between areas, industrial facilities and basic services, the constitution and geographical distribution of industrial population, labour supplies, industrial sites, the availability of factory premises, housing and general amenities.

The administration of the Distribution of Industry Act has revealed some problems requiring special investigations of particular areas or towns, and the possible uses in peace-time of war-time government factories. It is also stated that the development of physical planning, the drive to increase production in the textile and other industries, and the necessity for concentration upon the manufacture of goods to meet the export target, have all led to further research; though, as already indicated, the White Paper does not elsewhere indicate much awareness on the part of the Board of Trade of this point where the Development Areas are concerned. In addition to the maintenance of comprehensive records of what has been done or is planned, the fullest measure of co-operation exists with the research officers of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning, as well as with the staffs of local planning authorities, to ensure that research on distribution of industry problems is properly related to all developments in town and country planning.

Most of the activities described in this section of the White Paper admittedly relate to current issues and short-term problems; and in this account more reference might well have been made to the contributions from other bodies such as the West Midland Group and the Northern Industrial Group. The study of long-term problems, however, has also been undertaken, and here it is recognized that there are certain fundamental problems which are best investigated by the universities. To ensure that these problems will receive attention, the Board of Trade set up early in 1947 an informal committee, with Sir Henry Clay as chairman, consisting of members of the economic and statistical departments of several universities, to consider how the assistance of the universities might be secured.

This account of the research activities of the Board of Trade in the field of the location of industry, set against the general trend of the whole report, conveys the main impression that failure to implement the proposals of the Barlow Commission has been due to ineffective co-ordination, duplication of effort and the absence of any authority competent to choose the right subjects of research and ensure that the results of research are used. Unified research into the problem of distribution on a national scale is embryonic; there is no unified plan of development based on such research, and no effective control meanwhile of such changes as must continue to take place in the interests of trade. We are no nearer than when the Distribution of Industry Act was passed to the effective relation of schemes for industrial development to those for hydro-electric development, water supply, the building of new towns and the like.

The absence of that high standard of ministerial statesmanship which Gertrude Williams, in her book, "The Price of Social Security", showed to be the essential foundation of successful government control

of any communal activity effectively prevents the formulation of a national policy. Piecemeal developments and yielding to sectional interests make the objectives professed in this White Paper as farcical as the continued encroachment on national park areas or Nature reserves by unco-ordinated demands from the Services and other interests make the nominal profession of the Government of supporting the idea of Nature reserves or national parks. This White Paper shows little sign of the imagination, vigour and statesmanship which could reverse these trends, and give Great Britain a genuine national policy for land use in which the claims of defence, amenities, industry and culture are fairly balanced, apportioned and reconciled.

THE LIFE AND WORK OF CHARLES DARWIN

Charles Darwin

Par Jean Rostand. (Collection 'Leurs figures'.) Pp. 244+4 plates. (Paris: Libr. Gallimard, 1947.) 220 francs.

THIS book is easily readable. It deals in a pleasant manner with Darwin not only as a man of science but also as an individual. It mentions, but does not stress, the shocking state of health in which Darwin carried out all his work after he returned from the voyage with the *Beagle*. The fact that, during the years 1837-59, while Darwin was collecting together his material for the "Origin", he carried out and published all the geological results of the *Beagle* expedition and, at the same time, produced a monograph on the barnacles which is still the standard work on this group can only be appreciated when it is remembered that he could only work at his desk for relatively short periods and was continually bound to lie down and rest after these short periods of exertion.

The book, however, cannot be said to throw any new light on Darwin. It is written in the modern Neo-Mendelian idiom. One sentence (p. 144) gives away the author's attitude. He maintains that one of the greatest originalities of Darwin was to have seen in the variation of domestic animals the image of the phenomenon of evolution. To a Neo-Mendelian this may make sense, but, of course, it begs the question. Then, again, the author states definitely that we now know that acquired characters are not inherited. Whatever view one may take as to Lamarck's theory—a theory which, the author rightly points out, was always misunderstood by Darwin—it has certainly never been established scientifically and probably never will be that acquired characters *cannot* be inherited. Surely it is a fact that recently one of our leading Neo-Mendelians published an account of a mechanism based on the conception of the gene complex whereby acquired characters *could* be inherited. They cannot have it both ways!

It is a pity that the author does not stress the fact that in the title of the book "On the Origin of Species" there are two inaccuracies: the word 'origin' should really have been 'establishment' after the species had originated, and then the word 'species' is not defined; and Darwin pointed out in a letter to Hooker "to define a species is to wish to define the indefinable".

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