

The 1934 Locust Invasions

IN the report of the Committee on Locust Control prepared by Dr. B. P. Uvarov and published by the Economic Advisory Council in 1935, a detailed account is given of the locust outbreak in Africa and western Asia in 1934. The present survey of the situation is the fourth of its kind, its predecessors covering the years 1925-32. These series of publications make it possible to trace the outbreak of each species of locust from its earliest stage, and it is evident that the present invasion is already in its tenth year and still continuing. Altogether, four species of locusts are involved, and the data respecting them supply convincing proof that the usual idea that locusts are serious but transient pests is fallacious, at any rate, in so far as Africa is concerned. With a sequence of four different species, it appears that a period when no swarms of any of these will be present in the whole continent will be long in coming. It appears even probable that there are no such periods, and that danger from locusts is permanent and not intermittent. An encouraging outcome of the work embodied in this report is the fact that a clear understanding of the origin and course of the outbreak of each locust species is gradually developing and replacing the fragmentary knowledge previously available.

Viscount Grey Memorial

AN appeal has recently been issued to erect a memorial to Lord Grey of Fallodon. Apart from his fame as a statesman, Lord Grey will be remembered as a lover of Nature. In writings that combine the poetry and the science of bird observation, he has taught many to find the purest and most lasting joys of mind and heart. It is proposed to erect a threefold memorial: (1) To set up a statue or bust in a central spot in London; (2) To acquire and make over to the National Trust 'Ross Castle', the small hill-top crowned by an ancient earthwork which adjoins Chillingham Park in Northumberland, a favourite view-point of Lord Grey's, which he often visited from Fallodon; (3) To develop (by further endowment and otherwise) the existing scheme of research maintained by the British Trust for Ornithology at Oxford, of which University he was an undergraduate and in later years the Chancellor, to form a permanent Institute of Bird Studies, to which his name would be attached. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, The Viscount Grey Memorial, 7 Buckingham Palace Gardens, London, S.W.1.

Polar Year Book

THE great activity of Norwegians in polar exploration and economic development finds expression in the well-illustrated *Polar-årboken*, of which the 1935 issue has recently been published. In addition to a great deal of polar news, in which Spitsbergen is prominent, there are various articles, some in a lighter vein, but most of a serious nature. Mr. O. Sund gives a useful account of the distribution of food fishes in west Greenland waters, and Mr. A.

Lidtveit discusses plant growth and possibilities of agriculture in the same land. Dr. A. Hoel has some interesting notes on the use of ice-breakers in Spitsbergen in relation to the export of coal. The book is published by Gyldendal Norsk Forlag at Oslo.

Cracking of Potato Tubers

A SHORT article by Messrs. A. Powell Jones and H. I. Moore, in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* of December 21, directs the attention of farmers and gardeners to the possibility of lifting potatoes in a turgid condition. The slightest damage to the skins of tubers in such a state will produce unsightly cracks which reduce the culinary value and so lower the financial returns from the crop. Turgidity may be induced naturally, as when copious rain follows drought or severe frost, or it may occur if the foliage is killed by spray chemicals. The turgid condition passes after a day or two, and the tubers can then be harvested with safety.

Botanical Society of America

THE Botanical Society of America at its thirtieth annual meeting held on December 31, 1935-January 2, 1936, in St. Louis, Missouri, elected the following botanists to corresponding membership: Prof. N. E. Svedelius, professor of botany and director of the Botanic Gardens of the University of Uppsala; Dr. A. B. Rendle, lately keeper of botany in the British Museum (Natural History); Prof. Fritz von Wettstein, director of the Botanical Institutes and professor of botany in the University of Munich; and Prof. N. A. Maximov, professor in the Union Institute for Grain Husbandry, Saratov, U.S.S.R. Officers elected at the same meeting were: *President*, Dr. C. Stuart Gager, director of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, New York; *Vice-President*, Dr. H. A. Gleason, curator and assistant director of the New York Botanical Garden, New York City.

Awards of the Geological Society

THE following awards of the Geological Society of London have recently been made: Wollaston Medal to Prof. G. A. F. Molengraaff, of Delft, in recognition of "his researches concerning the mineral structure of the earth", in many widely separated areas, and especially in the Dutch East Indies and South Africa; Murchison Medal to Mr. E. E. L. Dixon, of H.M. Geological Survey, in recognition of the value of his geological researches, especially in South Wales and the north of England; a Lyell Medal to Mrs. Eleanor Mary Reid, in recognition of her researches on the fossil floras of the Tertiary and Pleistocene rocks; another Lyell Medal to Prof. L. J. Wills, of the University of Birmingham, for his work on the palaeontology and stratigraphy of the Midlands; the balance of the proceeds of the Wollaston Donation Fund to Dr. G. H. Mitchell, for his work on the succession and structure of the Lake District; the balance of the proceeds of the Murchison Fund to Dr. Emily Dix, in recognition of her studies on the sequence of fossil plants in the Coal Measures of England and Wales; the balance of the proceeds of