

gas grid controlled by the Sheffield Gas Co. has made available over a wide area and at prices lower than customary. The Rotherham Corporation has also taken advantage of the local supply of coke oven gas, and in order to encourage the use of gas instead of coal has instituted a two-part tariff with a very low consumption charge (10d. per 1,000 cub. ft. of 500 B.T.U.). Mr. J. T. Haynes, formerly manager of the Rotherham undertaking, reported the success of the tariff, which has been adopted by consumers of all classes. The results show that, roughly speaking, 1,000 cub. ft. of gas does the work of 1 cwt. of domestic coal.

Mr. C. A. Masterman's paper on gas safety precautions contained much of interest. While considering steps to reduce the number of deaths from the use of gas, he indicated that the publicity given to such accidents creates a false impression of their frequency. Actually the fatality rate from coal gas in Great Britain is only a fraction of corresponding figures in other countries. The report of the Registrar General shows that coal gas accidents are only one fifth of those due to falling downstairs, while those due to products of combustion are insignificant.

Actually ten times as many people die as a result of falling out of bed as from the fumes of burning coal gas. Nevertheless, as a result of greater care in the service of gas appliances, the number of such accidents is diminishing, while the consumption of gas increases.

The paper by J. Jameson and Dr. J. G. King on the carbonisation of cannel at Edinburgh Gas Works gave interesting results which received an undesirable publicity in the daily Press. It was shown that a certain Scotch cannel yields on carbonisation not only a good yield of gas, but also of tar particularly suited for hydrogenation to give motor-spirit and a coke quite serviceable for domestic use. Unfortunately, it has been suggested that the carbonisation of cannel could be expanded almost to cover the nation's supply of liquid fuel. This is a myth which was exploded long ago, for example, during the War. Suitable cannels, as Messrs. Jameson and King indicated, are too irregular in supply and too variable in quality to form a basis of an industry of such magnitude. It is regrettable that the Press should be used to disseminate such perversions of the results of research.

## The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust

THE Carnegie United Kingdom Trust's twenty-second Annual Report couples with its description of the work of the year 1935 a general account of progress achieved during the past five years and an outline of its five-year plan for 1936-40. Some idea of the range of the Trustees' activities during the past quinquennium can be gathered from the following summary classification of grants: libraries, £296,500 (being 44 per cent of the total of all the grants); playing-fields and play-centres, £125,000; village halls, rural community councils, new estates community associations, youth hostels and other schemes for rural development and social service, £162,600; adult education (including museums), £35,700; music and drama, £18,400; miscellaneous, £32,200.

Two big changes of policy, one negative and one positive, differentiate the current from the past five-years' programme. Libraries have enjoyed the lion's share of the grants ever since the Trust's foundation, and three-fourths of this share has gone to county and municipal libraries. Last year, however, the Trust decided that for the future these institutions might safely be left to rely upon other resources. A similar decision was reached in regard to grants for special libraries, for newly formed rural community councils and for playing-fields: "... in each of these fields they [the Trustees] have helped to set up a standard of achievement which should enable those who are responsible locally to carry on the work and develop it adequately, and . . . to give further help would stultify the pioneer principle which is at the root of the policy which their founder laid down".

It is in projects for land settlement that the Trustees have found an outlet for the funds thus set free. So long ago as 1933, they commissioned Mr.

A. W. Menzies Kitchin, of the University of Cambridge Department of Agriculture, to investigate the potentialities of land settlement as an agency for social welfare, and ways and means for promoting it. His report, published last January, favours experiment along two lines: (1) co-operative small-holding schemes of 30-40 families, each holding being 3-10 acres of land; and (2) co-operative part-time subsistence holdings; and the Trustees have allocated £150,000 for schemes of these types. Already two schemes of type (1) are in being, both promoted by the Land Settlement Association, one at Potton (market garden holdings) on land given by Mr. P. Malcolm Stewart, and one at Andover (poultry and pig holdings), and the Trustees have allotted £10,000 towards the capital cost of establishing three more such schemes (forty families each) in distressed areas in co-operation with county councils. Another £10,000 is allotted towards starting thirty part-time settlements of forty men each on the group-holding (quarter to half-acre) system—an experiment recently taken over from the Society of Friends.

Another entirely new allocation is one of £30,000 for encouraging amateur choral and orchestral societies and for holding short schools for conductors. As in the case of the land settlement schemes, this new venture has not been undertaken without prolonged inquiry and consideration. It will be under the direction of a joint committee of the Trustees and a national federation of amateur societies recently set up on the initiative of the Incorporated Society of Musicians.

The whole report is extremely interesting. The Trust's activities have a value over and above their directly beneficial results in that they are often conducted in such a way as to have permanent value as pieces of scientific research.