

a large tract from which the Africans have been displaced and which to them seems reserved for animals and for American and European tourists?

If the National Park is preserved from fire and from grazing, the grass may soon be too long for the antelopes, which will go to the grazed land outside the reserve and fall a ready prey to poachers. Despite the lack of present knowledge, there must be an attempt to secure a balance of grazing which will

suit both domestic stock and wild animals. The Masai are a proud and a conservative people; but they love their cattle and, if it were shown that measures were designed to maintain their herds in their present numbers, in their present homelands, I think they would co-operate.

<sup>1</sup> Pearsall, W. H., *Oryx*, 4, 73 (1957).

<sup>2</sup> Thomas, A. S., *J. Ecol.*, 31, 149 (1943).

<sup>3</sup> Howarth, D., *Sunday Times* (Feb. 28, 1960).

## THE WATHEROO MAGNETIC OBSERVATORY, MELBOURNE

**W**ATHEROO Magnetic Observatory was established in 1919 by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, at a site about 110 miles north of Perth, Western Australia, and about 50 miles from the coast. Since that date the Observatory has carried out a programme of observations in terrestrial magnetism and electricity and ionospheric research. In 1947, the Observatory was transferred by gift to the Australian Commonwealth Government, and the Commonwealth Bureau of Mineral Resources, Geology and Geophysics has operated and maintained the Observatory since then.

In recent years there has been great difficulty in maintaining Watheroo Observatory as a residential establishment; so much so that consideration had to be given to moving the Observatory to suitable sites near Perth, where it would be possible to continue observations, and at the same time avoid the expense and staffing difficulties associated with the maintenance of a residential establishment in a remote locality. It was also believed that work of the Observatory would benefit from bringing the staff in closer contact with scientific workers at the University and other establishments in Perth.

In 1955, a site was selected in the Gngangara Pine Plantation, north of Perth, for magnetic observations, and another in the vicinity of Mundaring Weir, 20 miles east of Perth, in the Darling Ranges, for ionospheric and seismological observations. A site for an office and laboratory was selected in Mundaring township. When selecting observatory sites, the Bureau sought and was guided by the advice of many local and overseas scientific authorities.

The magnetic station was completed at Gngangara late in 1956, and observations and recordings began at that station in parallel with those at the Watheroo Observatory in July 1957. Both stations were operating throughout the International Geophysical Year.

The buildings at Mundaring necessary for the transfer of ionospheric observations from Watheroo have now been completed. A new ionospheric recorder has been purchased and will be installed soon. Magnetic observations and recordings ceased at Watheroo on January 31, 1959, and on March 18, 1959, the other observatory activities were transferred to Mundaring. Seismological recording began at Mundaring in August 1959, using a three-component Benioff seismograph, with both long- and short-period galvanometers.

The new organization is known as Mundaring Geophysical Observatory, with headquarters in Mundaring township. The magnetic and ionospheric data are distributed on the same basis as for Watheroo, and seismological bulletins are issued on the same basis as for other stations operated by the Bureau.

For the particular scientific observations undertaken, the transfer from Watheroo to Mundaring will have no significant influence on the results. The move of about 100 miles is not important on the global scale. It is believed that, although Perth Observatory has operated seismographs for many years, the new Observatory will fill a real need for a high-sensitivity seismograph in this area.

Further information concerning the new establishment should be addressed to the Observer-in-Charge, Mundaring Geophysical Observatory, Mundaring, Western Australia.

## THE LE PLAY SOCIETY

**F**OUNDED in 1930 to encourage international studies along the lines advocated in the middle of last century by the French sociologist Frederic Le Play, the Le Play Society, under the direction of Miss Margaret Tatton, has for thirty years organized an annual 3-day conference and study visits to the less-familiar regions of Europe and North Africa. The formula for the overseas work was for a group with varied backgrounds to spend a few days getting the general 'flavour' of a country and then to settle down in a village to make an intensive study of the community and its environment. In the evenings geologist, botanist, agriculturist, geographer, sociologist, doctor, teacher would meet to pool their findings and, under expert visiting and local guidance, compare notes to build up a remarkably complete

picture. About a dozen such studies reached a wider audience through publication as monographs.

On April 9-12, 1960, the Society met for the last time at Wadham College, Oxford, and Sir John Russell delivered his twenty-third annual address as president. Rather than face a slow decline, the Society decided to terminate its work in a blaze of glory—the final conference dealt with "Present Problems in World Affairs", with contributions from many angles by Prof. L. F. Rushbrook-Williams (India and Pakistan), Prof. A. L. Goodhart (International Law), Sir Reader Bullard (Middle East), Prof. L. Dudley Stamp (Food and Population), Dr. F. M. Brewer—now mayor of Oxford (Science and the Ordinary Man), Mr. William E. Abraham of All Souls (African Independence), Prof. E. M. Hugh-Jones (America: