

produce a large bulk of foliage of high protein and low fibre content. The total yields from successive cuts recorded in the British trials average just over 25 tons per acre per annum, though much higher figures have been claimed on previous occasions. As with other crops, success depends on good management, and the report includes recommendations for its cultivation, stressing the need for keeping the land clean, well manured and the crop regularly cut. The most profitable stock to feed with comfrey are pigs and poultry, though horses also appear to thrive on it. Information regarding conservation is scanty; but methods of drying and making silage are under investigation. The perennial nature of the crop renders it difficult to fit in with ordinary rotations on a farm, and once established it is difficult to eradicate. Instructions are supplied in an appendix to deal with this latter contingency. The plant might, however, prove useful to the smallholder or poultry keeper.

Biology and Human Affairs

In November 1954 the joint committee of the various biological societies of Britain held a conference on endocrinology. In one of the papers, Dr. Thaddeus Mann examined the experimental approach to endocrinology, while in another Dr. H. Gardiner-Hill discussed endocrinology from the clinical point of view. These two papers have been reprinted in the current issue of *Biology and Human Affairs*, which also contains an article by Dr. H. A. Barnicot on biological variation in human populations (20, No. 2; February 1955). The journal also contains details of the British Social Biology Council's Summer School which, this year, will be held during August 15-29 at Driebergen in Holland. The School is to be divided into two study groups, one of which will examine the application of biological knowledge in agriculture and food production, and the other will investigate the social services in Holland, particularly in relation to health, child welfare and problem families. Further information about the School can be obtained from the British Social Biology Council, Tavistock House South, London, W.C.1.

National Museum of Canada: Annual Report for 1952-53

THE annual report of the National Museum of Canada for 1952-53 (pp. 313+18 plates. Ottawa: Queen's Printer, 1954; 1.50 dollars) records a large number of field investigations and the collection of many specimens, the continuation of certain research projects and the initiation of new ones, the improvement and enlargement of certain exhibits, and the continuation of the educational programme. But in addition to these normal museum functions, and in common with many museums of the British Commonwealth, the report contains ten original illustrated papers by members of the staff. The subjects include anthropology and folk-lore (Marcel Rioux), a new species of Eurypterid from the Devonian of Gaspé (Louis S. Russell) and lichens of Cape Breton Islands (I. Mackenzie Lamb). All these subjects reflect the many interests of this national Museum.

Royal Society Depository of Unpublished Mathematical Tables

THE following is a list of accessions to the Royal Society's depository of unpublished mathematical tables since the publication of the last list in *Nature* (173, 1221; 1954):

(42) Integrals of the types

$$M_{p,q}(a) = \int_0^a \frac{J_p(x) J_q(x)}{x^{p+q}} dx$$

$$\text{and } N_{p,q}(a) = \int_0^a \frac{I_p(x) I_q(x)}{x^{p+q}} dx$$

(Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Co., Ltd.);

(43) (i) Étude de $N = 5n^4 + 1$ et $N = 5n^2 + 1$

(ii) Étude de $N = 10n^2 - 1$ et $N = 10n^4 - 1$ (A. Ferrier);

(44) A generalized off-set circle probability distribution;

(45) Tables of $n = (m^2 + i)^{1/2}$;

(46) Tables of $|I| = \left| \int_0^\varphi \sec \theta \exp i\mu \sec \theta d\theta \right|$;

(47) Tables of functions associated with the Airy integral (M. Rothman);

(48) Table of two-fifths powers (Royal Aircraft Establishment);

(49) Étude de $N = 3n^2 - 1$ et $N = 3n^4 - 1$ (A. Ferrier);

(50) Étude de $N = 2^n \pm a$ (A. Ferrier);

(51) Numerical data relating to the flow of heat in tubes (A. K. Jenkins).

Tables 44-46 were compiled by the Admiralty Research Laboratory.

Further information about these tables can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, Royal Society, Burlington House, London, W.1.

Royal Institution: Programme of Lectures

THE programme of Friday Evening Discourses at the Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London, W.1, for the after-Easter session covers as usual a wide range of subjects. The Discourses, which are now in their 130th year since Faraday first started them, begin on April 29 with a discourse by Mr. George Rylands on "Parts of Poetic Speech". The next two discourses will both be illustrated by experiments and demonstrations in the tradition of the Royal Institution. On May 6, Dr. F. P. Bowden, of the Department of Physical Chemistry, Cambridge, will talk on "Fast Reactions in Solids and the Birth and Growth of Explosions". On May 13, Prof. R. W. Douglas, of the Research Laboratories, General Electric Co., Ltd., recently appointed professor of glass technology in the University of Sheffield, will be speaking on "The No-man's Land between Conductors and Insulators". Sir Wilfrid Le Gros Clark is to speak on May 20 on "The Exposure of the Piltdown Forgery". After Whitsun, Sir Hugh Casson, director of architecture at the Festival of Britain, will be talking about his recent trip to Peking. This will be on June 3. The next discourse, on June 10, will be given by Sir Graham Sutton, director of the Meteorological Office, on "Weather Forecasting—the Future Outlook". The session will end on June 17, when Sir Harold Spencer Jones, Astronomer Royal, will speak on the plans for the International Geophysical Year, 1957-58. In addition to the discourses, Sir Lawrence Bragg will deliver one afternoon lecture on May 3 for fourth- and fifth-form pupils from London schools. This lecture will be on "Famous Scientists in the Royal Institution" and will be illustrated by experiments which were originally performed by Rumford, Young, Davy, Faraday, Tyndall and Dewar. The requests to attend this lecture have been so many that Sir Lawrence Bragg has agreed to repeat it on