

emphasize the practical steps that should be taken to implement their suggestions, including the provision of finance and the requisite personnel. Admission to the Conference will be by ticket only; applications should reach the Assistant Secretary of the Royal Society before June 1.

Institution of Mechanical Engineers: Clayton Awards

THE Institution of Mechanical Engineers has divided the Clayton Prize for 1947 in equal moieties. One half, valued at £650, has been awarded to Mr. J. E. Sears, formerly superintendent of the Metrology Department of the National Physical Laboratory, for his services to engineering science and manufacture by researches and development in metrology and gauging; the other half, to the value of £650, to Mr. T. E. Beacham, consulting engineer, for his contribution to the development of the variable-pitch propeller and high-speed hydraulic pumps and other hydraulic devices by way of research, invention and design.

A number of Clayton Fellowships are to be awarded during 1948; funds for this purpose have been derived from money bequeathed to the Institution by Mr. James Clayton, who died in 1944. Mr. Clayton was chief engineer of Messrs. Courtaulds and was closely associated with the development of equipment for the rayon industry. The Clayton Fellowships will in general be awarded for a year of postgraduate study or experience in mechanical engineering or a related science, and will be worth £250–£500. Candidates must be British-born subjects not less than twenty-three years old, and must possess an approved engineering degree or similar status.

Marketing Agricultural Produce

THE written evidence submitted to the Lucas Committee on the Marketing of Agricultural Produce by Mr. Thomas Shaw, on which that Committee largely based its recommendations for setting up a system of marketing for meat when the present rationing scheme and control by the Ministry of Food ends, has now been published, together with a foreword by Dr. John Hammond (from the author, Brettenham House, Lancaster Place, London, W.C.2). Insufficient attention has yet been given to the recommendation that producer marketing boards should continue to function only up to the point of procurement where the guaranteed price under the Agriculture Act applies, and that any participation in the functions of processing and marketing beyond that stage should fall within the ambit of a national slaughterhouse board or commission. Mr. Shaw's evidence details clearly the measures which the livestock industry most needs for efficiency, including complete reorganisation of the existing slaughterhouse set-up, utilization of all by-products and elimination of unnecessary profit margins, grading, division of poorer quality meats from the fresh, the manufacturing market and measures to mitigate seasonal variations in supplies. The proposed public corporation would be given powers to approve central factory abattoir schemes; to determine the terms and conditions under which such schemes should operate; to operate grading services at the abattoir and a price-governing formula; to authorize public funds required to implement the Government guarantee of prices, and linking that guarantee with qualities of the product; to make levies covering the cost of administration and the finance of industrial research

in connexion with the abattoir; and to make loans to central factory abattoir schemes. The scheme, which is intended to lead to the effective closing of the wide gap between producer and consumer prices, to relieve the State in increasing measure of its financial liability under the terms of its guarantee and lay the foundations for an efficiently operating home meat industry, has thus features in common with the development councils to be established under the Industrial Organisation and Development Act, 1947, as the functions listed for the New Cotton Board, the first of such councils to be established, clearly shows.

Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh

A NOTABLE feature of the activities of the Royal Scottish Museum during 1946 (Ann. Rep. 1946) was the record number of temporary exhibitions that were organised. These, all of topical interest and of strong public appeal, included the "Meet Scotland" Exhibition (which ran from August 1945 until March 1946), organised by the Museum itself; "Other Peoples Jobs", organised by the Ministry of Fuel and Power, and a special health exhibition in connexion with the City of Edinburgh's Health Week. This was divided into sections dealing with maternity and child welfare, tuberculosis, school medical services, water supply, etc. A unique aspect of this particular exhibition, and one which must certainly be unique in the history of the Museum, was the presence of nursery school infants, "who," in the words of the report, "performed their exercises and ablutions, played their games and demolished their meals, completely unaffected by the mass of admiring onlookers". In reference to these and the several other special exhibitions which were provided for by various outside organisations, Dr. D. A. Allan, director of the Museum, writes: "The scope and variety of the Museum's offerings are largely determined by the possibilities of outside assistance, and the record for 1946 provides food for thought regarding museum developments in the years ahead". The attendance figures for the various exhibitions shown on p. 3 of the report certainly justify this observation. Important donations to the Museum during the year included the Fyfe collection of Japanese *netsuké* (presented by Mrs. E. J. Fyfe). A full list of acquisitions appears at the end of the report.

British Bee Plants

MANY people are interested in learning the sources of the pollen and nectar collected by bees; others are more concerned with the pollination of flowers; while the bee-keeper often wants to know the most suitable plants for extending pastorage for his stocks. To all of these, to botanists and to other readers we can commend the booklet "British Bee Plants" as a storehouse of useful information. All the best bee-plants are dealt with, whether they are in the flower or vegetable garden, orchard, farm or countryside. Often useful hints are given regarding cultivation of particular plants, their uses and other details. Edited by A. F. Harwood, it is issued by the Apis Club, The Ways End, Foxton, Royston, at 3s.

British Social Hygiene Council: Summer School

"THE SCHOOLS AND THE LAND" is to be the theme of a summer school that the British Social Hygiene Council is organising at the Seale-Hayne Agricultural College, Newton Abbot, Devon, during July 30–August 13. The school will be concerned with the