

bleak high moors above Drymen and Loch Lomond; Loch Katrine lies just beyond its northern boundary, and on its eastern marches stand the Menteith Hills. Besides a description of the forest and the people who live in it, the booklet contains a map of Loch Ard and its surroundings which would be useful to travellers. The second booklet is one of the guides to Britain's forest parks, in this case the New Forest. Here the treatment is fuller and, besides many fine photographs and a specially adapted ordnance survey map, the booklet contains chapters by specialists on the history, geology, botany, zoology and the policy of the Forestry Commission towards the New Forest. There is also a useful collection of general information to assist the visitor as well as a guide to further reading. Both booklets may be obtained from H.M.S.O.; the former costs 1s. and the latter 2s. 6d.

#### Commercial Agreements in Research and Development

THE commercial world is shot through and through with agreements, ranging from mere verbal undertakings to extensive federations and confederations. In a valuable pamphlet entitled "Commercial Agreements" (Cambridge: Bowes and Bowes; 3s. 6d.), Mr. Glyn Picton describes the forms and contents of some of these types of agreements between firms. He points out that the stimulus to co-operation is strong when the product is one of technical complexity or when manufacturing processes involve heavy commitments in fixed capital devoted to particular forms, patterns or qualities. An advance by one manufacturer in product design or in productive operations can have serious effects upon sales or costs. Collaboration which enables a firm to participate in discoveries made by another reduces the burden of expenditure on research and facilitates co-ordination of development work and cross-fertilization of ideas. Agreements generally provide for exchange of information on research and development and of rights to use resultant products and processes. The scope of these agreements is inherently difficult to define though the problem is simplified if patents are involved. Where they are not, the alternatives are either to make only a brief expression of intentions or to enter into elaborate provisions defining fields, territories and objects.

#### Lower Cretaceous Marine Fossils in the 'Nubian Sandstone' of Egypt

A REPORT by M. I. Attia and G. W. Murray, published recently in the *Abstracts of Proceedings of the Geological Society of London* (No. 1482, p. 37), records the recent discovery by the latter of fossiliferous marine bands in the 'Nubian Sandstone' of Wadi Qena in the Eastern Desert of Egypt. The sandstones rest directly on the granites, etc., forming the Red Sea Hills, and are succeeded by Middle and Upper Cretaceous limestones and other sediments. Some of the newly discovered fossils came from intercalations near the base of the sandstones, the rest from higher beds; they indicate a Cenomanian age, but include three ammonites from near the base which, according to Dr. G. H. Awad, suggest an Albian, and possibly an Aptian, age. The late Dr. W. F. Hume made somewhat similar discoveries farther up the Wadi some forty years ago. Fossiliferous marine Lower Cretaceous strata are known in northern Sinai and northern Egypt, to which the new localities and their fossils are an important addition.

#### Primitive Astronomy

THE September 1951 issue of the *Irish Astronomical Journal* (1, No. 7; 1951) contains a very comprehensive article by A. P. Fitzgerald, with the title "Some Aspects of Primitive Astronomy". It includes a survey of the astronomy of the Chinese, Chaldeans, Egyptians and the Greeks up to the days of Ptolemy. The article is illustrated by a number of photographs and diagrams. Although there is nothing original in this account of ancient astronomy, it provides an excellent summary which will be of great assistance to all who wish to pursue the subject further, and for this purpose the bibliography at the end will be useful.

#### Belgian Biochemical Society

THE Belgian Biochemical Society (Société Belge de Biochimie; Belgische Biochemische Vereniging) has recently been formed, and the first general meeting was held in Brussels on January 12. The Society has two objectives: the organization of scientific meetings, at which members can discuss the results of their latest work and give experimental demonstrations; and the establishment of friendly relations with similar societies in other countries, particularly with the view of the organization of joint meetings. It is proposed to publish the proceedings of the Society in the *Archives internationales de Physiologie*. Prof. M. Florin has been elected president of the Society, and the secretary is Claude Liébecq, 17 Place Delcour, Liège.

#### National Science Foundation Grants for Research in Biological Sciences

THE National Science Foundation (2144 California Street, N.W., Washington 25, D.C.) has recently announced that, under its programme for the support of basic research in the sciences, it has made twenty-eight grants, totalling 410,000 dollars, in the field of the biological sciences. This amount represents slightly less than forty per cent of the funds available to the Foundation for the support of basic research for the current fiscal year. Additional proposals are being considered by the staff of the Foundation with the help of an advisory panel drawn from more than fifty leading American men of science serving as consultants. Grants have been made to institutions in California, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin; the research fields are biochemistry, enzyme chemistry, biophysics, systematic biology, microbiology, aquatic biology, experimental embryology, genetics, immunology, experimental plant biology and photosynthesis. The duration of the grants ranges from one to five years, with an average length of 2.3 years.

#### Scientific and Technical Journals published in South-east and South Asia

THE Unesco East Asia Science Co-operation Office, Manila, has issued a "List of Scientific and Technical Journals published in South-east Asia" (pp. 32, 1951). The List, which was compiled in 1950, gives the titles, publisher and address and price (with approximate exchange-rates) of those scientific and technical journals published in the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaya, Thailand, Indo-China and Hong Kong. The journals are listed first alphabetically, with title only, according to country, and second, again under country but with full details and