

St. Fagans Castle dates from Norman times, and the present house, which was built within the thirteenth-century curtain wall of the fortress, is best described in the words of the report: "it is a dignified, picturesque and characteristic example of the commodious many-gabled style of Elizabethan times, containing lofty well-lighted rooms". The beautiful grounds, which will be maintained for the enjoyment of visitors, include terraced walks, formal gardens, fish-ponds and a treed hill slope. The extra 80 acres of park-land is reached through a short tunnel which runs beneath a fenced public footpath, and its higher parts overlook the Vale of Glamorgan. The policy for the Folk Museum envisages "as complete a picture of the Welsh past as possible, to create a 'Wales in miniature' where the visitor can wander in the confined area of a hundred acres through time and space, from the sixteenth century to the twentieth, from Anglesey to Monmouthshire, and see not only the old Welsh way of life but the variations in and the continuity of our culture". It will become "a centre for architectural and craft education, both visual and instructive". The house itself will be furnished in such a manner as to provide for the visitor a detailed study of the life and culture of the landed classes in Wales. The report, which contains three photographic reproductions of St. Fagans Castle with its gardens and park-lands, should be read by all those interested in the development of folk museums.

#### Manchester Libraries

AMONG points of interest in the annual report of the City of Manchester Libraries Committee for the year ended March 31, 1946, is the announcement of the impending reinstatement of the separate Technical Department in the Central Library in the room at present occupied by the Henry Watson Music Library, which will be moved to the second floor. Of the total 6,430,499 volumes issued during the year, 5,102,372 were from the home-reading adult and 819,533 from the junior libraries, and 508,594 from the reference libraries, which so far as issues are concerned have regained the ground lost during the War. Although 102,530 fewer volumes were issued than in the previous year, the average daily issue of 21,419 volumes was slightly higher. Grave concern is being caused by the continued heavy use of the already over-worked stock of the lending libraries, and the scarcity of copies of books in demand is so great that the libraries are compelled to circulate many thousands of copies which are, by pre-war standards, too shabby and dirty to justify a place on the shelves. In the reference section, where the absence of trained staff has been severely felt, the demand for library copies of prescribed books by university, college and school students is all the greater, because so many of them are out of print and unobtainable in any other way. It is embarrassing both to staff and students when some twenty students are anxious to use one copy of a set book. Again, while the total of 71,266 books added to the Libraries during the year, at an approximate cost of £20,700, is the smallest for many years, the average cost of each volume was almost three times the average before the War. The estimate for books has been increased to £30,000 for the current year, but of the 64,908 volumes withdrawn only 7,082 were replaced by new copies, due to the existing shortage of books. A feature of the year has been the increased use of the Commercial Library for all kinds of

inquiries, and the value of the Information Bureau is well illustrated by examples quoted in the report.

#### Recent Earthquakes

DURING August 1946, seven distant earthquakes were recorded in New Zealand, and twenty-three were felt by persons in the Dominion. The greatest shock, of intensity 4 on the Modified Mercalli Scale, and occurred on August 1 and 12 near Lako Coleridge, and on August 12 near Wanganui and on August 21 in the central parts of North Island. The United States Coast and Geodetic Survey in co-operation with Science Service and the Jesuit Seismological Association determined the epicentres of two shocks on August 28. The first, at 22 hr. 26.3 min. G.M.T., was an aftershock of the destructive Dominican Republic earthquake of August 4 off Samana Peninsula, and the second, at 22 hr. 28.2 min. G.M.T., occurred in Northern Chile.

During September, twenty-two earthquakes were registered at the Geophysical Observatory at Toledo in Spain, that on September 12 being in north-west Bengal, that on September 23 north of New Guinea and that on September 25 a further aftershock of the Dominican Republic earthquake (U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey). In addition, there was an earthquake on September 18 not registered at Toledo. This happened in the Pacific Ocean off south-west Mexico (lat. 16° N., long. 101° W.).

On October 2 an earthquake had its epicentre south of Kamchatka (lat. 51° N., long. 157° E.), and on October 4 a further aftershock of the destructive Dominican Republic earthquake of August 4 occurred off the Samana Peninsula (U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey). On October 19 an earth tremor shook Baghdad, but no damage is reported.

Lastly, on November 2, a violent earthquake took place in Central Asia. According to an official Moscow report, the earthquake was most strong in the district between Jalal-Abad in Khirghizia, and Fergana in Uzbekistan. This area is in the valley of the Syr Daria, where Uzbekistan's first steel works were built, and where there is an important hydro-electric station. A good deal of cotton is grown in the area, and this has been assisted by the construction of the Fergana Stalin Canal. The recent earthquake caused considerable material damage and loss of life, though the exact figures are not yet available.

#### Bibliography of Medicine

A BIBLIOGRAPHICAL BULLETIN, covering medicine, veterinary science and pharmaceutical chemistry, published by the International Association of the Medical Press (71 Via M. Macchi, Milano, 300 lire; 25 dollars yearly), gives a classified list of books in these fields published in 1945 and 1946 or in preparation, the titles being arranged alphabetically by authors in each section. There is also an author index. The Association plans in 1946 to send such a bulletin free of charge to the editors of medical reviews, and it is intended that the second edition of this catalogue shall include a summary of information regarding all periodicals, whether discontinued or in course of publication. The editor invites the managers of medical reviews to forward all the necessary information regarding such publications. The Association is also negotiating with the authorities of the Vatican City for the use of the Vatican station for regular broadcasts of sufficient length to enable