

since the 'white' populations are rapidly approaching stagnation—that of Great Britain is actually on the eve of a decline—yet we have no means of measuring the industrial and commercial changes which this entails. No organisation has been evolved to collect the statistics and other information which it is imperative to possess, and instead we are continuing to press forward with reorganisation schemes in housing, education and transport at home and to expand food and raw material supplies overseas as if world populations are destined to go on expanding at the old rate and with their age distribution unchanged. The fundamental statistical facts and trends in regard to our economic life should become as much part of the common stock of ideas on which all act, as are certain of the fundamental facts of physics and chemistry.

Economics of Progress

THE James Seth Memorial Lecture at the University of Edinburgh was delivered on April 26 by Mr. Roy Glenday, economic adviser to the Federation of British Industries, who took as his subject "The Economic Consequences of Progress". There is a limit, he said, beyond which it is unhealthy to allow growth to proceed even in a community which takes special care not to overstep the frontiers of its own territory. Conflict will still inevitably arise in the process of growing, under the pressure of congestion between the members of the different groups or subdivisions into which the community of necessity splits its territory and occupations. No matter what may be the basic plan of subdivision adopted, there is a limit to the size of economic structure which can be erected on it with safety. The United Kingdom, however, still possesses enormous resources, and the solution Mr. Glenday favours is the one which accepts present tendencies as both reasonable and inevitable. They should be encouraged by promoting a flow of migrants from Great Britain, not for the purpose of developing the land and country-side of the Dominions and Colonies but to enlarge their industries and towns. Given supplies of cheap capital, there are no insuperable obstacles to a redistribution of population between the over-populated Mother country and the under-populated Dominions overseas. This would be as much to their advantage as to ours. In Canada, for example, the railways could serve a population three times its present size.

Guide to National Collections

AMONG the numerous suggestions which have been put forward of means whereby the public might be stimulated to visit in greater numbers the museums and national collections in London, that of a general guide covering all the collections has been one of the most attractive. It has been pointed out that few, outside those who are technically or professionally interested, know where to find exhibits which will illustrate subjects on which they desire to be better informed, while even among the learned and scientific public, not many could without hesitation state off-hand the range and purpose of each

unit in the series. A "Brief Guide to the National Museums and Galleries of London" (H.M. Stationery Office, pp. 106. 6d. net) has now been issued in accordance with a recommendation of the Standing Commission on Museums and Galleries in the hope, as expressed by Lord d'Abernon, the chairman, in a prefatory note, that "this guide, giving in compendious form the salient facts of interest concerning each of the Institutions, may stimulate public interest, both at home and abroad, in the unrivalled resources of the National Collections". It is not intended to supersede individual guides and handbooks, but to supplement them by giving briefly within a single cover information relating to the origin, purpose, range and arrangement of each, together with much useful and practical information, such as how to get there, time of opening and closing, charge for admission, if any, and the like. Especially helpful is a series of street-maps, showing the approaches. The information is clear, direct and comprehensive and there are some excellent illustrations. Experience will show whether the information is given in a form which will attract those for whom it is intended. Should the demand justify, it will be revised annually. Copies may be obtained at H.M. Stationery Office sale branches or through any bookseller, as well as at the museums.

University of London Buildings

MR. T. LL. HUMBERSTONE sends us a copy of a letter he has sent to the Clerk of the London County Council relating to the provision of an open space on part of the site of the new buildings of the University of London at Bloomsbury. He informs us that since his election as a member of the Holborn Borough Council in November last, he has found that an undertaking was given by the University to the Council and also to the London County Council that the University would "preserve a garden area with trees and grass equal in size to, but not necessarily identical in location with, that now existing in Torrington Square gardens". It appeared after inquiries made by Mr. Humberstone that this undertaking was not carried out by the layout of the buildings. Representations were therefore made, with the result that a new design and layout have been prepared, providing approximately an acre of additional open space in the form of three bays on the Malet Street frontage, giving this façade a crenelated form. Mr. Humberstone is the author of a valuable historical work on "University Reform in London" and contributed to NATURE of July 9, 1932, a long article on the development of the University and the design of the new Buildings.

British Oil from Coal

THE first train load of 100,000 gallons of oil made by low-temperature carbonisation from British coal went to the new plant of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. at Billingham from the Barugh (Yorks) works of Low Temperature Carbonisation Ltd. on April 26. The train, which was drawn by two locomotives, consisted of 34 tanks of 3,000 gallons each and weighed

nearly 1,000 tons gross. On arrival at Billingham the oil, which is made from coal by the coalite process, is being submitted to hydrogenation and converted into about 100,000 gallons of petrol. This is the first time that a bulk consignment of oil obtained by low-temperature carbonisation has been treated by a hydrogenation plant in Great Britain. Tests carried out by Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., and H.M. Fuel Research Board show that this oil is particularly suitable for conversion into petrol by hydrogenation, and the event constitutes a notable achievement in the history of the coal and coal oil industry in Great Britain.

