

have also been studied, and in this connexion special attention has been paid to skin diseases among typical Japanese manual workers such as stevedores, octopus fishers, plasterers, carpenters and blacksmiths. Every effort is made by the Institute to maintain close contacts with industry, and its *Journal* is now to be issued bi-monthly instead of quarterly, so that the results of its researches may be available as soon as possible. Recently also the Japanese Association of Industrial Hygiene—an organisation which is closely connected with the Institute—has considerably increased its activities.

The Rockefeller Foundation

THE Rockefeller Foundation's report for 1932 is a tale of activities which, in extent, variety and momentum, are probably unmatched by those of any other agency for world betterment. Of the aggregate disbursements during the year, amounting to nearly 14 million dollars, about one fifth was for public health work carried on in almost every country of the globe. The report of the director of the international health division covers some two hundred pages and includes a retrospect of the past ten years. This is followed by reports of the directors for the medical sciences, natural sciences, social sciences and humanities, and in each case the recital of events of the year is elucidated by reference to previous years' achievements. The chapter on the social sciences is of special interest at the present time, showing, as it does, that the framers of President Roosevelt's administration's schemes for national recovery, however handicapped by lack of precedents, were at any rate in a position to draw upon the results of elaborate academic research, to the financing of which the Foundation has for some years made very substantial grants. In addition to grants to various institutions for current expenses, including in 1932 grants amounting to 450,000 dollars to the Social Science Research Council in New York City, the Foundation has recently promoted research in specific fields recognised as of specially vital importance, namely, economic planning and control, international relations, and community organisation. In 1932, substantial grants were made for research in such subjects as industrial hazards, history of prices, unemployment, employment exchanges, the gold standard, cyclical fluctuations and employment stabilisation.

Progress of Agricultural Research in Great Britain

THE collected reports on the work done during the year 1931-32 at agricultural research institutes in the United Kingdom which receive State grants has just been published. The volume contains in addition reports on special agricultural investigations for which funds have been allotted. Among these the following may be cited: investigations on improved grassland management at the Welsh Plant Breeding Station, Aberystwyth, and the University of Bristol, seed potato production at the University College of North Wales, Bangor, land reclamation with *Spartina townsendii* (rice grass) by the Essex County Council,

grey squirrel problems at the Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, and the efficacy of chlorates as weed killers at the North of Scotland College of Agriculture. A list of papers published by each research institute or centre and the names and addresses of the directors or persons in charge of the investigations are supplied, so that further information on special points can be obtained if desired. The report can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office or through any bookseller, price 6s. net.

THE Royal Agricultural Society, 16, Bedford Square, W.C.1, has published the eighth of its annual summaries of the research work carried out in the leading branches of agriculture. In previous years the publication has been issued in book form, free on application to members of the Society, and available at a nominal charge to the general public. In the present year, and for the future, "The Farmer's Guide to Agricultural Research" will form part of the Society's *Journal* and will, therefore, automatically be received by every member. A limited number of copies, however, are still being bound separately for distribution to the Press and to agricultural education and research centres. The survey of scientific work which it provides is not limited to research conducted in the British Isles, but also includes references to results obtained in any part of the world which may have a bearing upon the problems of British agriculture. The character of the volume is similar to that of the previous year (1931), except that the section on farm crops which was then omitted has been reintroduced. The other sections, namely, dairy farming, diseases of animals, farm economics, the breeding of livestock, farm implements and machinery, pests and parasites, and soils and manures remain as before. A few copies of previous issues for the years 1925-1931 are stated to be still available.

A Natural History Society in Northern England

WHILE interest in museums appears to be growing, many societies devoted to natural history find it difficult to retain the membership of former years. The Northumberland, Durham and Newcastle-upon-Tyne Society is fortunate in having raised its membership, by a small addition, to 613, but even so the cost of running the Hancock Museum is mainly responsible for a raiding of the Maintenance Appeal Fund to the extent of £245, so that the Fund is on the verge of extinction. The Museum does good work, and under the guidance of T. Russell Goddard and many helpers, is alive to the need for interesting the public by wild-flower exhibits, seasonal exhibitions of Lepidoptera, an observation hive, lectures and the like. Unless further support is forthcoming, it would appear from the financial statement that the activities of the Museum run the danger of curtailment.

First Aid in the Laboratory

WE have received a copy of a pamphlet entitled "Safeguards in the Laboratory", together with a notice suitable for exhibition in the laboratory, both of which are obtainable, price 6d. post free, from