

investigations had progressed far, the need for faunistic surveys would become obvious, and for the prosecution of these co-operation would be sought with the various museums. The author estimates that such a survey could be set going with a staff of not less than six biologists, who should have taken zoology as a major subject and botany and geology as minors. But can any thorough study of fauna be carried out without recourse to fairly thorough statistical analysis, and the author says nothing about mathematical qualifications.

The Men of the Trees

THE tenth annual report of the Society of the Men of the Trees reviews the work of the past year, which has shown an increased membership of the Society, inaugurated by Mr. St. Barbe Baker. The work of the year has included lectures, meetings and exhibitions. Of the latter, the chief was the International Picture Exhibition, held at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, throughout November. Thirty-seven countries assisted the exhibition by sending tree paintings by some of their foremost living artists, and also treasures from the national collections. Several addresses were delivered at meetings by Ambassadors and Ministers accredited to Great Britain. The opening address was given by Field Marshal Viscount Allenby, who dwelt upon the importance of forestry and tree-planting in Great Britain to make good the wastage of the late War. Lord Allenby, even before the War was over in Palestine, had started to restore the land by tree-planting, a commencement which inspired the Men of the Trees to carry on the work. Before opening the exhibition, Lady Georgiana Mure pointed out that forestry and the care of trees is a world-wide thing and that we can "meet our friends from Overseas on a common ground of good fellowship, occasioned by the mutual admiration and love of the countryside and its chief ornament, trees". Mr. Baker directed attention to the advantage from an aesthetic point of view, as well as the hygienic and economic, of planting up the slagheaps in the Black Country of England, and stated that a part of the proceeds from the exhibition was to be devoted to that object.

Cereal Synonyms

THE Cereal Synonym Committee has come to a number of decisions on the stocks of cereals which it examined in 1934. In arriving at these decisions, the Committee was guided by the following definition of a cereal synonym: "The Cereal Synonym Committee regard two cereals as synonyms when they present precisely similar morphological characters, and when they also possess identical physiological characters in so far as they can be determined. Even then by this term they do not necessarily imply that these two varieties are of identical origin, though doubtless in the majority of cases they are. The possibility of two cereals of different parentage presenting such a close, if not complete similarity as to mask their individuality has not been lost sight of.

But the Committee have to deal with facts as they are; they, therefore, regard as synonyms all cereals which are identical in the sense used above even when they know that the origins are different. Before the Committee come to a conclusion concerning the synonymity of any variety the breeder and/or the introducer is given an opportunity of demonstrating to the Committee such differences as he may claim to exist between his variety and the type variety." In compliance with the request of the Committee that as much publicity as possible should be given to its decisions, the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, Cambridge, has published a leaflet giving full details of the findings for the wheat, oats and barley varieties investigated.

Review of Agricultural Research

THE Royal Agricultural Society of England has recently issued its *Journal* for 1934, vol. 95. As last year, "The Farmer's Guide to Agricultural Research" has been incorporated with the annual publication, so that it may be available to every member of the Society. At the same time a number of copies are being bound separately for distribution to the Press and to centres of agricultural education and research. This valuable survey of recent scientific work has been carried out on the same lines as in previous years and the authors responsible for the various sections, namely, crops and plant breeding, diseases of animals, farm implements and machinery, farm economics, dairy farming and dairy work, the feeding of livestock, and soils and fertilisers, are the same as in 1932. The work dealt with is not limited to research conducted in the British Isles, but includes references to results achieved in any part of the world from which light may be thrown on the problems of British agriculture. A few copies of previous issues (1925-32) are still available.

British Standard Specifications for Laboratory Glassware

IN further development of the work which is now being carried out by a committee of the Chemical Division of the British Standards Institution in the standardisation of laboratory ware including scientific glassware, British standard specifications have just been issued for graduated measuring cylinders, Crow receivers, Nessler cylinders and Petri dishes. Copies of the specifications (Nos. 604, 605, 612 and 611-1935 respectively) may be obtained from the Publications Department, British Standards Institution, 28, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, price 2s. 2d. each post paid.

New Museum of Practical Geology, South Kensington

THE opening of the new Museum of Practical Geology, South Kensington, London, S.W.7, and the celebrations of the centenary of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, will take place on July 3-4. The opening ceremony will be performed by H.R.H. the Duke of York on July 3 at 3 p.m. A preliminary account of the proceedings appeared in *NATURE* of March 23, p. 463. In the final programme now issued, it is announced that the director of the