

have a very real responsibility for the successful outcome of the new Bill. The key to success can be stated in a single word: personnel. Personnel for administration, technology and research. The production of suitable candidates for the many and varied jobs is the task of the schools and universities. In these days it is one beset with difficulties, and it may well be that some years must elapse before suitable staff for some of the research posts, for example, in biology, can be produced. But the task lies clearly before us. The sooner we begin, the better for the welfare of the British Colonies.

Science, Poetry and Religion

THREE lectures delivered by Mr. Geoffrey Hoyland at Woodbrooke Summer School in 1944 have now been printed as a challenging and picturesquely written booklet entitled "The Tyranny of Mathematics" (S.C.M. Press, Ltd., 56 Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1. Pp. 52. 1s. 6d. net). Mr. Hoyland's theme is the age-old dichotomy between the emotional and the rational approach to human problems; but his treatment is fresh, partly owing to his vivid style, and partly because it is unusual to find a religious apologist with a good knowledge of science and mathematics. It is not possible here even to summarize his arguments and exhortations. His conclusion, briefly, is that since the Renaissance, and particularly since Newton and Leibniz added the weapon of the calculus to the armoury of the man of science, we have worshipped at the analytical shrine of mathematics, to the exclusion of the true gods of poetry and religion, which, with science as their handmaid, can alone reveal to us the whole truth about the universe. "If our sick world is to be saved the lover and the poet must take control."

Few men of science will go the whole way with Mr. Hoyland, preferring to believe that a constantly adjusted partnership between the emotional and rational elements in life, rather than the supremacy of either over the other, is the most fruitful treatment of the dichotomy (and indeed the only one that would justify the use of the word 'symbiosis' in the subtitle); but many will be stimulated by this keen analysis of the problems involved, and enjoy the colourful language in which it is couched.

Cultivation of Rhubarb

RHUBARB is one of the oldest cultivated plants, for its history in China, its native home, dates back to almost 3000 B.C. At first it was grown solely for the medicinal properties of its roots and was introduced into England from Siberia on that account some three hundred years ago. Later, interest developed in the edible properties of the leaf stalks, but it was not until the nineteenth century that plantings of rhubarb for culinary purposes became widespread. The literature on rhubarb cultivation is scanty, so the illustrated bulletin, compiled by H. V. Taylor and E. E. Skillman, recently issued by the Ministry of Agriculture (No. 113. H.M. Stationery Office. 9d.) should prove a great asset to growers. The advice given relates generally to normal peacetime practice. Only a limited number of varieties are grown for commercial purposes; each is described in some detail and attention directed to the fact that all may be seen growing in the gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley. The chief area of production is the West Riding of Yorkshire, though in Essex, Lancashire and Cheshire quite a considerable acreage is devoted to the crop. The high rain-

fall, acid soil and the capacity of the plant to withstand smoke pollution contribute to the success of the crop in the Leeds district; in fact the contaminated atmosphere is an asset for forcing purposes, as it induces premature leaf shedding and early dormancy. The cultivation of both forced and natural rhubarb are described at some length and a section devoted to grading, packing and marketing. As regards diseases, that termed 'crown rot' appears to cause most trouble. Eelworm infection is now thought to be largely responsible for this, though it is not yet clear whether there are not also other factors which contribute to this condition.

Plea for a Museum for Croydon

DR. H. W. DICKINSON'S presidential address this year to the Croydon Natural History and Science Society discussed the proposal for a museum for the district. Croydon is the largest borough in Great Britain without an adequate museum service, and he stated that the Society is now urging the proposal upon the local authority "as one of the particular objects to be carried into effect in the post-war municipal reconstruction scheme". If the museum materializes, he stressed the importance of a localized policy, and in this connexion suggested that a plan already exists in the form of the Society's Regional Survey of the district. Alluding to museum functions, he placed 'research' before 'visual education', but in view of the present-day urgent need for all forms of education, the smaller regional museums might usefully reverse this order. Dr. Dickinson justifiably deprecated the use of old dwelling-houses for museum purposes, for these do not provide the offices and facilities required for the execution of a useful and progressive service. Referring to the reluctance of municipalities "to spend money on buildings even if they own valuable collections", he reminded the audience that the Nuffield Trust, and the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, could be approached for financial help. Clearly, Dr. Dickinson has closely studied Markham's report on "The Museums and Art Galleries of the British Isles" (1938), and all authorities undertaking the establishment or reorganization of regional museums in the future could profitably follow his example.

The Cinema

MR. LINDGREN'S pamphlet "The Cinema" (English Universities Press, Ltd. 4d. net) well maintains the standard set in this Handbook for Discussion Groups series, and should serve as a useful basis for discussion of various aspects of the cinema, including the Report of the Board of Trade Committee on Tendencies to Monopoly in the Cinematograph Film Industry, of which little has been heard since its publication. This particular aspect is indirectly touched by one of the subjects listed for discussion, but in the brief compass of nineteen pages Mr. Lindgren contrives to supply a good deal of background and to indicate most of the broader issues involved, such as the possibilities of the cinema in scientific research, education, the recording of history, the promotion of international understanding and the field of public information. He touches succinctly on the general problems of the entertainment value of the cinema, its influence and the question of censorship, where in two brief paragraphs he brings out the essential weaknesses and dangers inherent in censorship, and incidentally supplies adequate justification for the attempt to stimulate further discussion