

India, which was to be completed in twenty-five years and then revised every thirty years. Subsequent events led to a modification of the scheme. In 1913 it was realized that the allotted time was too short, and a smaller scale of map was sanctioned for the less populous areas. But the Great War and subsequent financial stringency still further curtailed the plan. By 1935 only two-thirds of the programme had been completed. Surveys are being carried out at the rate of about thirty-nine thousand square miles a year, and if this can be maintained the programme will be completed in about sixteen years. Meantime, the maps of a large part of India, except on a small scale, are much out of date and printed mostly in black only. The Report contains a key map showing the degree of obsolescence of various sheets. Maps of India, Burma and adjacent countries on the 'one million' scale are now practically complete and the sheets of the Carte Internationale are approaching completion. A separate publication of the Survey of India is an Index to Annual Reports, 1904-5 to 1926-27.

Discoveries in Antarctica

SOME valuable details of new discoveries in Antarctica accompanied by photographs are contained in an article in the *National Geographic Magazine* for July by Mr. L. Ellsworth on "My Flight across Antarctica". It will be remembered that in December of last year, Mr. Ellsworth reached the Bay of Whales in the Ross Sea after a flight from Dundee Island, Graham Land. This took him over an entirely unknown part of Antarctica to the Pacific side of the Pole. South of Stefansson Strait he discovered a lofty rugged mountain range with an apparent trend between north-north-west and south-south-east. Farther on, other peaks appeared, one rising to 13,000 feet. Mr. Ellsworth made several landings in about lat. 80° S. and found a plateau at an elevation of more than 6,000 ft. He gave the names Hollick-Kenyon plateau to this elevated country, and James W. Ellsworth Land to the whole area between Hearst Land and Marie Byrd Land. The photographs of the new mountains do not suggest the block faulted mountains of Queen Maud Ranges, but rather the Andean ranges of Graham Land which, from Admiral Byrd's recent discoveries, would seem to continue into Edward Land.

FURTHER light on this problem is shed by an article by Mr. W. L. G. Joerg in the *Geographical Review* of July on "The Topographical results of Ellsworth's Trans-antarctic Flight". Mr. Joerg has mapped the direction of the new ranges as far as available data allow, and his map appears to confirm the suggestion of R. Staub that the axes of the Antarctic Andes of Graham Land spread fanwise in Hearst Land. Each of the newly discovered ranges seems to be a continuation of one of the three-fold lines of Graham Land. The relation of these folds to the plateau land of Antarctica has still to be determined, and Mr. Joerg's suggested direction does not continue into Edward Land. Mr. Ellsworth's photo-

graphs also suggest that Stefansson Strait is narrower than previously supposed, or possibly that it is an embayment on the east of Graham Land and not a strait. Its eastern entrance lies mainly north of the seventieth parallel. The discoveries open a field for future ground exploration.

Recommended Values of Illumination

THE Illuminating Engineering Society has issued a list of the values of illuminations which are recommended for various purposes. It has been prepared by the Technical Committee of the Society, and copies of the full recommendations can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, I.E.S., 32 Victoria Street, S.W.1, price 6d. Since the candle-powers of electric lamps are known and the distance of the lamps from the work bench can easily be estimated, it is not difficult to estimate the candle-power. The committee recommends that if the task requires both discrimination and response, the foot-candle value should be at least 50. For severe and visual tasks such as fine engraving, sewing of dark goods, and discrimination of fine details of low contrast, the foot-candle value should not be less than 25. For prolonged critical visual tasks such as proof-reading, type-setting, drawing, reading, fine machine-work, fine assembling and use in large stores, a foot-candle value between 15 and 25 is recommended. A foot-candle value of 8-15 would be suitable for visual tasks such as detailed office work, skilled bench work and sewing on light goods and for retail shops. For less-exacting visual tasks, such as general office, large assembly work and classrooms, 5-10 suffices. For work of a simple character not involving close attention of fine details, 3-5 foot-candles is suitable. For casual observation where no specific work is performed, 2-4 foot-candles is regarded as sufficient.

Streamlined Trains

PEOPLE who have travelled in the new lightweight high-speed trains may have wondered why this new development has not come into wider use, and look forward to the time when most passenger trains will be similarly streamlined. According to a report issued by Science Service of Washington, D.C., L. K. Silcox, the engineer of the New York Brake Company, discusses this point in a report to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He says that only about 20,000 route miles of the main lines of the railroads of the United States are fitted by their curves, grades and traffic to be usable for lightweight trains that can go at 100 miles an hour. This length of railway is only about ten per cent of the total mileage of railroads in the United States. It is well known that crowds will gather to see a passenger locomotive go by if it is fitted with a metal shroud that helps its streamlining or presents what the public thinks is a streamlined appearance. But this shroud adds 13,000 lb. to the weight of the locomotive. Another drawback is that the equipment has to be built very robust. Like motor-cars, the internal equipment has to be turned over and renewed every few years. In addition, any new railroad rolling stock

has to be designed so that it is in keeping with the older equipment. A large reserve of the old equipment has to be maintained to meet the changing traffic demands made on it. Some engineers are afraid that there may be a public reaction after the very pleasant boon which the railways afforded when streamlined trains were first used. There is evidence of dissatisfaction when the public learns that a 100-120 miles an hour train is placed in revenue service on a 50-60 miles an hour schedule. Even although the maximum speed has been attained *en route*, the public feels that it has been misled.

