

From the head of navigation on the Rhine to the sea, the distance is 445 miles. Therefore the Mississippi offers a water outlet to a far more extensive region than does the Rhine; and the potential wealth of the American domain is infinitely greater and in some respects more varied."

Cold-Storage Plant in Madrid

WITH the aid of cold-storage plant it is possible to regulate the supply of perishable foodstuffs to a city so that, whatever the season, the supply may be sufficient. A privately owned cold-storage building has been erected in Madrid with this end in view. O. Rhunke gives a description of the plant used in this building in the *Escher-Wyss News* of April. A five-storied building was constructed in the immediate vicinity of the principal markets, with the railway track on one side and the Calle de Toledo on the other. The level of the railway is 23 ft. above the level of the street, so that goods are unloaded from the railway into a chute and delivered into the street from the ground floor. Ten thousand cubic metres are provided for storage for eggs, fruit and fish. The main cooling is by conditioned air with brine-circulated cooling in addition. The temperature and humidity of all the cooling rooms have to be kept within prescribed limits. The used air is cleared out several times every day and ozonising is employed. Special care has to be taken to prevent any interruption of the cooling process taking place. A cooling capacity of thirteen million British thermal units per day is required. It was at first thought that such a spacious building would considerably exceed the needs of the city, but three months after the opening practically all the space was utilised.

East Malling Research Station

THE twenty-second annual report, for the year 1934, of the East Malling Research Station, has just been published (pp. 241. 4s. net. May 1935). The Station is maintained by the Kent Incorporated Society for Promoting Experiments in Horticulture, with various grants from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. A 22-page supplement describes the more administrative side of the Station, and leaves the main volume free to set forth the research findings during the past year. These are, perhaps, even more numerous than usual, for a determined effort has been made to elucidate more fully the problems of insecticides and fungicides. Section 1 of the report describes the experimental farm, and is contributed by Messrs. J. Amos, F. H. Beard, M. H. Moore and A. C. Painter, with a foreword by the director, Mr. R. G. Hatton. Section 2 is a general review of research work, with summaries of papers published during the year. It is compiled by numerous members of the staff. The third section, on preliminary research reports, occupies most of the volume. Truly is the East Malling Research Station justifying its comparison, voiced by H.R.H. the Duke of York, to a standard apple tree, which, once established on good soil, would "continue to flourish and yield excellent fruit".

Farm Machinery

THE favourable reception that attended the publication of the first volume of "Farm and Machine" issued by the Institute for Research in Agricultural Engineering, Oxford, last year, has led to the decision that an annual issue would be justified. Vol. 2, which has recently appeared (2s. 6d.), contains like its predecessor the report of the Institute for the year under review and also a collection of miscellaneous papers on agricultural engineering. The chief event of the year has been the removal of the Institute into its new quarters in Parks Road, a building well suited for the indoor work and provided with excellent workshop and stores accommodation. The testing of various new types of agricultural machinery naturally takes a prominent place in the work of the Institute, but research on the theoretical side is also carried out, from which important advances have already been made. The titles of some of the miscellaneous articles such as market garden tractors, farm electricity tariffs, the mode of action of mole drains, sugar beet harvesting, implements for regenerating grassland need only be quoted to show that the volume is likely to be of help and interest to a wide section of the farming community.

Rare Developmental Condition in a Boy

A NOTE by Science Service, of Washington, D.C., states that a 'dog-boy' four years old is living in Kharkov, U.S.S.R. His face and body are entirely covered with long blond hair, coarse and a little wavy. The child is otherwise normal mentally and physically except for rickets, which is being treated in the hospital. The relatives are all normal so far as known. This very rare condition is known as hypertrichosis universalis. Some thirty such families have been recorded, most of them from Russia. In certain cases reported from India, the hair was dark. The condition is a developmental defect, in which the prenatal lanugo is not shed. It may be accompanied by faulty teeth and nails. Once the condition has appeared, it is likely to recur in the next generation. An effort should be made to determine whether the family producing this child is related in any way to the previously recorded Russian families.

Bibliography of Seismology

IN a recent issue of NATURE (135, 1070; June 29), a brief notice was given of the "Bibliography of Seismology" for the year 1934 prepared by the Dominion Observatory of Ottawa. In that note, it was pointed out that Great Britain is not represented in the list of collaborators. We have received a letter from Dr. F. J. W. Whipple, Kew Observatory, in which he suggests that this omission may be taken to imply that the works of British seismologists are ignored in the Bibliography, and he states that in the last quarterly number there are seven references to such publications. On the other hand, in the United States, there are eleven collaborators, who refer to forty memoirs written in that country. The test as regards completeness is not, however, the actual number of memoirs noticed, so much as the

percentage of the total number published that are entered in the Bibliography, and this percentage obviously depends on the number of contributors. In the absence of collaborators, memoirs are, of course, likely to be overlooked.

