

and cooking purposes. One of the objects of the projected afforestation plan for Bengal is to create plantations suitably distributed to provide fuel for these purposes and thus release the manure for its proper use. A Bill for the purpose of afforesting of waste lands and for conserving what is left of private forests was introduced in the Bengal Assembly in 1944. The Bill was enacted in April 1945, and already considerable progress has been made so far as private forests are concerned.

Here we have somewhat similar provisions to the Dedication of Woodlands scheme in Britain (*Nature*, Sept. 4, p. 364). The Bengal Government has the power and the duty of telling the owner how to use his forests, and the Government will meet all expenditure for the first ten years, and in certain cases and conditions the Government may make loans to private owners. As regards the waste land, the estimated area which should be, and could be, afforested is four million acres or 9 per cent of the area of the Province. If this area was afforested Bengal would then have no less than 18 per cent of its lands under forests. Much of this area, it is said, is above the paddy fields and is of a highland nature. It is said to have been under forest once, but with the forest removed soil deterioration, leaching and erosion resulted. Yet the land is believed to be afforestable. It is a big scheme and one which will make high demands on the forest staff of the Province in all its ranks.

In the paper read by Mr. T. M. Coffey, chief conservator of forests, before the members of the Rotary Club, Calcutta, in 1947 (reprinted in *The Indian Forester*, 73, No. 11; November 1947), it is said that to carry out the programme will require to have a forest officer in every district in the Province. At present there are ten districts with forest officers and seventeen without. There can be little doubt that this is a thoroughly sound scheme—but it will require pluck, perseverance and drive and continuity in management and working to see its successful completion. If this is fully recognized, enormous benefits will be conferred upon future populations in the Province.

E. P. STEBBING

THE B.B.C. QUARTERLY

In April 1946 the British Broadcasting Corporation inaugurated a new periodical entitled *The B.B.C. Quarterly*, which was intended for those in Great Britain and abroad who are interested, professionally or otherwise, in broadcasting and its organisation. During the past two years the successive issues of this journal have contained articles on a wide variety of subjects connected directly or otherwise with the purpose of broadcasting and its administration, and with the technical and radio engineering developments which are necessary for the ever-increasing needs of modern broadcasting, including its international aspects.

More than half the contents of the first number of the third volume, issued in April, comprises a series of articles by specialists introduced and edited by Sir Arthur Salter under the general title of "The Impact of Broadcasting on Great Britain's Life and Outlook—I". The remainder of the issue consists of three articles dealing with some present-time activities of the engineering sections of the B.B.C.

In the first article, Messrs. H. B. Rantzen and J. H. Holmes describe the proposed developments which are now being undertaken to provide adequate communication facilities, mainly telephone and teleprinter, over the whole network interconnecting London and the regional broadcasting centres in Great Britain. Following this, Mr. L. Hotine gives an interesting, illustrated account of the engineering arrangements which were made for broadcasting the Royal Wedding. On this occasion, commentaries and eye-witness accounts of the processions and marriage ceremony were made in forty-two languages for the B.B.C. Home, European and Overseas Services. Provision was also made for such accounts to be given to more than fifty stations and networks in the Dominions and Colonies, and for similar facilities to be provided for the big networks and independent stations in the United States and in various European countries. Certain limited television programmes were also provided; and the success of all these arrangements is a tribute to the efficiency of all those concerned with this phase of the operation of outside broadcasting technique.

The third article deals with a subject of great and increasing importance in modern broadcasting: the suppression of unwanted radiation from medium-wave transmitters. Mr. J. B. Webb describes the manner in which spurious radiations from transmitters can, by harmonics or combination frequencies, cause interference with other broadcasting services. This possibility has become more serious in recent years, due to the increase in both the number and power of stations in operation in the medium wave band. The identification and attenuation of existing spurious radiations is often expensive and complicated, requiring the use of widespread technical facilities. But it is very clear that careful consideration should be given to possible unwanted radiations before a new service is introduced, or an increase in power contemplated at an existing installation.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, September 11

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, DIVISION FOR SOCIAL AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF SCIENCE (at the Dome, Brighton), at 7.30 p.m.—Discussion on "Science Across the Frontiers". (Dr. Julian Huxley, F.R.S.: Introduction; Dr. Joseph Needham, F.R.S.: "Origins and Development of the Organisation of International Scientific Co-operation"; Prof. Pierre Auger: "Present Scientific Activities and Programme of UNESCO"; Dr. Paulo Carneiro: "The International Research Institute of the Hylean Amazon").

Sunday, September 12

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE (at the Dome, Brighton), at 8 p.m.—Rt. Hon. Viscount Samuel, P.C.: "Science and Philosophy".

Monday, September 13

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE (at the Royal Pavilion, Brighton), at 8 p.m.—Prof. J. D. Bernal, F.R.S.: "Waves and Beaches".

Monday, September 13—Tuesday, September 14

SOCIETY FOR GENERAL MICROBIOLOGY (at the University, St. Andrews).—Scientific Papers.

Monday, September 13—Friday, September 17

HORTICULTURAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION (at Edinburgh).—Autumn Conference.

Wednesday, September 15

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY (at Manson House, 26 Portland Place, London, W.1), at 7.30 p.m.—Dr. A. J. Turner: "Research on Linen".