

choice of the best variety, methods of marketing and measures to be adopted for the control of diseases and pests are also supplied. In addition, the construction and heating of glasshouses are considered, and a detailed plan of a low-pressure hot water heating apparatus is appended.

#### Cambridge Philosophical Society

THE *Proceedings of the Cambridge Philosophical Society* now appears in a new and more convenient form. The number of parts in a volume has been reduced from about seven to four, to be published at the ends of January, April, July and October, but the size of the page has been increased, and the general style and layout have been considerably modified so as to bring the journal more into line with the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* and the *London Mathematical Society*. The first issue in this new form contains papers by Prof. G. H. Hardy on "Fourier Kernels", Prof. G. N. Watson on "Ramanujan's Continued Fraction", and six other papers on pure mathematics. As for mathematical physics, M. H. L. Pryce applies Born's new field theory to a simple special case; A. Lees places a new interpretation on Dirac's linear wave equation; H. A. Bethe discusses the neutrino; and W. W. Sawyer deals with a point in the separation of heavy hydrogen. The experimental papers include experiments on neutrons by C. H. Westcott and T. Bjerger, and investigations of downcoming wireless waves by J. L. Pawsey. We regret to notice that the Council has decided not to issue any more parts of the *Transactions* of the Society at present. In the past it has contained many researches which were of great value, but too lengthy for the *Proceedings*.

#### Population Growth and Birth-Control

RAPID increase of the population of India has led to a demand for the inception of preventive measures. Birth-control there, and also in Great Britain, is, however, criticised by Col. C. A. Gill in a recent somewhat polemical paper (*J. Hygiene*, **34**, 502; 1934). According to Col. Gill, population in an area ought to be considered not only from the point of view of numbers, but also from the occurrence of irregular changes or 'movements' in the population, which, apart from migration, are largely determined by forces controlling the birth- and death-rates. Statistical methods forecasting future population ignore such 'movements' of population, and estimates based upon population-growth curves have proved unreliable, for example, in India, and must be accepted with reserve. In a primitive community, prolificity as a means of race survival and an essential factor for progressive evolution is a paramount necessity, and artificial birth-control would constitute racial infanticide. Rural India, it is held, is such a community and is under-populated, and any State action to promote the practice of birth-control there is regarded as being a political crime and a biological blunder. In Great Britain, natural forces are now acting tending to limit increase of population, such

as postponement of the average age of marriage and, possibly, a real decline in fertility. Since Nature requires a wide field of selection, nothing should be done to restrict the reservoir from which in the past many have sprung who have contributed greatly to human progress. The encouragement of birth-control among the masses, it is argued, is therefore to be regarded as being biologically reprehensible.

#### The Geographical Magazine

A NEW monthly publication has appeared entitled the *Geographical Magazine* (London: *Geographical Magazine, Ltd.*, 1s.). The first number fulfils the aim of the editor to depict the geographical background of important events, works of construction and conservation, and the conditions in which various peoples are living throughout the world. Attention will be given also to exploration, travel in little-known lands and among primitive peoples, and the life of animals in relation to their environment. The eight articles include accounts of Abyssinia by Major R. E. Cheesman, India's North-East Frontier by Capt. Kingdon Ward, the routes in the North Syrian desert by Miss C. P. Grant, the aborigines of Central Australia by Mr. B. Macgraith, the "Changing Face of Amsterdam" by Mr. F. R. Yerbury. The home country is represented by an article on the Lake District by Mr. Hugh Walpole and Prof. P. Abercrombie. There are numerous and good illustrations and a small map is given with each article. Half the profits made by the magazine are to be devoted to a fund for the promotion of geographical knowledge to be administered by a body of trustees under the chairmanship of the president of the Royal Geographical Society.

#### World Survey

PUBLISHED under the auspices of the World Power Conference, a new monthly periodical entitled *World Survey* has appeared this month (5s. net), its aim being described as that of presenting and analysing world economic trends. A special feature is the inclusion of a section recording, by means of index numbers, changes in industrial and agricultural production, wholesale and retail prices, unemployment, production of power and fuel and other statistics relating to transport, finance and world trade. In the first number, the articles cover a wide field, including among other subjects the future development of power-producing industries, the international aspects of public works, and machinery and labour displacement. In a special world economic service section, there are articles dealing with Belgium and the gold standard and with the world rubber situation. It is intended that *World Survey* shall facilitate an international exchange of information and opinion between those engaged in the power and fuel industries and economic experts, so that industrial data can be analysed and related continuously to theoretical work. An international bibliography of new publications relating to power and fuel is also included as a monthly feature.