

Extensive improvements were carried out, including the building of a new aviary, the extension of the carnivora house, and an open arena for lions and tigers. And "all the members of the menial staff of the three Sections were provided with suitable uniforms, for the first time, with suggestive badges for the respective groups; and the whole staff looks exceedingly smart when thus arrayed on ceremonial and festive occasions. . . . The year 1109 was one of the most progressive in the annals of the institution, and has marked an important land mark in the various stages of its development for years." (Administration Report to the Government of His Highness the Maha Raja of Travancore, 1109 M.E.)

Marine Biology in Ceylon

THE administrative report for 1934 of the marine biologist of Ceylon, Mr. A. H. Malpas, shows that as the results of restricted inspections by dredging of the pearl banks there were no spatfalls in the northern paars and Cheval paars. A certain number of second and third year oysters were, however, present, but not in sufficient quantities to offer a prospect of immediate fisheries, although if conditions are favourable they may provide heavy spatfalls. A scheme has been prepared for the establishment in Colombo of a fisheries research station combined with an aquarium which is under consideration. This provides in the first instance for a small biological research station capable of being enlarged as funds are available. It will be equipped with research laboratories and fresh-water and marine aquaria essential for fisheries investigation work. An aquarium will be attached, to which the public will be admitted. This is an alternative scheme to one outlined in earlier reports which provided for exhaustive investigations in these waters with a modern fishing vessel equipped with the latest fishing appliances in order to determine the lines on which the local industries could be most profitably developed, which the Executive Committee for Local Administration has definitely decided to abandon. Under the new scheme, the field of research will include investigations into life-histories and general bionomics of all aquatic animals of importance in Ceylon, into the culture of pearl and edible oysters, into the farming of estuaries and fresh-water fishes and turtle, and into the importance of various indigenous larvivoracious fishes in relation to the suppression of tropical fevers and the breeding and distributing of the most active forms throughout Ceylon.

Baltic Countries

THE Baltic Institute, which was founded at Torun in Poland in 1926 for the investigation of Polish and Pomeranian economic problems, has widened its scope in the publication of a journal entitled *Baltic Countries*, which is to appear three times a year at the annual cost of five dollars. The August number contains more than a dozen articles, all in English, on various aspects—geographical, economic and historical—of Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Estonia and other Baltic lands. Russia and Germany are

excluded from the scope of the review. The editorial committee of twelve is drawn from the universities of Baltic and Scandinavian countries, England and the United States. A supplement to the issue contains the first instalment of the proposed Baltic Year Book which gives the usual statistical tables. This is to be completed in four issues, and then published separately. *Baltic Countries* promises to be a useful addition to geographical and economic journals.

Religious Broadcasting at the Eucharistic Congress

THE broadcasting of the services at the International Eucharistic Congress of World Catholicism at Buenos Aires in October 1934 to the largest and most widely diffused religious congregation in history was made possible by the radio telephone. On the closing day, October 14, the Pope, Pius XI, speaking into a microphone on his desk at the Vatican, gave the concluding message not only to a million worshippers kneeling in the streets of the Argentine capital, but also, by means of retransmissions from Buenos Aires to broadcasting stations on three continents, to a very considerable proportion of the clergy and laity throughout the world. In *Electrical Communication* of July, two papers describe the broadcasting arrangements and the radio telephone system which rendered possible this world-wide service. No longer are the delegates to these international congresses crowded together in a cathedral with straining ears. Walls or park boundaries or national frontiers or even oceans now offer no restrictions. Without wireless, the management of the large crowds drawn from a metropolitan area having nearly three million inhabitants would have presented almost insuperable difficulties. Chile, Peru and Colombia were linked up by transcontinental land lines and Uruguay by a subfluvial cable. The able and willing co-operation of the Government telephone departments of many of the leading countries in the world ensured the success of the international broadcasts.

Industrial Power in Great Britain

AT the National Electrical Convention held at Bournemouth on June 3-8, a paper on industrial power supply was read by F. Forrest, H. Hobson and C. Taite. They examine very thoroughly the dependence of Great Britain upon her manufacturing industries and how much mechanical and electrical power they take. Although widely extended use is being made by industry of the public electric supply services, a still wider use is advocated, as it has a cumulative effect upon economy of production, and many of the existing mechanical power plants are not economical. The introduction of labour-saving devices has proceeded more slowly in Great Britain than elsewhere; mass production methods also are much more widely applied in the United States and Germany. Compared with her principal competitors, there is a relative deficiency in the total power equipment per wage earner of Britain. This deficiency is partly due to the nature of British industries, which demand a greater proportion of hand processes, and