

begun. The average yearly production of the Liffey hydro-electric development is computed to be 30 million units.

#### Scientific and Technical Literature

SEVERAL suggestions for the improvement of scientific and technical literature are made by Commander T. W. Macalpine in the *Publishers' Circular and the Publisher and Bookseller* of July 18. Criticizing the present procedure followed by a specialist or a publishing company in regard to a projected scientific book, he suggests that the exposition of the subjects treated in scientific and technical works, etc., would be improved, their utility for easy and quick reference increased, the cost of production decreased, and their filing and storage on shelves, etc., facilitated, if there existed an independent body of recognized standing in the world of science which could furnish authors and publishers with general information and guidance. At present an author is rarely able to give much information of assistance to the publishers on such matters as form of treatment, size of volume, number of words, type or types, number and kind of illustrations, diagrams, paper, binding. Accordingly, the utility of a book is liable to be limited by the publisher's experience. An independent advisory body of recognized standing which could supply information on such matters, assist in the standardization of nomenclature and symbolism, as well as of formats and sizes of printed area on pages, and advice on subdivision, synopsis, contents list and index, etc., would make an important contribution to efficient publication.

#### Composition of Cereal Straw

THE seemingly facetious title, "The Two Ends of Straw", appears over an article by Dr. H. Nicol in *Agricultural History* (10, No. 1, Jan. 1936), reviewing some early, but fundamental, research upon the composition of cereal straw. The work of Prof. J. F. W. Johnston in 1842, of J. P. Norton and P. F. H. Fromberg in 1845, and of J. I. Pierre in 1863 and 1866 is collected to show that straw has a great diversity of composition between the root end, and the parts towards the flower. The work of Pierre is particularly detailed, and supplies a great deal of material not widely known at the present day. Dr. Nicol discusses some of the results in relation to the recent hypothesis of 'negative migration' of plant constituents, where nitrogen and mineral elements are returned to the soil. Several additional papers upon the partitional analysis of straw have come to light since the publication of the article under review, but the most recent is dated 1879. There is considerable gratification, but also cause for humble reflection, that modern ideas are being confirmed by work which has remained in oblivion for nearly sixty years.

#### Greenkeeping Research

THE spring number of the *Journal of the Board of Greenkeeping Research* (4, No. 14, from the Board's

Research Station, St. Ives, Bingley, Yorks, 2s. 6d. net) contains the annual report of the organization, which shows, *inter alia*, a very gratifying volume of advisory work. Many suggestions for future work of a practical kind have been made by the Greenkeepers' Advisory Committee, and the report of last year's annual conference is embellished by the full text of Prof. N. M. Comber's address on "The Constitution of Soil". Mr. R. B. Dawson, director of the Research Station, contributes a short but highly informative article on camomile lawns, and the previous accounts of lawn grasses, of weeds, and of fertilizers, are continued. The difficulties of accurate botanical description are being met by the publication of a glossary of botanical terms. Mr. R. B. Ferro discusses some of the difficulties of field experimentation on the golf course. Two short articles on water installations, a description of the management of a golf course on heavy clay soil, and a plea for special investigation of bowling green problems, are included in the issue.

#### A Journal of Marriage Hygiene and Birth Control

WITH the May issue (2, No. 4), *Marriage Hygiene* completes its second year. The objects of this quarterly journal are to secure for conjugal hygiene a proper place in preventive medicine, to publish scientific contributions treating marriage as a social and biological institution, and to promote and co-ordinate contraceptive clinics and marriage consultation centres in various parts of the globe. Each number contains notes and comments, original articles, reviews and abstracts of current literature. "The Positive Side of Birth Control" (E. B. Reuter), "Birth Prevention in France" (J. J. Spengler), and "Artificial Insemination" (H. Brewer) are some of the original articles in the present number. The yearly subscription for the volume of about five hundred pages is 18s. It is published from Kodak House, Bombay 1, India, the editor being A. P. Pillay. The London agents are Messrs. H. K. Lewis and Co., 136 Gower Street, W.C.1.

#### Anti-Noise Regulations

THE City Council of Philadelphia has adopted a noise abatement ordinance prepared by a Special Committee of the Philadelphia County Medical Society. The ordinance prohibits sounding of motor-horns except when absolutely necessary for the prevention of accidents, building operations at night except by special permit, the use of sound devices by pedlars, unnecessary noise in handling rubbish cans, and the use of gongs, sirens or exhaust whistles on any vehicles except those of the police and fire bureaux, and hospitals. Loud playing of radios in homes or in front of stores is also among the specific noises forbidden in the ordinance.

#### Costing Returns of Hospitals and Sanatoria

IN recent years, the value of costing methods in securing business efficiency has become increasingly recognized, not only in industry but also in local government. The Ministry of Health has issued Part 1