

Greenkeeping Research

THE report of the Board of Greenkeeping Research for 1937 (from the Board's Research Station, St. Ives, Bingley, Yorks. 2s. July 1938) shows an increasing amount of advisory work and original investigation at the St. Ives Research Station and at other centres. The Station lives within its income, but research work cannot be greatly extended with the present financial arrangements, as advisory work makes the first claim upon revenue. More advisory work was, moreover, accomplished in 1937 than in any previous year. The volume of research papers does not appear to reflect this policy, however, and a general account of work in progress will be found in the report, and also in a paper by the Station's director, Mr. R. B. Dawson (*J. Roy. Hort. Soc.*, 63, 8; August 1938). A promising line of investigation concerns the use of potassium permanganate on lawns, to destroy moss and expel earthworms; further developments will be awaited with interest. Supplies of seed of St. Ives creeping red fescue, the first of a series of improved strains of lawn grasses, are now available to greenkeepers. This strain has greater leafiness and density of growth than the existing varieties; it has good winter colour, and reasonable resistance to fungal disease. Successful courses of instruction in the science and practice of greenkeeping have been prosecuted at the Station, and practical demonstration has been greatly improved by the establishment of a permanent exhibition of implements for the treatment of lawns.

Timber Resources of the World

THE small handbook entitled "The Rationalization and Conservation of the Timber Resources of the World" (The Technical Press, Ltd., London. 2s. 6d. net), by Dr. A. Harold Unwin, is written mainly with reference to the amelioration of the 'Special Areas' and general improvement of woodlands. Dr. Unwin puts forward a series of proposals and suggestions of a somewhat varying nature. In the short period since the Great War, a number of organizations have come into being in connexion with forestry and timber utilization in Great Britain and the Empire. To mention but three, the Forestry Commission, the Forest Products Research Laboratory at Princes Risborough and the Imperial Forestry Institute at Oxford. The timber trade has also a considerable organization. Dr. Unwin wishes for a more rational care of trees and woodlands, especially in Great Britain, and for a better and organized utilization of the world's timber resources. Until recently, Dr. Unwin was conservator and head of the Forest Service in Cyprus, having previously served in Nigeria. Although there is much in the handbook of interest, the same cannot be said of the practicability of some of the proposals. The list of trees given at the end requires considerable revision, and would have been more serviceable had it included the botanical names.

Racial Studies in Italy

It is announced in the *Corriere della Sera* of

October 5 that racial doctrine is to be made part of the curriculum of Italian universities. It is to be taught to students of natural science, medicine, and biology, as well as to students of philosophy, educational theory, and literature. This innovation is made under a decree of the Minister of Education, Signor Bottai. A second course is to be devoted to study of the demographic problem. Italy has been slow in following Germany in the adoption of racial doctrine, nor, as was shown by the report of the Italian men of science on the racial question, has the doctrine been adopted entirely in the form, nor with the enthusiasm, which it has aroused in the country of its origin. The physical characters of the main element in the Italian population would naturally call for some modification, and account for the stress, which in Italy is laid on continuity of cultural history.

Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire

THE Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire has been accused (according to an editorial note, in the August number of its *Journal*) of talking and doing nothing, while game throughout the Empire is being ruthlessly destroyed. The accusation is unjust. The powers of a private society are in any event strictly limited, since game preservation lies with the official Government of the territory in question. Nevertheless, the Society has investigated conditions in various parts of the Empire, and has reported upon the steps which might usefully be taken for the safety of threatened members of the fauna, always keeping in mind that it is no part of its aim to preserve animal life to the detriment of human industry or the natural development of mankind. The Society does encourage talk about animal preservation, but surely one of the secrets of the success of any great cause is the efficient propaganda which spreads information and may eventually make the cause part of the nation's will.

Agricultural Education in Jamaica

A PAMPHLET of 86 pages (*Bulletin* No. 14, New Series; 1938) issued by the Department of Science and Agriculture of Jamaica indicates the thoroughness with which that Government Department organizes agricultural education in the Colony. It summarizes the series of addresses, lectures and demonstrations given by experts during a special refresher course devised for the staff of instructors of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and held throughout a week in January. The course was a varied one dealing with aspects of farming which included insects of economic importance to stock maintenance, sugar production, tobacco growing, afforestation, exporting and marketing of produce, banking in relation to agriculture and other subjects. The pamphlet shows that these aspects were treated with thoroughness from the Jamaican point of view, and the appreciation with which the course was received was indicated by an audience of as many as 150 at some of the sessions.

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