

allowed in Great Britain at present is home-grown. The application of electric power was discussed and its extension urged, with a suggestion that town dwellers and industrialists should be charged an overriding percentage so that supply companies would be able to distribute current to every agricultural holding at the low prices available to town dwellers.

Agriculture To-day and To-morrow

THE Royal Society of Arts has arranged a special series of ten lectures on "Agriculture Today and Tomorrow", beginning on November 11. In organizing these lectures, the Society is carrying on what was for nearly a century one of the most important branches of its activities. At the time of the Society's foundation—1754—the methods of agriculture were practically those of the Middle Ages. Until the inauguration of the Royal Agricultural Society in 1838, the Society's Committee of Agriculture under Arthur Young was the most important body in Great Britain concerned with the welfare of agriculture. Under its auspices many improvements were made in agricultural practices. The Society also opened to the public its "Repository of Inventions", which contained an excellent collection of models of agricultural implements, and in 1761 it held an exhibition of agricultural machines. Although the present lectures are intended mainly for those actively engaged in agriculture, it is emphasized that the series will be of interest to laymen. A syllabus of the series can be obtained from the Secretary, Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, Adelphi, London, W.C.2.

Utilization of Rural Waste

FOLLOWING on the article by Mr. Bransby Williams on the manufacture of fertilizer from urban wastes (NATURE, Sept. 5, p. 299), it is interesting to note that an experiment in rural sanitation is being conducted by Dr. A. T. Westlake on his estate at Sandy Balls, near Fordingbridge. The estate is used as a holiday centre, and a large number of visitors, living in huts, caravans, and tents, pass through it in the course of the year, in addition to a resident population of about forty persons. The Poore method was at first tried, but later Dr. Westlake adopted the Indore composting system of Sir Albert Howard with good results. All the night soil and other refuse on the estate is composted in heaps. There is separation of solids and liquids. By the use of specially dried earth and leaf mould, the collection and handling of the material is rendered efficient, easy, and hygienic. In winter the method so far adopted has been the use of small composting pits. The matured compost is used to manure what was formerly barren ground, but which has now become a healthy and flourishing kitchen garden. Plant disease has been very largely eliminated. It is clear from the experiment that the methods used here might well be tried in other rural communities.

Engineering Cadetships

THE Government announces the foundation of engineering cadetships, open to youths of sixteen to nineteen years of age, inclusive, and leading to technical commissions in the fighting services. The Government will pay the necessary educational fees and allow each cadet a maintenance grant. Youths of 16–19 are invited to apply if (a) they left school

before October of this year; (b) are not employed in any branch of engineering; and (c) have obtained at least the school certificate with a credit in mathematics or general science or physics or an equivalent examination. The length and character of the training, which will be at a technical college, will be adjusted to age and educational qualifications, and may extend to two and a half years. Boys of sixteen will have preliminary instruction at a technical college or other appropriate institution. The training courses will cover the basic engineering science required in the associate membership examinations of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers or the Institution of Electrical Engineers. In the case of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, cadets who successfully complete their course will be exempted from sections A and B of the associate membership examination. Youths of eighteen who have been called up may apply for cadetships, and boys born in 1924 and still at school may also be accepted. Applications will be received by local appointments offices of the Ministry of Labour and National Service or by the Appointments Department, Sardinia House, London, W.C.2.

Russian-English Technical Glossaries

As a result of the appeal by Sir John Russell, chairman of the Anglo-Soviet Scientific Collaboration Committee, for Russian-English technical dictionaries, sixteen glossaries of Russian technical and scientific terms have been collected and placed in the Science Library, South Kensington, London, S.W.7, where they are available for consultation. Most of the glossaries, which cover a wide range of subjects—military and naval terms, metallurgy, medicine, botany, fuel technology and bacteriology of fish—have been compiled by individuals during the course of their work in a special field. Some are printed, others are typed or in duplicated form, while others are in manuscript or on cards. A list of these glossaries giving the name and address of the compiler or donor can be obtained from the Secretary of the Anglo-Soviet Scientific Collaboration Committee, British Council, 3 Hanover Street, W.1. A location list of Russian technical glossaries has also been compiled by the Anglo-Soviet Scientific Collaboration Committee. This list, which incorporates the glossaries collected for the Science Library, also indicates the libraries in which copies of the chief Russian scientific and technical dictionaries may be found. Copies of the location list may also be obtained upon application to the Secretary of the Anglo-Soviet Scientific Collaboration Committee.

Map of Europe and Middle East

A MAP of Europe and the Middle East on a scale of 1:11 million has been published by the Royal Geographical Society on behalf of the British Council. The map is drawn on Murdoch's third conical projection and extends from Western Europe, the British Isles and Iceland east to Rangoon and south to Abyssinia. It will fit obliquely with two adjoining sheets, North America to Britain and the Far East, which are now published in outline only but are to be completed later. Land relief is shown by contours and layer colouring in tints of brown and hill shading in lavender grey corresponding to a light thrown from the top left-hand corner of the plate. Contours are at 50, 100, 200, 500, 1,000 and subsequent 1,000