

keep in line with the advance in knowledge and the great progress of medical science. A play, "Jacob Bell and Some Others", specially written for the occasion by Mr. H. N. Linstead, secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society, and produced by Donald Wolfitt, followed the speeches. It brought vividly to the large audience episodes associated with the Society's foundation.

Haricot Beans

At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture the Imperial Bureau of Horticulture and Plantation Crops, East Malling, has issued a bulletin compiled by G. St. Clair Feilden, on haricot beans (Occasional Paper No. 6. 1s.). Hitherto cheap supplies of beans from North America, Japan and Hungary have discouraged farmers in the United Kingdom from embarking on a crop that proves only fully successful in a dry summer. In war-time, however, it seemed advisable to re-examine the possibility of providing such a valuable addition to the nation's food, and yields of one ton or more per acre were obtained in trials made in 1940. The bulletin contains a brief account of work with haricots in the United States and Canada and of the results of experiments in England at various centres. Cultivation is outlined and harvesting and cooking methods are described. The varieties at present available, though they did well in England in 1940, are really more suited to warmer and drier climates, and it is to be hoped that some growers will become sufficiently interested to hybridize and select strains that are more dependable to ripen a full crop in Great Britain.

War Fellings and Insect Pests

In the *Scottish Forestry Journal* (54, Pt. 2, Oct. 1940), Dr. A. E. Cameron, of the Department of Entomology, University of Edinburgh, writes on "The Effect of Felling on the Incidence of Forest Insect Pests". The many fellings throughout Britain during the War of 1914-18 and the remnants left on the ground for several years thereafter were the breeding places of large numbers of some of the more dangerous of our insect pests, which afterwards spread destruction in young, middle-aged, and old woods throughout the country. Once again we are faced with a similar emergency, and the same aftermath of the fellings is to be seen on many a site of a former wood, now felled for war purposes. The insect pest question, as Dr. Cameron says, is likely to be acute in the near future unless attention is given to it, and some effort made to counter its possible or certain virulence. The author practically confines himself to conifers and their chief pests. But in parts of Great Britain there is an equal danger to some of the valuable hardwoods, including oak, ash and elm, to mention three only. But since the major part of the afforestation work of the Forestry Commission is connected with the conifers, the question of this possible insect danger is greater now than it was in 1918, when there was a comparatively small area of young conifer plantations in the country.

Dr. Cameron deals with the different types of forest and their respective immunity or otherwise. He says that our only indigenous conifer, the Scots pine, is the most subject to attack by several species, but that the other conifers, exotics, such as spruce, Douglas fir and larch are subject. The chief dangerous pests are the weevils, *Hylobius abietis*, *Pissodes notatus* and *P. pini*, and the pine beetles, *Myelophilus piniperda* and *M. minor*, *Hylastes ater* and *Pityogenes bidentatus*. In order to combat these pests, Dr. Cameron states that their habits must be known intimately; and then some measures of control which he details may be instituted.

Anthropological Observations in New Guinea

INFORMATION relating to the work of an expedition of anthropological, ethnographical and linguistic investigation in the little-known north-eastern region of New Guinea under the leadership of Dr. Georg Höltker is given by Dr. Otto Schlaginhaufen in the current issue of the bulletin of the Swiss Anthropological and Ethnographical Society (*Bull. Schw. Gesell. f. Anthrop. u. Ethnol.*, 16, 1940). The expedition, which had recently returned at the time of writing, was in the field for the three years 1936-39. Its operations covered the coastal region south-eastwards from the mouth of the Sepik River, and the coastal and inland territory on the east side of the lower waters of the Ramu River, and country in the basin of the Mbur, a tributary of the Ramu, as well as islands of the coast including Manam and Dampier. Of the peoples under investigation by the expedition a proportion were classifiable linguistically as belonging to the Melanesian stock, but the greater number were Papuan. Anthropological observations were made by Dr. Höltker on members of the former group on the mainland—Sepa and Wanami living to the south of the coastal peoples of Monumbo (Potsdamhaven) and on the islands. The Papuan group examined included the Bosgung on the Mbur, Watum to the south of the Sepik and among inland peoples, Tanggum, Ariaw, Mikarew, Dinam and Akekom. Observations were made on 1,685 individuals, both adults and children.

Earthquake in Mexico

A SEVERE earthquake shook more than 20,000 square miles of territory in northern Mexico on April 15, causing much damage to property, and, it is feared, a heavy death toll. Full details are as yet lacking, but preliminary facts may be given. The States most affected were Aguascalientes, Colima, Guanajuato, Jalisco, Mexico, Michoacan, Puebla and Tlaxcala, the isoseismals apparently being elongated in an east-west direction. The epicentre may have been in the neighbourhood of Chilpancingo, though very great damage was done to the city of Colima, capital of the State of Colima, 275 miles west of Mexico City. In Colima the homes of approximately 10,000 people have been reported destroyed. There were damage and loss of life also at other towns, including Guadalajara and Manzanillo, and as far east as Maltrata in the State of Vera Cruz. Mexico