

## Inland Water Survey in Great Britain

THE second annual report\* (1936-37) of the Inland Water Survey under the Ministry of Health and the Scottish Office continues the story of the progress of the Survey since the date of the previous report. It points out the magnitude of the undertaking and the considerable amount of preliminary work which has been found necessary. The replies to the questionnaire circulated at the outset of investigations showed that relatively little of the varied mass of information in existence was suitable for the purposes of the Survey, and that not only were improvements necessary in the methods in vogue for gauging and recording levels in rivers and streams, but also that a large number of additional gauging stations was required. During the period under review, the efforts of the Committee and its officers have been directed towards the introduction of better methods of survey and to the examination and rearrangement of existing records suitable for publication in a form which would serve as a model for future investigations.

Emphasis is rightly laid on the importance of the functions of the new catchment boards in obtaining a full knowledge of river flows and their variations. In order to assist the catchment boards and others co-operating in the same direction, an instructional memorandum on the water survey of a river system was prepared and published in October, 1936. It is added that during the year an increasing interest has been shown in the Survey, but the comment is made that this interest tends to manifest itself only in regard to those parts of a record which are of most use to the persons or bodies concerned. This is, of course, perfectly natural; but it is obviously insufficient for the purposes of a complete survey. Thus the catchment boards show a disposition to limit their observations to periods of high discharge,

\* Ministry of Health and Scottish Office. Inland Water Survey Committee: Second Annual Report, 1936-37. Pp. 26. (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1937.) 6d. net.

when flooding is liable to occur, and to ignore periods of relatively low discharge. But periods of low discharge are important for pollution prevention and to fishery authorities, and fundamentally so to water undertakers, so that a survey must be comprehensive in its records if it is to be of service to all classes of the community.

Underground water measurement is a branch of the work of the Survey which is being carried on with the assistance of the Geological Survey, and a tribute is paid to the late Dr. Bernard Smith, director of the Geological Survey, who took a great interest in the Inland Water Survey and acted as one of its assessors.

Assistance in hydrographical field work is being given by outside bodies and individuals; in particular, by schoolboys under the direction of their headmasters and geography masters. Their services are being utilized in the location and measurement of wells.

The examination of certain river basins in detail, begun in the previous year, has been continued, and observations of a preliminary character have been made during the twelve months in regard to the Ness Basin, the Tay, Ouse (Yorkshire), Severn, Dee (Cheshire), Irvine, Clyde and Kelvin. The results of these investigations are set out in the report and a well-merited acknowledgement is made of the pioneer work of Captain W. N. McClean in founding and directing at his own expense the organization known as River Flow Records, which has carried out discharge measurements in the Ness Basin and elsewhere during the past eight years.

The investigations made and collected from various sources are being "converted, amplified, corrected, extended and consolidated". It is announced that a selection, dealing with the results from twenty-eight gauging stations in respect of fourteen river basins in Great Britain, will shortly be published.

BRYSSON CUNNINGHAM.

## Research Grants of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences

INCOME from the Permanent Science Fund of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, according to agreement and declaration of trust, shall be applied to such scientific research as shall be selected . . . in "such sciences as Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Astronomy, Geology and Geography, Zoology, Botany, Anthropology, Psychology, Sociology and Economy, History and Philology, Engineering, Medicine and Surgery, Agriculture, Manufacturing and Commerce, Education, and any other science of any nature or description whether or not now known or now recognized as scientific; and may be applied to or through public or private associations, societies, or institutions, whether incorporated or not, or through one or more individuals."

Applications for grants under this indenture are considered by a committee of the Academy on stated dates only. The next such meeting will be to consider applications received in proper order on blank forms furnished by the committee on March 1, 1938. Correspondence, including requests for application forms, should be addressed to the chairman of the Committee on the Permanent Science Fund, Prof. John W. M. Bunker, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Grants-in-aid from this fund were voted by the Academy on November 10, 1937, as follows:

Prof. Charles Chupp, Cornell University, 400 dollars, to aid in finishing a monograph of the fungus genus *Cercospora*.