the word 'invisible' contained in Shirley's comedy "The Bird in a Cage" (1633). The last possibility, towards which the author leans, is that it was a title devised by Theodore Haak to contain an implicit allusion to Comenius's plan of an international pansophic college for scientific research to be erected in London. This plan was much to the fore during Comenius's visit to England in 1641–42, and the scheme was set out in detail in his manuscript treatise, "Via Lucis" (1642). Haak was a German from the Palatinate who had been one of the principal supporters of the plan to establish a scientific academy in London. He regarded the informal scientific meetings as the nucleus of a future State college of science and is likely to have used the expression "Invisible College" in conversation with Boyle and others. The "Philosophical College" was thus the "Invisible College", until it definitely became the Royal Society.

Medicine and Eugenics

THE Galton Lecture to the Eugenics Society, by Prof. John A. Ryle, on medicine and eugenics, is printed in the *Eugenics Review*, **30**, No. 1. In a carefully considered address, it is pointed out that the eugenic movement needs the fuller support of the medical profession, and that this can only be given when medical men receive a fuller training in human genetics than is now the case. The family doctor is now rarely prepared, even if asked, to give advice connected with eugenic prognosis, although men and women are increasingly prepared to discuss such matters. Practising physicians should be able to keep pedigree records of their patients who show mental and physical defects. Medical education should be altered so as to lay greater stress on animal and human genetics in place of some of the routine zoology and the more specialized biochemistry and biophysics. The constitutional variations which abound should be the subject of closer genetic study. Several chairs of human genetics should be instituted, and associated with them should be research centres concerned with morbid inheritance in man. Wider contacts of the Eugenics Society with medical societies throughout the country would be helpful. The foundation of a National Council is advocated, embodying an alliance between medicine, eugenics and sociology and having appropriate contacts with the Ministries of Health, Agriculture and Labour. The preservation of health as a primary function, with the treatment of disease as a secondary function, should become the new ideal.

Forestry in Nyasaland

PERHAPS the most important information contained in the annual report of the Forestry Department for the Nyasaland Protectorate (for the year ending December 31, 1936. Govt. Printer, Zomba, Nyasaland, 1937) are the remarks on soil erosion and the investigation work now being undertaken in this, considered to be one of the greatest dangers facing Africa as a whole. Extensive areas were examined with particular regard to overcrowding and to cultivation on steep hill slopes in parts of the southern province. On the subject of forest policy it is stated that provision is to be made for the demarcation, protection, and management of selected forests and woodlands by native authorities, where the objects of conservation are comparatively local. These local Government forests will be supplementary to the State forests, but they will in no way supersede the village forests which are managed by the village headmen solely in the interests of village needs. There will thus be three types of demarcated forests in the future, each managed by its own authority. One of the chief dangers in many parts, owing to the improvident habits of the people, is erosion. Provided that each type of forest reservation may be made to serve as a protective agent against this evil, the steps now being taken appear to meet existing problems.

Science and Horticulture

VOL. 6 of *Scientific Horticulture* (260 pp., 1938, from the Editor, R. T. Pearl, S.E. Agric. Coll., Wye, Kent, 4*s*. net, 4*s*. 6*d*. post paid) the journal of the Horticultural Education Association, contains a very useful series of reviews upon the science and practice of horticulture. A suitable introduction is provided by Mr. F. A. Secrett, who writes upon the enterprise and skill requisite for successful market gardening, and the need for "evolving schemes to assist Nature". The article is the text of an evening address delivered at the University of Reading during the Association's revision course in horticulture in September 1937. Papers read at this course are published in the present volume; they minister chiefly to the needs of flower growers, with emphasis upon carnations, roses, pot plants and chrysanthemums, both early and late. There are further papers on genetics in relation to horticulture, the nature of inheritance of flower colour, and on photoperiodism. Papers contributed specially to the volume include a review of recent Dutch research upon the growth and flowering of tulips and daffodils by Miss O. N. Purvis, upon hormones (M. Thomas), boron deficiency (A. W. Greenhill), chromosomes and their importance in horticulture (F. W. Sansome) and the place of school gardening in elementary and secondary schools (J. Ewing). The production of virus-free seed potatoes is discussed by P. A. Murphy, and the modified leader tree by T. Swarbrick, whilst the formation and development of cherries is described by M. B. Crane.

The Royal Technical College, Glasgow

IN the building up of the world-wide reputation of the 'Scots engineer', the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, may fairly claim to have played a very large part, and much of this work has been done in its evening classes. It is noteworthy that of all the colleges that come within the purview of the University Grants Committee, the R.T.C. has far and away the largest number of evening students. Its recently published annual report shows that, notwithstanding the transfer of the classes in music, with about a hundred students, at the end of the preceding session, to the Scottish National Academy, there was an increase in the evening student enrolment from 2,624 to 2,665, of whom a very large