

to the strong feeling among chemists in industry that there was no body having the prime function of looking after the economic interests of chemists. The Institute of Chemistry, as it was in those days, was a qualifying body, and it was outside its scope to look after such interests. After meetings in Birmingham, Manchester and London, the Association was formed.

Before long there was established, on the initiative of the London Section, a scheme whereby unemployment benefit was made available to members. The Unemployment Benefit Fund has been so well managed that to-day it is possible for the Association to pay as much as nine guineas per week to members temporarily unemployed. Although more than £20,000 has been paid out in benefit, there is to-day a balance of £52,000. It appeared to the House Committee, which included Mr. Norman Sheldon (chairman), Mr. C. S. Garland, Mr. G. T. Gurr and Mr. H. L. Howard, that it would be possible to invest some of that money to the advantage of the Fund and at the same time provide a worthy headquarters for the Association. Mr. Scholefield said that the greatest credit should be given to the House Committee, and that he would like to congratulate those who have been responsible for this really magnificent result. He then declared Hinchley House to be open.

After the ceremony, a tablet, inscribed with the names of the past-presidents and Hinchley medallists, was unveiled by Dr. Herbert Levinstein, who was president of the Association during 1923-24, immediately after Prof. Hinchley. This tablet was presented in memory of the late Mr. C. A. Wylie, president during 1951-52, by his family and friends.

Afterwards Dr. Levinstein gave this year's Hinchley Medal address entitled "Our Changing Chemical Industries: an Appraisalment".

SURVEY OF FOOD CONSUMPTION AND EXPENDITURE IN GREAT BRITAIN

IN Great Britain the War-Time Food Survey was almost entirely limited to urban working-class households, and, as the National Food Survey, it continued in the same form until the end of 1949. Since then, however, an attempt has been made to obtain a more representative sample, so that all classes and types of consumer are included. A recent report issued by the Ministry of Food* is the first of an envisaged annual series, setting out full details of food consumption and expenditure by families throughout the country.

Records were obtained from 4,723 families, of which 70 per cent were "urban working class", 11 per cent were "other urban households", and 19 per cent were "rural". The first group provides data suitable for direct comparison with results obtained in the earlier surveys and permits long-term trends to be followed through. The new material, however, is subjected to much more detailed analysis in an attempt to bring out economic, dietetic or nutritional differences between one group and another. Families are divided according to "composition" and to "social class", and numerous tables are presented which show

* Ministry of Food. Domestic Food Consumption and Expenditure, 1950, with a supplement on Food Expenditure by Urban Working-Class Households 1940-1949. Annual Report of the National Food Survey Committee. Pp. 132. (London: H.M.S.O., 1952.) 4s. 6d. net.

the effects of increasing numbers of children in the household. Seasonal variations are demonstrated, and also the varying ability of the different social groups to maintain their normal standards in the face of price increases (temporary or progressive).

As a social document this report is probably as valuable as any; the data on which it is based are considerable and there is every sign of the greatest care having been taken to obtain a high degree of accuracy at every stage. Yet, as a contribution to nutritional knowledge in Great Britain it is disappointing; it does not establish the caloric and nutrient levels at which these families were actually living, and yet that is the information which would be of most value.

The factual material, on the food consumption side, is confined to the amounts bought or obtained "free" during the survey week, together with appropriate additions or deductions according to "changes in stocks". The amounts discarded by the housewife in preparing the food for table have not been measured, nor has any record been made of the amount of edible material that was not actually eaten. It is a great weakness in this type of survey that, on both scores, arbitrary adjustments have to be made. The allowance for wastage of edible material made here is an overall ten per cent; but do we really throw away one loaf in every ten, every tenth bottle of milk, one-tenth of our butter, our sugar and all the other foodstuffs of which so many communities stand in the direst need? If we do, it is time that the crime of so doing was brought home to us more strongly. It is good that a footnote promises that this matter is to be examined further; certainly, it seems unlikely that all foods are wasted in the same proportion and to the same extent by all social groups.

Despite these deductions, however, it appears that intakes were more than adequate in practically all respects, although households with four or more children, or with both adolescents and children, were only marginal and were adversely affected by the lowering of the extraction rate of flour from 85 to 80 per cent in the middle of the year. There is, however, ample room for further errors in the estimates of requirements and in the arbitrary deductions made from the standards used, to allow for meals obtained outside the home. It is to be hoped that modifications will be introduced into the survey technique so that the necessary adjustments may, in future, be made on a more factual basis.

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WINTER CASCADING FROM AN OCEANIC ISLAND AND ITS BIOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS

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THE circulation of Bermuda waters during the summer, and the possibility that this circulation acts as a mechanism for conserving insular plankton, have already been discussed¹. Since that discussion presented only the summer picture, it became of interest to determine the winter circulation in order to understand the existence of an endemic plankton population.

It must be emphasized again that the marginal reefs around Bermuda are not at all continuous;