

paper is preceded by a short abstract and the volume has an adequate index, but the reprint does not contain reports of the discussions, for which reference will have to be made to the transactions of the various societies. The majority of the papers, of course, deal with investigations carried out with models in the Alfred Yarrow Tank, but three of Mr. Kent's papers on the effect of weather conditions on the propulsion of ships contain his observations made on several voyages across the Atlantic in rough weather, when the routine of the laboratory was abandoned for all the discomforts of the sea.

#### Recent Acquisitions at the Natural History Museum

THE skin and skull of a hybrid between a lion and a leopard, which was bred in the Gardens of Kolhapur, has been presented to the Department of Zoology by Col. F. W. Wodehouse. This specimen, which had reached the age of three years, resulted from a union between a male leopard and a lioness, there being two cubs in the litter, the other one dying when about two and a half months old. These appear to be the only hybrids between a lion and leopard ever recorded. Among a small collection of mammals from Tanganyika Territory collected and presented by Mr. W. G. Cubitt-Currie is a new species of golden mole belonging to the genus *Chlorotalpa*. Purchases for the Department of Zoology include a specimen of the giant squid, *Architeuthis*, stranded in West Bay, Scarborough, on January 14. It is about 20 feet in length, including the tentacles. A notable addition to the Department of Geology is a complete specimen of the ancient shark, *Hybodus Lauffianus*. This is no less than seven feet long, and was discovered in the Upper Lias of Hobzmaier, Württemberg. As with some specimens of *Ichthyosaurus* and other creatures found at this famous locality, not merely the skeleton, but also soft tissues, notably the skin, are present. The Department of Botany has received from the Godman Trustees a further collection of 848 specimens of flowering plants collected by Mr. R. G. N. Young in the Lunda province of Angola. The whole collection forms a valuable addition to our knowledge of the flora of this part of Angola and is especially noteworthy on account of the wealth of material of aquatic species. Amongst the purchases are 540 specimens collected in Brazil by B. H. Krukoff and a further series of 268 type specimens of the liverwort family Jubulearum.

#### Farmers' Guide to Agricultural Research

THE Royal Agricultural Society of England (16 Bedford Square, W.C.1) has issued the seventh of its series of annual summaries of scientific and economic research (1s. 3d. post free). The volume deals mainly with work carried out in Great Britain but also includes the results of colonial and foreign investigations so far as they have a bearing on British agriculture. This year the publication has been issued under a new title, namely, "The Farmer's Guide to Agricultural Research in 1931" in place of "Agricultural Research", by which it has been

known hitherto. The change has been made in order to emphasise the main object of the publication, which is to provide the farmer with the most up-to-date information in all the leading branches of agriculture in a summarised and simple form. Apart from the title, the character of the volume remains unaltered, except that the section on crop and plant breeding is temporarily suspended and a new section on pests and parasites is included. The remaining sections, on dairy farming and dairy work, prevention and treatment of diseases of animals, farm economics, the feeding of live stock, farm implements and machinery, and soils and manures need only be cited to show how wide is the field of inquiry covered. Since each section is prepared by a recognised authority on the subject, the publication cannot fail to be of interest and practical value to the farmer, agricultural organiser and student.

#### Trout Fishing in New Zealand

AN interesting communication on the effects of intensive angling on the depreciation of trout-fishing in the Oreti (or New River) in New Zealand is given by Prof. E. Percival in Fisheries Bulletin No. 5 of the New Zealand Marine Department. The European trout when introduced into New Zealand showed remarkable fitness to their new environment by their great growth and in the early years afforded excellent opportunities for anglers. In recent years, however, there have been signs that the fishing is falling off to a considerable extent. This had been popularly attributed to a number of causes, such as the removal of the bush, leading to a decline in the food supply, the destruction of grasshoppers and cicadas by imported birds, or a change in the growth rate of the fish themselves. By examining old anglers' diaries, studying the food supply and growth of the trout, and using the statistics of angling societies, the author has shown that in all probability the decline in the fisheries is due to the great increase in the number of anglers themselves in recent years and to the opening up of fresh regions made accessible by modern rapid means of transport. The apparent decrease in size attained by the fish is due to the killing off of the older fish and the rapid removal of the smaller fish before they have time to reach a large size. In this publication Prof. Percival gives some valuable information on the food relations in inland waters of New Zealand, following up the work he has already done on the fauna of the streams of Great Britain.

#### Tests of Hearing

A COMMITTEE of the Section of Otology of the Royal Society of Medicine which was appointed in 1929 to consider tests of hearing has now issued its report (Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd., London. 2s. 6d.). Tests of hearing by tuning forks, which are widely used, were first considered. It was found, however, that there is no uniformity in the kinds or construction of forks employed by otologists. The Committee obtained the advice of Sir William Bragg