

spent two years as a Beit Scientific Research Fellow under Prof. C. L. Fortescue at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. His research on valve oscillators at high frequencies was continued after joining the Research Laboratories of the General Electric Company in 1930. Specializing in the study of transit-time oscillators for the highest frequencies, he soon began a long association with what was then the Experimental Department of H.M. Signal School, one of the results of which was that sea-going communication equipment using resonator-stabilized magnetrons was available at the beginning of the Second World War. During the War Dr. Megaw led a team which made many significant contributions to magnetron development, while he was also responsible for the G.E.C.'s part in the war-time studies of centimetric wave propagation. In 1946 he joined the Admiralty, becoming eventually superintendent of research at the Admiralty Signal and Radar Establishment. Recently Dr. Megaw has directed attention to the effect of the turbulent fluctuations of refractive index in the atmosphere on radio wave propagation beyond the horizon.

Exhibition on Wild Life Preservation

THE Zoological Department of the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, has arranged an exhibition to show how man has affected the wild animals of the world, causing some to become rare and others extinct; and how, in more recent times, he has sought to preserve those in danger of depletion. In the six floor cases are shown examples of birds and mammals which have been greatly reduced or exterminated over much of their former range or exterminated completely. These include the capercaillie, the kite, the marsh harrier, the hen harrier, the ruff, the passenger pigeon, dodo, great auk, as well as the European beaver, pine marten, wolferene, Japanese raccoon-dog, aurochs, red deer, roe deer and wild boar. Around the walls are heads of various species of big game, all greatly reduced in numbers and in range by the activities of man. There is also a small wall case containing specimens of twelve kinds of British moths and butterflies which are at present receiving the attention of the Protection Committee of the Royal Entomological Society of London. Those represented in the case are the Clifton non-pareil, large blue, swallowtail, glanville, and heath fritillaries, Sussex emerald, Lewes wave, lunar double-strip, dark-bordered beauty, Blair's wainscot, rose plume and fiery clearwing. Most of the exhibits dealing with conservation are concerned with the national parks, game and wildfowl sanctuaries and other protected areas established in Holland, Denmark, United States, Canada, Africa and Malaya. The exhibition is one of the most comprehensive of its kind which has yet been arranged in Britain and deserves a visit from all those who are interested in wild life. A suitable handbook to illustrate the exhibition, which will be open until February 1952, is available from the Museum.

Quaternary Finds in Belgium

UNFORTUNATELY, no late palaeolithic cave art has yet been discovered in Belgium. But at a number of localities small sculptures and engravings on pieces of stone and bone have been found associated with datable industries in the excavations. Such 'home' art is, of course, not an uncommon occurrence in France, and the Belgian examples are, by and large, similar to those already known which have

been found in French Magdalenian sites. Representations of a number of different animals, including man, have been found among the Belgian examples, and details are collected in a publication by Prof. François Twisselmann entitled "Les Représentations de l'Homme et des Animaux Quaternaires Découvertes en Belgique" (Memoire No. 113 de l'Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique. Pp. 28+10 plates. Brussels, 1951). They include *Bos primigenius*, reindeer, ibex, fish, birds and a beetle. Man is also figured, though never as well drawn as are many of the animals. This memoir, as a whole, is an important production; not that it contains much new material, but rather that it brings together in a convenient and well-illustrated form information heretofore only to be found scattered through a number of different publications, many of which are not very easily obtained. The memoir can be recommended to all students of late palaeolithic art.

Census of Woodlands in Great Britain

THE first effort at making a systematic census of woodlands in Great Britain was carried out by the Forestry Commission, the results being published in 1928. Much of this survey was done by voluntary workers and was only partially satisfactory. The next census was planned during 1938-39, but had only been partially completed when war broke out. A new census, which would have inevitably been necessary owing to the heavy fellings during the War, was begun in 1947 and the field-work was completed by the middle of 1949 (Forestry Commission: Forest Record No. 3. London: H.M.S.O., 1951). The census had two main objectives: first, to map and classify all the woodlands of the country which are in blocks of five acres and more; and secondly, to obtain an estimate of the timber volume and increment of the woods remaining at the time of the survey—information which is essential for the purpose of regulating future felling, and without which, of course, no working plan could be drawn up. The government forest areas under the Forestry Commission were surveyed by members of the Commission staff, and private woodlands were surveyed by men and women specially recruited and trained for the purpose. This census showed a total area of actual and potential woodland in Great Britain (in blocks of five acres and more) of 3,448,362 acres and about 187,000 acres of small woods less than five acres in extent.

Forestry in Trinidad and Tobago

DURING the past twenty years, the annual reports of the Forest Department of Trinidad and Tobago have been fairly consistent and they have reported good work accomplished in the past; they have been hampered by the need for more roads to open up existing forests and by want of staff due to lack of facilities. The report for 1949 (Port-of-Spain, Trinidad) indicates that the Government has at last realized and sanctioned measures for improvement. Much greater progress may be looked forward to in future years. A reference to the local fauna is of interest. The local fauna of Trinidad and Tobago is largely nocturnal, and although varied and interesting, particularly the mammals and reptiles, are rarely seen by the general public. Hence there is considerable interest in the proposal for the establishment of a zoological garden. Government approval was given in 1947 for the use of a site in the Royal Botanic Gardens, and a Zoological Society was formed