

data on salaries paid to physicists and on available scientific man-power.

In April 1946, the statement that "the Board was in full agreement with the views expressed by the President of the Royal Society regarding atomic energy and secrecy" was circulated to members of the Institute. The Board has since seen fit to amplify this statement, and has declared that it "strongly believes that atomic energy should only be used for peaceful and not warlike purposes". This, in its opinion, requires international agreement, and thus political action, which the Board feels is a matter best left to individual men of science. The Board agrees to promote the free exchange of scientific information between scientific workers of all countries; but it also realizes that it has been the practice for some to accept a measure of secrecy as a condition of their employment or service. In this connexion the Board is prepared to give advice to individual members.

The report mentions that during the year a scheme was discussed with the Physical Society for the establishment of an applied physics journal. It was decided, however, that it was not practicable, at present, to launch such a journal, and an alternative suggestion of the Council of the Physical Society that the Institute's publication, the *Journal of Scientific Instruments*, should be enlarged and a special section, of about forty per cent of its space, be devoted to 'non-instrument' articles, was adopted. Since January 1948 the *Journal* has appeared in this modified form under the new title of *Journal of Scientific Instruments and of Physics in Industry*. A second edition of the "Handbook of Industrial Radiology" was called for during the year, and among the new publications the Institute has in hand are a book of "Laboratory and Workshop Notes" selected from the Institute's *Journal*, and, in book form, the papers read at the 1946 Manchester Conference on the measurement of stress and strain.

Repairs and improvements to the Institute's House at 47 Belgrave Square, London, are proceeding steadily but very slowly, the report states, but already considerable benefit has been derived from the increased accommodation and facilities, which include a members' reading room, and a lecture room with a capacity of a hundred. It is anticipated that the essential work will be completed within two years.

COUNCIL FOR THE PRESERVATION OF RURAL ENGLAND

AN indication of the nation's indebtedness to the Council for the Preservation of Rural England may be obtained from a perusal of the Society's annual report for 1947-48, obtainable from 4 Hobart Place, London, S.W.1. Foremost among the issues with which it has had to deal has been the vast problem of the post-war use of land for training the armed forces. The Council has been charged by the Ministry of Town and Country Planning with the duty of presenting evidence in writing, and if necessary verbally, on amenity and scientific grounds, in all cases where it is considered desirable that such evidence should be presented. On his afforestation policy the Minister of Agriculture has been advised on landscape planting and types of trees, while the Council's officers have also played their part in causing the cost-limit for the building of new houses

to be raised in order that local stone might be used for facing in those districts where stone-built houses are traditional.

In conjunction with the Caravan Club and the Town and Country Planning Association, the Council for the Preservation of Rural England has set up regional sub-committees to eliminate (in the words of the Scott Report on Land Utilization in Rural Areas) "the nameless messes, the assemblage of caravans and converted buses and encampments which have littered and spoiled many a once charming stretch of coastline, lakeside and riverside, and a hundred other attractive scenes".

The submission of the Scott Committee that the introduction of carefully regulated suitable industries into the countryside would be beneficial has been endorsed by the Council and particular cases have been investigated, while the Council has also advised the Minister of Town and Country Planning on the location and design of wireless installations for the police and the B.B.C. Representations to the Postmaster General on the colour of telephone call boxes has enabled substantial agreement to be reached for those districts where objection is raised to the standard red of the 'Jubilee Kiosk'.

Opencast coal working has caused the Council much concern, and clear recommendations have been made to the Minister of Fuel on methods of regaining soil fertility and the restoration of land drainage after settlement as well as the general amenities. The reports of the Committee on National Parks were warmly supported by the Council; but dissatisfaction was registered with the Government's tardiness in implementing the main recommendations.

Other subjects dealt with by the Council during a year of considerable activity were the control of outdoor advertisements, the distribution and design of electricity installations, the siting and landscape treatment of road works and the preservation of buildings of historic and architectural interest.

CROPS OF THE CARIBBEAN

THE Governments of the United States and the United Kingdom (1942), and later of France and the Netherlands (1945), united to establish a Caribbean Commission to encourage and strengthen social and economic co-operation between their various possessions and bases in the area known geographically and politically as the Caribbean. In order to survey needs, to determine what research has been done, to facilitate research on a co-operative basis, and to arrange for the prompt dissemination of the results of research, the Caribbean Research Council was set up in 1943. One of its research committees, dealing with agriculture, nutrition, fisheries and forestry, has instituted a series of crop inquiries in all territories, and the results of two such investigations have recently been published (Crop Inquiry Series No. 4, "Root Crops and Legumes", 1947, and No. 5, "Vegetables". Caribbean Commission, 1736 Vermont Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C., or Kent House, Port of Spain, Trinidad, B.W.I. 0.50 dollar per copy).

Agriculture in the Caribbean has traditionally emphasized production for export, on the theory that it is more advantageous to produce locally a high-priced crop (sugar) and buy low-priced foods in the world market. This has resulted in neglect of home-