

Tennessee, Georgia, Florida and California by Federal authority as part of the measures under the Civil Works Administration for the relief of unemployment. Of these investigations, the most extensive were in California, where extensive excavations at the Buena Vista Lake, Kern County, under Dr. H. D. Strong and Mr. W. M. Walker revealed evidence of extensive occupation and some six hundred interments. Nearly 5,000 artefacts and specimens were obtained, as well as information which throws a flood of light on the prehistoric inhabitants of the great southern valley of California and their ethnic affiliations. Mr. J. N. B. Hewitt's study of the Iroquois continues to reveal new and interesting details in the organisation of the Confederacy of the Five Nations, and this year promises to be of exceptional importance to the student of Indian tribal relations. Incidentally, the report shows another side of recent political 'scandals', alleged in criticisms of unemployment relief, by a reference to the specially qualified unemployed who were engaged to translate or transcribe material from the Bureau's archives hitherto inaccessible to study, or in danger of perishing.

#### British Hardwoods

In a paper entitled "Our British Grown Hardwood Trees", read before the Forestry Sub-section of Section K (Botany) at the meeting of the British Association in Norwich on September 5, Mr. Alexander L. Howard traced the history of the forests, their denudation and afforestation work in Britain from the time of Henry II down to the present day. After reference to the disappearance of forests in other parts of the world and the resulting troubles caused thereby, Mr. Howard turned his attention to the afforestation work proceeding in Great Britain. What we want, he says, is the largest number of trees of both softwoods and hardwoods to be planted in the shortest possible time at the least possible cost. On the latter head there will be no disagreement; on the former, a certain section of opinion in Great Britain holds that, with the present high taxation, the whole of the burden of this afforestation work, the benefits of which can only be realised by future generations, should not fall upon the present one. After an analysis of the present position of the Forestry Commission and its expenditure, Mr. Howard advocates the formation of a regular Government Department "modelled on the lines of the best-known systems at present in existence". Mr. Howard—and many will agree with him—is insistent on the importance of increasing the areas of hardwood trees in Britain.

#### Plant Diseases in Egypt

THE Technical and Scientific Service of the Ministry of Agriculture for Egypt has recently issued a most valuable Bulletin on "Egyptian Plant Diseases: a Summary of Research and Control" (Bull. No. 146, Govt. Press, Bulâq, Cairo. Price P.T. 5. 1935). Mr. G. Howard Jones, director of the Ministry's Mycological Section, has written the text, which is a discussion of Egypt's position in relation to plant

diseases, with a list of those which have occurred up to the present. Desert on three sides, and the sea on the fourth, render that country a somewhat isolated region, whilst the flooding of the Nile and the regularity of the seasons are further peculiarities. Rigid plant quarantine is one of the most effective methods of controlling fungus diseases in such an area. Research work has been directed to the investigation of individual diseases, the selection and testing of resistant host plants, the effects of differing level of the soil water table, and the progressive simplification of disease control. The last-mentioned question is of vital importance, not only in Egypt, but wherever busy farmers have to control disease in their crops. Seed disinfection with dusts is preferable to hot water treatment or to the use of liquid fungicides. The preparation of Bordeaux mixture is a very complicated process, so much simpler spray fluids are being developed. Eight reproductions of illustrated posters, with descriptions in the native language, are included in the Bulletin. One feels that Mr. Howard Jones and his colleagues really understand the situation in Egypt, and are doing their best to control the more serious diseases. The greater part of the publication is devoted to the list of diseases of crop plants, arranged according to their hosts, whose names appear in alphabetical order.

#### International Agriculture

"THE WORLD AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN 1933-4", published by the International Institute of Agriculture, Rome (25 liras), forms the fifth of the series of "Economic Commentaries" on the "International Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics". The information is presented in a slightly different form from that in preceding volumes. The first part deals with world agriculture, its conditions and trends, and describes the market conditions of the chief agricultural products such as cereals, sugar, tea, coffee, wine, tobacco, textile materials and live-stock, while the second part is concerned with the agricultural policy and conditions in each of thirty different countries. A modification of the arrangement in the previous issues has been made and now information of every kind concerning each country has been grouped together in a single article. The development in Government intervention on behalf of agriculture has necessitated considerable extension of this part of the publication and has also led to the omission of the section devoted to the action taken by voluntary organisations, since this has inevitably become of increasingly smaller importance.

#### Shelterbelts and Windbreaks

IN Great Britain, shelterbelts are usually constructed as a protection against wind alone. In countries possessing arid areas of large expanse, like India and Mesopotamia, they are sometimes usefully employed against driven sand and dust. In these countries, the hot weather is usually accompanied by a daily wind rising with the sun and attaining its maximum about 1 p.m. and then gradually dying away. In some cases, the wind is so strong that it