

Following a patents dispute, proposals were made that a joint stock experimental company be established for the purpose of the general improvement of the manufacturers' products. Among the Wedgwood papers are the committee's "Heads of an Agreement, etc.", the first of which runs: "Proceedings in the scheme of an Experimental Work. The Commee. were of opinion that all who had subscribed to the opposition etc. shod. have a choice of becoming Members of a Company for carrying it into execution, and they were invited by circular letters, in consequence of which, they will meet on Tuesday next, when will be laid before the following Heads of an Agreement to be entered into. . . . We do mutually agree to establish an Experimental work for the purpose of trying the materials lately brought from Cornwall, as well as those which may in future come from that County as any other place in order to improve our present manufacture and make an Useful White Porcelain Body, with a colourless glaze for the same and a blue paint under the glaze. It was also proposed that no member shall disclose the experiments made by this Company or the knowledge obtained by them to any person or persons not in the Company, on pain of forfeiting his share in the joint Stock, and of incurring a penalty of One thousand pounds and that no one of us shall take advantage of the knowledge acquired by the experiments of this Society, by adopting any of the improvements made thereby in our own private manufactories or otherwise, until the plan and time of generally adopting and removing such improvements into the manufactory at large to be agreed upon by the Society under the penalty of One thousand pounds".

Unfortunately the plan came to nothing, but Wedgwood went on to write: "Having done my duty I am contented, and shall take my own course quietly by myself as I can, and may perhaps have it in my power to serve the trade some other way. . . . I shall now begin with the materials in earnest. I scarcely thought myself at liberty to do so whilst the Partnership plan was in agitation".

#### Historic Aircraft Maintenance Group

A GROUP of volunteers composed of members of the Royal Aeronautical Society and of the Society of Licensed Aircraft Engineers is about to begin work on repairing and maintaining the aircraft of the Nash Collection of historic aircraft now owned by the Royal Aeronautical Society. Since it acquired the Nash Collection in 1954, the Royal Aeronautical Society has had many difficulties in the storing and housing of the aircraft, but recently a hangar at the R.A.F. Station, Hendon, was made available. An appeal for volunteers living in the London area to work on the aircraft, made by the secretary of the Society in July this year, met with an enthusiastic response. Members of the two Societies are now starting work, giving up their week-ends to get these historic aircraft back to display condition. Captain E. D. Ayre, a past president of the Society of Licensed Aircraft Engineers, has been appointed chief engineer of the Historic Aircraft Maintenance Group. He has already undertaken a preliminary inspection of the aircraft and has started to collect the necessary equipment. Captain Ayre will supervise a team of engineers who have had extensive practical experience on the types of aircraft and engines in the Nash Collection. The guiding principles will be preservation rather than renovation, so ensuring that the crafts-

manship of an earlier generation is not lost. It is hoped that, ultimately, the Society's Nash Collection will form part of a National Collection of Aircraft.

#### The Border Country in Britain

THE Forestry Commission's decision to declare the Border Country the eighth national forest park of Great Britain will give pleasure to all who have watched the planting, growth and development of the Forests of Kielder, Wark, Redesdale, Kershope, Newcastleton and Wauchorpe during the past thirty-five years. Their pleasure will be enhanced by the publication of a national forest park guide which worthily maintains the high standards of its predecessors (*The Border*. Edited by Prof. John Walton. National Forest Park Guides. Pp. vi + 94 + 16 plates. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1958. 5s. net). The bulk of the guide consists of accounts by H. L. Edlin of the land, the people, the poetry and legend of the Border, the Border forests and walks most likely to bring pleasure to nature-lovers. The Border region in Roman times is described by Prof. I. A. Richmond, and the history is continued by Prof. J. D. Mackie. Dr. W. A. Clark discusses the vegetation of the park, and Ernest Blezard the wild-animal life. The geology of the region is examined by Dr. G. A. L. Johnson. An extensive bibliography has been carefully built up by three prominent librarians. There is also the usual and indispensable section called "General Information"—which will help those who are new to the area to find their way about more quickly, profitably and, where appropriate, economically. Splendidly illustrated with verse, black-and-white sketches, photographs and maps, the guide is excellent value at 5s. The Forestry Commission and, particularly, Mr. Edlin deserve the highest praise for the quality of these publications.

#### Recent Phycological Publications

THE attention of readers interested in the problems of the algae may be directed to the *Phycological Bulletin* (No. 6, June 1958, pp. 1-53, issued by the British Phycological Society; *President*, Dr. J. W. G. Lund; *Hon. Editor*, Dr. Elsie Conway, Department of Botany, University of Glasgow). This issue gives a clear indication of the officers, construction and aims of the Society, namely, to pursue the scientific study of marine and freshwater algae on the widest basis. The contents include tributes to the late Dr. Kathleen M. Drew, who did so much to further the study of these organisms and to found the Society, abstracts of papers read at the London meeting in January 1958, and a variety of topics of both general and special interest to algologists. In particular, reference should be made to important tables of chromosome numbers in the Ulotrichales and in the brown algae, the authorship being cited in each instance. A volume of abstracts of the third International Seaweed Symposium, held in Galway, Eire, in August 1958, has also come to hand (pp. 1-82; University College, Galway). Some seventy-one papers, covering a very wide field, were submitted. These include such topics as biophysical and biochemical aspects of some algae, the possibilities of the mass culture of microscopic marine algae, their utilization as sources of raw materials, cytological and ecological studies, and so on. Yet a further contribution to algology comes from the Nova Scotia Research Foundation. This consists of a "Selected Bibliography on Algae" (No. 4. Pp. 1-109. Halifax, Nova Scotia), and includes references to chemical