Agricultural Research Institutes in Great Britain

THE Ministry of Agriculture has now published the report of the work of the agricultural research institutes in the United Kingdom for 1933-34 (London: H.M. Stationery Office; 5s. net). Besides describing the investigations carried out at the forty-four principal institutes, the report deals with the work at various advisory centres and special State-aided researches carried out in different parts of the country. The problems concerned cover a wide field, including soils, plant nutrition, physiology, breeding and disease, dairying, animal nutrition, breeding, diseases and pests, food preservation and transport, and agricultural engineering. Should anyone desire further information, a list of papers published from each centre is supplied so that reference to the original source of the work is available, and inquiries may also be addressed to the director of the institute or person concerned, the names and addresses of whom are listed.

The American Amaryllis Year Book

THE American Amaryllis Society has issued vol. 2, its Year Book for 1935 (from the Editor, Dr. Hamilton P. Traub, Mira Flores, Orlando, Florida, U.S.A.). It is dedicated to Theodore L. Mead, in recognition of his pioneer work with hybrid *Hippeastrum* plants. Gardeners are familiar with narcissi, they bestow a rather occasional interest upon day lilies (*Hemerocallis* spp.), they cultivate *Alstroemeria*; but most horticulturalists have not yet realized the wonderful beauty displayed by the new hybrids of *Hippeastrum*. The Society has an international outlook, for a large part of the volume is devoted to regional activities in Australia, Kenya, Europe, and all parts of America. A section on "Description and Phylogeny" quotes *inter alia* from Dr. J. Hutchinson's recently published volume on the classification of monocotyledons. Robert F. Ruthruff contributes a paper describing the alkaloids found in various Amaryllidaceae, and the late Dr. David Griffiths directs attention to "Opportunities for Breeding with Daffodils". Two valuable papers by Miss Ida Luyten and Dr. Traub introduce new methods of vegetative propagation of amaryllids. Fifteen papers deal with culture, five with curing, storage and forcing, and a similar number with marketing. The editor has introduced the idea of quoting one or two abstracts from scientific papers relevant to *Amaryllis* culture, and though the index shows nearly sixty papers, no subject appears

to have inadequate treatment. Plans have already been made for publishing year books so far ahead as 1938; the Society occupies a position of great utility and high æsthetic value.

Early Photographs

THE June issue of the *Alumnus Chronicle* of the University of St. Andrews contains an article by Mr. J. H. Read describing a collection of prints by early photographers which illustrate the local development of the art and have been presented to the University by Mr. James Thomson of Inverness. The oldest photographs of the collection are of buildings in St. Andrews produced by the Calotype process about the year 1840. Portraits of St. Andrews worthies, for example, Sir Lyon Playfair and Sir David Brewster, by the process date from about 1850. The majority of the photographs are albumen prints from wet collodium plates taken during the next twenty years, and include portraits, scenery and reproductions of pictures. The article is illustrated by reproductions from paper negatives by Thomas Rodger of a St. Andrews fishing quarter in 1843, and a portrait of Prof. George Day, professor of medicine, 1850, both of which are remarkably good.

Films and their Utilization

THE current number of *Film Progress* is in two parts. It contains the usual supplementary bulletin to the National Encyclopædia of Films. In this section are noted a good number of films, both 35 mm. and 16 mm., of G. B. Equipments and Pathé. Silent films of Ensign and C.I.B.E.F. are also listed. The other section deals mainly with the educational value of the sound film. This is in effect a résumé of the arguments put forward by C. F. Hoban in a symposium on "Sound and Silent Films" held at the University of Chicago. The arguments are well stated, but the article reads too much like special pleading, seeing that the arguments for the silent film presented to the symposium are not mentioned. We hope that they will be stated in a future number.

Third World Power Conference

THE following official delegates have been appointed to represent the Government of the United Kingdom at the Third World Power Conference and Second Congress, International Commission on Large Dams of the World Power Conference, to be held concurrently in Washington, D.C., on September 7-12: Viscount Falmouth, Mr. N. G. Gedye, Mr. T. Hardie, Mr. J. M. Kennedy, Dr. F. M. Lea, Mr. Charles H. Merz, Sir Archibald Page, Mr. C. Rodgers, Dr. F. S. Sinnatt and Mr. E. T. Williams. The final time-table for the Conference has now been announced. The joint opening session will be held in Constitution Hall, Washington, on Monday, September 7, at 8.30 p.m. Business sessions will be held earlier on the same day and throughout the week. There will be an address by the President of the United States on September 11 at 2 p.m. followed by a garden party and reception at the White House.