The *B.B.C. Annual*

THE *B.B.C. Annual* for 1935 (London: B.B.C. 2s. 6d.) is the successor to the *B.B.C. Year Book* for 1934. This Year Book, after a fairly successful career, has been discontinued. The first section of the *Annual* gives a history of the Corporation's programme policy for the last five years. The second section is the Corporation's report to the listeners of Great Britain. A report is also given of the activities of the Empire service. We are told that the object is not merely to give a recital of past programmes remembered or forgotten, but to explain and make comments on them. Old problems have to be reconsidered and new problems are always arising. So a new section is started called the 'forum', which is to be a market place for the expression of ideas by authors, who are wholly free and solely responsible for what they write, and is not a pulpit for making pronouncements. It contains some interesting articles discussing amongst other subjects international broadcasting, free speech, music and radio drama. There is also an excellent short obituary notice of the late Mr. J. H. Whitley, who devoted himself during the last years of his life to guiding most successfully the progress of this great national corporation.

Dorothy Temple Cross Research Fellowships

THE Dorothy Temple Cross research fellowships in tuberculosis for the academic year 1935-36 will shortly be awarded by the Medical Research Council, and applications should be lodged with the Council not later than June 1, 1935. The object of these fellowships is to give special opportunities for study and research to persons "intending to devote themselves to the advancement by teaching or research of curative or preventive treatment of tuberculosis in all or any of its forms". Candidates must be British subjects. The fellowships will preferably be awarded to candidates who wish to make their studies or inquiries outside the borders of Great Britain. They will be awarded for one year as a rule, but in special cases may be renewed. The value of the fellowships awarded will depend in each case upon the standing and qualifications of the candidate, but will not be less than £350 per annum, payable monthly in advance. Travelling and some incidental expenses will be paid in addition. It may also be possible to award a senior fellowship of considerably greater

value to a specially well-qualified candidate wishing to undertake an intensive study of some particular problem of tuberculosis at a chosen centre of work in another country. Further particulars and forms of application are obtainable from the Secretary, Medical Research Council, 38 Old Queen Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Leaflets on Disease of Fruit Trees

THE Ministry of Agriculture has recently issued Collection No. 1 of Leaflets on Fungus and other Diseases of Fruit Trees, price 1s. 6d. net. This collection contains a copy of each of the leaflets on the subject at present issued by the Ministry, and is bound up in portfolio form so that when a new leaflet or a revised edition of an old one is published an insertion or substitution can readily be made. Sectional vol. 1, which contained the same leaflets in a permanently bound form is, therefore, superseded, as it is hoped that the new arrangement will prove of greater convenience. Those who desire to receive a copy of each new or revised leaflet as it is issued, in order to keep their portfolio up to date, may do so on payment of a nominal annual registration fee. Full particulars concerning this matter may be obtained from the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 10, Whitehall Place, London, S.W.1.

Cultivation of Soft Fruits

OWING to the imposition of import duties, soft-fruit growers in Great Britain have been able to find a satisfactory market for home-grown fruit during the past two seasons. The issue of a second edition of Bulletin No. 4, "Soft Fruits", by the Ministry of Agriculture (London: H.M.S.O. 1s. net) will, therefore, be particularly welcomed as it will enable the grower to make the fullest use of his protected position. The principal fruits dealt with in the bulletin remain as before, namely, strawberries, gooseberries, currants, loganberries, raspberries, figs and melons, though the subject matter has been considerably revised. Sections on the cultivation of blackberries and dewberries have, however, been included in the new edition, owing to their increasing popularity. The cultivation of nuts is now omitted, as it is hoped to issue fuller information on nut culture as a separate bulletin.

New Zealand Scenery

THE active steps taken by the New Zealand Government to preserve the original scenery of the Dominion are noted in the report on scenery preservation for the year ending March 1934. During the year, more than thirty new reserves were announced. They varied in size from small historic sites to areas of several hundred acres, the largest being about 9,000 acres in the Canterbury district, where a great area of beech bush has been set aside. The total area of scenic reserves in New Zealand is now about a thousand square miles, divided into about as many different parts. The Act of 1908 under which such area can be dedicated to public care has now been amended to allow of any landowner applying to