World Power Conference

THE annual report for 1934 of the World Power Conference, 36 Kingsway, London, W.C.2, records that the transactions of the Scandinavian meeting held in 1933 have been published in seven volumes. The subjects discussed centre round the power problems of large-scale industry and of land and sea transport. The Chemical Engineering Congress will be held in London on June 22-27, 1936, and will be a sectional meeting of the World Power Conference. After preparatory work extending over seven years, it is hoped that tables of international statistics on a strictly comparative basis will be published this year.

Conference of Empire Survey Officers

THE Third Conference of Empire Survey Officers opened in London on July 23 and will continue in session until August 2. The Conference is not open to the public, but an official report of its proceedings will be published in due course. Representatives of Canada, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Union of South Africa, the Irish Free State, India and Northern Ireland, and of about twenty Colonial dependencies, as well as by representatives of various interested departments, societies and institutions in Great Britain, are attending the Conference. The principal object of these gatherings, of which the two earlier ones were held in 1928 and 1931 respectively, is to afford opportunities for surveyors from overseas to obtain and exchange up-to-date information as to the progress made in survey matters, and for discussions on questions of general interest to surveyors.

IN opening the Empire Survey Conference on July 23, Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, expressed his pleasure at being able to welcome at the Conference not only representatives of the various Colonies, Protectorates and Mandated Territories, but also representatives of the majority of the self-governing Dominions, of India, and of Northern Ireland. He referred to some of the subjects to be discussed, such, for example, as trigonometrical and topographical surveying, and various aspects of air survey work. Continuing, Mr. MacDonald said, "Another question which appears on your agenda is that of the co-ordination of African surveys. I need hardly emphasise the importance of this, but I should like to express the hope that this Conference will be able to work out an agreed plan for co-ordination in the future. Closely allied with this is the question of the completion of the Arc of the 30th meridian. The possibility of completing this important work at the earliest possible moment is kept continually in mind." Brigadier MacLeod, the Director General of the Ordnance Survey, who was asked by Mr. MacDonald to preside over the Conference, then thanked the Secretary of State on behalf of the delegates for coming to open the

Conference and emphasised the value of periodical Conferences of this nature.

ASLIB

THE twelfth annual conference of the Association of Special Libraries and Information Bureaux is to be held on September 20-23 at St. John's College, Cambridge. According to the preliminary programme, Sir Richard Gregory will deliver his presidential address on September 20 and will speak on the "Interpretation of Science". Mr. J. D. Cowley, director of the University of London School of Librarianship, and others will deal in a symposium with special librarians and their problems, Sir Stephen Gaselee, of the Foreign Office Library, will describe libraries and special sources of information in Government departments, and Mr. B. M. Headicar, of the British Library of Political and Economic Science, will deal with the use of reference books. "What Industry expects from Public Libraries" is the title of a paper by Mr. R. Brightman, of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., while Miss E. W. Parker, of the Mond Nickel Co., Ltd., inquires into the use that industry and commerce make of the public libraries in the London area. Further particulars about the meeting can be obtained from the Secretary, ASLIB, 16 Russell Square, London, W.C.1.

The Third International Congress of Soil Science

SOME four hundred delegates, from twenty-five foreign and twenty British countries, will assemble at Oxford for the Third International Congress of Soil Science on July 30-August 7. The delegates will be welcomed by the Vice-Chancellor of the University at the opening session, and will be entertained by the Government at a dinner in Christ Church Hall on July 31. The meetings have been arranged so that questions of wide interest will be discussed in the mornings at plenary sessions, and more specialised ones in the afternoons at Commission sessions. Sir John Russell will deliver the presidential address on "The Place of Soil Science in Agriculture", and Prof. G. W. Robinson will present a general survey of British soils. The plenary session of Commission IV—Soil Fertility—promises to be of particular interest. Prof. E. A. Mitscherlich will describe the co-operative work developed and organised by him in Germany to test his physiological methods of determining fertility, Prof. R. A. Fisher will outline the principles of his well-known methods of field experimentation as used in England, and Prof. O. de Vries will describe fertility measurements in the tropics with special reference to work in the Netherlands Indies. Other papers likely to attract attention are by Prof. F. Hardy on tropical soil types, by Dr. Brüne on the cultivation of moorland, and by Prof. Lowdermilk on the measures now being adopted in the United States for the control of soil erosion. The programme covers the whole field of pure and applied soil science, and includes a number of excursions of both scientific and scenic interest in the neighbourhood of Oxford.

Beit Fellowships for Scientific Research

THE Trustees of the Beit Fellowships have awarded the following fellowships for research at the Imperial