

changes with the view of stimulating detailed autecological work on the groups of species he mentioned. Dr. S. M. Walters (Botany School, University of Cambridge) gave a survey of the history of mapping plant distributions. In Britain, H. C. Watson in 1836 published a clear statement of the different possible methods to be adopted—area outline, vice-county, and dot maps as they later developed—but, apart from Miller Christy's map of the oxlip in 1884, his ideas were not followed up. The first published vice-county maps for the whole of the British Isles appear to be those in Sir Edward Salisbury's "East Anglian Flora" (1932), although county maps had been included in the "Cambridge British Flora" (1914–20). In visual presentation of distribution data, we have made a much later start than other European countries. Dr. Walters suggested that we could repay our debt to European phytogeography by proposing a practical, standardized method to map the European flora, and he exhibited the outline of such a method.

In the last paper delivered to the conference, Prof. D. H. Valentine (University of Durham) considered "The Study of our Flora as Part of a Whole". Using the family Primulaceae as his main example, he demonstrated the importance of looking at the British flora as a constituent part of the boreal flora as a whole, and emphasized the importance of combining cytogenetical and taxonomic investigations. He urged co-operation with botanists in Europe and the production of a European Flora as outstanding needs.

In addition to the main papers, six exhibitors read short accounts of their exhibits. Mr. A. D. Bradshaw (Department of Agricultural Botany, University College of North Wales, Bangor) described an investigation of the *Agrostis* population of a very old pasture, Port Meadow, Oxford. The composition of a sample of sixty plants on a morphological basis, confirmed by pollen fertilities, was shown to be *A. tenuis* 1½ per cent, *A. stolonifera* 3½ per cent, plants of F_1 type 70 per cent, and plants not easily ascribable to these categories, presumably F_2 's or back-crosses, 25 per cent. The population is therefore composed almost entirely of sterile hybrid plants able to compete successfully with their parents under heavily grazed conditions. Miss M. E. Bradshaw (University of Durham) reviewed the distribution of the segregates of *Alchemilla vulgaris* aggr. in Britain, Mr. P. A. Gay (University College of Wales, Aberystwyth) discussed the taxonomic status of *Erica mackaiana*, and Mr. K. M. Goodway (University College of North Staffordshire) the morphological and cytological types of *Galium pumilum*. Mr. D. M. Moore (University of Durham) considered the status of *Viola lactea*, and Dr. W. S. Lacey (University College of North Wales, Bangor) described the spread of *Galinsoga parviflora* and *G. ciliata* in Britain.

Looking back over the two days of the conference, it is clear that there was general agreement that the most promising lines for furthering our knowledge of the British flora are yet closer collaboration between field and laboratory studies, and greatly increased collaboration with European botanists. It was remarkable how these general proposals kept cropping up in almost every paper and throughout the discussions, and there was enthusiastic support for some of the measures suggested for putting them into practice. The proceedings of the conference will be published by the Botanical Society of the British Isles later this year in a book under the same title.

J. E. LOUSLEY

THE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION BY IMMIGRANTS

A SYMPOSIUM, "The Positive Contribution by Immigrants", prepared for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization by the International Sociological Association and the International Economic Association (pp. 203. Paris: Unesco; London: H.M.S.O., 1955; 600 francs, 12s. 6d. or 2.25 dollars), includes five national studies covering the United States, Great Britain, Australia, Brazil and the Argentine Republic. There is also a short survey of the economic aspect, by Brinley Thomas, which details some of the outstanding inventions or industries in the United States attributed to immigrants and suggests that the qualitative contribution of immigrants as a source of outstanding talent and of general man-power is likely to remain a vital factor in economic development. Australian economic life has been much enriched by men of diverse nationalities endowed with varied skills and aptitudes, and in reviewing recent British experience he remarks of science that in no department of human activity is it truer to say that protective barriers are a cause of impoverishment and that their removal will always redound to the benefit of the community as a whole.

Dealing specifically with Great Britain, Mr. J. Isaac quotes some examples of the wide range of scientific activities which have been influenced by alien immigrants since 1933. Of 533 Fellows of the Royal Society, twenty-one went to Britain as refugees from the Continent of Europe, and many chairs at British universities are held by such immigrants; they have participated in such achievements as the British contribution to the development of nuclear energy, and a particularly noteworthy example is that of Prof. H. A. Krebs and Prof. E. B. Chain, who have shared the Nobel Prize for Medicine. As entrepreneurs and managers, pre-war immigrants have made notable contributions, introducing new ideas or specializing in branches of trade neglected in Britain, and their contribution in the Welsh Development Area in particular has received high praise in Parliament. The contribution of immigrants to the relief of Britain's post-war man-power problems has been limited by the qualified support given by British trade unions, the low standards of medical fitness, education or intelligence used for the selection of the workers, and by difficulties in finding accommodation in Britain for other members of the worker's family. Discussing the demographic aspect, Mr. Isaac points out that it would be a fallacy to assume that Britain could absorb a constant inflow of large numbers of immigrants in the future with similar favourable results, even if suitable persons were available, unless the immigrants could show that they have a special contribution to make.

In a concluding chapter, Mr. Oscar Handlin reviews generally the contributions of immigrants, particularly with reference to the depth of their influence on the host cultures and the extent to which those contributions were determined by the social conditions the immigrants encountered or by the character of the immigrants themselves. Finally, he concludes that, in a larger perspective, immigration establishes a complex of human ties and linkages that play a significant part in extending international understanding.