paris on May 14-29. British ornithological art will be represented by the works of Roland Green, G. E. Lodge, Peter Scott, Archibald Thorburn (lent by Messrs. W. F. Embleton) and A. W. Seaby (lent by Mr. A. W. Harvey Brown, Stevens and Brown Gallery).