

established. Australia has a standards organisation with 500 committees manned by more than 4,500 individuals, and during the past year 75 industrial standards have been issued and 20 more are out for public criticism. British Standard Specifications are good propaganda for British trade, and it is to be noted that more than 12,000 copies have been sent to diplomatic and trade commissioners in all parts of the world, so that they may maintain complete sets which may be consulted by those desiring information regarding British products, as represented by British Standard Specifications. The Government continues its whole-hearted support of the B.S.I. as the national standardising body in Great Britain.

Cider Tasting Day at Long Ashton

THE Open Field Day at the Research Station, Long Ashton, near Bristol, was held on May 2. A large and distinguished company of growers, brewers, men of science and administrators met to exchange views, inspect the laboratories and outdoor plots, and to exercise a discretionary taste upon the samples of cider prepared under controlled conditions by the National Fruit and Cider Institute. Representatives from Canada, South Africa, India, and the United States were present. The function has retained its atmosphere of informality and free intercourse throughout its thirty years, in spite of the fact that visitors have increased in number about a hundred-fold since the first meeting of twenty-five members. The desire to take full advantage of the educational opportunities of the day has also grown. The ciders of 1934 were definitely above the average in quality, but were slightly inferior to the superlative product of the previous year—one cannot expect equal quality from two heavy crops in succession. An exhibit of centrifuging as a method of controlling fermentation attracted much interest, whilst experiments and outdoor demonstrations on pomology, plant nutrition, fruit breeding, economic mycology and entomology, willow culture and fruit and vegetable preservation, were also shown. The Agricultural Advisory Centre, Berkeley Square, Bristol, and the National Mark organisation provided additional exhibits.

Soil Research in Scotland

AT a Scottish joint meeting of the Chemical Society, Institute of Chemistry and Society of Chemical Industry held in Aberdeen on May 17-18, at which Prof. Alexander Findlay presided, the work being carried out at the Macaulay Institute for Soil Research provided the subject for discussion. Dr. Ian M. Robertson read a paper entitled "The Agricultural Utilisation of Peat Land", in which the geology of peat formation, the physical and biological properties of peat and their relation to land reclamation were described. Members of the three Societies had an opportunity to visit the Macaulay Institute for Soil Research on May 18, when the Director, Dr. W. G. Ogg, and his staff, described the particular branches of soil research carried out in Scotland. These included geological work on soils, soil survey work, the investigation of soil fertility, and advisory work among farmers.

South Africa: Progress of Twenty-five Years

THE special South Africa supplement of *The Times*, presented with the issue of May 31, deserves mention for its wealth of interest and its authoritative articles. Published to commemorate the silver jubilee of the Union of South Africa, the supplement reviews the progress of the Dominion during the last twenty-five years. Articles on agriculture, mining, migration, education, wild-life and native affairs are particularly noteworthy; but other sides of South African life, such as finance, architecture, sport, communications and holiday resorts are not omitted. Altogether, the supplement, which runs to thirty pages and is illustrated with maps and photographs, may be regarded as an important 'volume' on all aspects of South Africa, and one of permanent value.

Malaria in Ceylon

THE seriousness of the epidemic of malaria that has been raging in Ceylon may be realised from the fact that 74,000 deaths are attributed to this disease during the six months, November-April. Up to the end of April, nearly two million rupees were expended in relief, exclusive of sums for medical treatment. The situation has afforded an opportunity to test on a large scale the value of quinine and of synthetic antimalarial drugs, and the report thereon when published should prove of great value.

British Standard Density Hydrometers

THE Hydrometer Sub-Committee of the British Standards Institution has prepared a draft specification for British standard density hydrometers and tables for use with the hydrometers. The draft specification and tables are now being circulated to interested bodies by the Institution for criticism prior to their final publication. The Institution would welcome comments on the proposals from as wide a circle as possible, and a copy of the draft specification and tables will be forwarded to anyone interested on application to the Director, British Standards Institution, 28 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

Nutrition Advisory Committee

THE Minister of Health and the Secretary of State for Scotland have appointed a Nutrition Advisory Committee to "inquire into the facts, quantitative and qualitative, in relation to the diet of the people, and to report as to any changes therein which appear desirable in the light of modern advances in the knowledge of nutrition". The members of the Committee are: Lord Luke (chairman), Mrs. Eleanor Barton, Mr. J. N. Beckett, Dr. G. F. Buchan, Prof. E. P. Cathcart, Mr. R. R. Enfield, Dr. J. Alison Glover, Dr. J. M. Hamill, Dr. A. Bradford Hill, Sir F. Gowland Hopkins, Dr. Donald Hunter, Prof. E. Mellanby, Sir John Boyd Orr, Mr. E. C. Ramsbottom, Mr. J. M. Vallance, Mrs. Chalmers Watson, Mr. J. R. Willis, Mr. E. H. T. Wiltshire. The secretaries of the Committee are: Mr. W. J. Peete, of the Ministry of Health, London, S.W.1, to whom all communications on the subject should be addressed; Mr. N. F. McNicoll, of the Department of Health for Scotland;