

Eruption on Tristan da Cunha, 1961-62" (20 min, colour and sound; hire 25s.), which was prepared largely by members of the Society's expedition to the Island during October 1961-March 1962; "South from Chiloé" (40 min, colour and sound; hire 42s.); which was prepared by the Society's expedition to Southern Chile during October 1958-February 1959; "Halley Bay" (20 min, colour and sound; hire 25s.). All films are available from the Executive Secretary, Royal Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W.1.

### Marshes and Wetlands of Europe

In recent years, improved machinery has made draining and reclamation of marshland and wetland a practicable proposition, and these areas are rapidly dwindling in Europe. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and the International Wildfowl Research Bureau, not enough thought has yet been given to the loss and damage which such drainage policies incur. The case for marshes and wetlands is set out in a booklet entitled *Liquid Assets* (Pp. 16. London: International Union for Conservation of Nature, 19 Belgrave Square, 1964). It is considered that there is an urgent need to preserve these areas, which, it is emphasized, are in many cases natural assets. Land drainage, undertaken at public expense, is a form of farm subsidy, and admissible only if it compares favourably with other means of stimulating food production. The 'worthwhileness' of a project must be assessed not merely on expected cost and profit, but on long-term advantages and disadvantages. Wetlands provide an unlimited field for biological research, and marshes, especially those on the coast, are among the most naturally fertile areas in the world. The booklet considers that if such areas are destroyed great opportunities will be lost for discovering and possibly exploiting new sources of food. Besides their amenities value, such areas are invaluable in teaching and demonstrating the elements of zoology and botany—especially ecology. Governments throughout the world would do well to take stock of their marshes and wetlands in the light of this publication and ensure that their dwindling 'liquid assets' are not only protected but also conserved.

### The Wildlife Youth Service

THE Wildlife Youth Service has developed into a nation-wide organization with nearly 18,000 individual members since it was launched in May 1963. A further 10,800 members are represented through the 700 registered school groups—and applications are still steadily flowing in at the Headquarters Office, 37 Hertford Street, London, W.1. The launching of the Service was planned to take place in three phases: the first included the National Nature Week, followed by four months recruiting of individual members. The second phase—the School Group Scheme—was opened during the first week in October. This has already produced encouraging results with 700 school groups registered and more to come. These groups, many of which exceed a membership of 200 children, are being organized with the aid of interested teaching staff. Most of the groups have entered into one of the 'wildlife study' projects and activities suggested by the Director. The third phase is scheduled to take place in a few months time, when every effort will be made to set up permanent evening centres for Wildlife Ranger and Panda members throughout Britain. So far, the Wildlife Youth Service has arranged seven major film programmes for schoolchildren at cinemas in England, Scotland and Wales; these have been attended by a total of 8,200 children. The Director has given talks at 127 schools to a total of more than 10,650 children. The Information Service has dealt with more than 5,000 questions on wildlife and pet care, and the Wildlife Youth Service has sent out a total of more than 61,000 letters in thirty weeks since it was first launched (*News for Naturalists*, 5, No. 2; 1964).

### National Heron Census

TEN years have elapsed since the last national heron census was carried out, and now the British Trust for Ornithology has announced that a further attempt is to be made to count all the herons' nests in Britain. In addition to the usual factors which have always affected the heron population, the position is now being complicated by the effects of toxic chemicals, and hence it is important to make this census as accurate as possible. Ornithologists in England and Wales wishing to help in the new census should contact Mr. J. Stafford, Westering, Moor Lane, Brighstone, Isle of Wight; those in Scotland should contact Mr. C. P. Rawcliffe, 35 Comely Bank Road, Edinburgh, 4; and those in the Irish Republic, Mr. O. J. Merne, c/o National Bank Ltd., Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, Eire.

### New Words in Biology and Related Subjects

DR. N. W. PIRIE, head of the Biochemistry Department at the Rothamsted Experimental Station, has prepared a preliminary list of words for inclusion in the proposed *Biological Council Dictionary* of new words in biology and related subjects (*Institute of Biology Journal*, 2, No. 3: August 1964). Of the 96 words submitted, none is included simply because it is rare: a word is excluded if it appears, in the sense with which biologists are concerned, in the *Oxford English Dictionary* or the eighth edition of Henderson's *Dictionary of Biological Terms* (1963). The rule is interpreted flexibly when the spelling has altered. Words that do not seem to have been used by anyone except the coiner are not included unless it seems likely that they will catch on. On the other hand, inclusion or exclusion are not intended as comments on the usefulness of the words; there will be time enough for comment after the first definite list has appeared. The names of individual organisms, diseases and substances are excluded because they are easily found in the abstract journals: only names of categories are recorded. Among the words are:

- Actinophage*—an anti-actinomycete phage.
- Air spora*—the population of air-borne particles of plant or animal origin, including pollen.
- Aposymbiotic*—removed from symbiosis or separated from the symbiotic partner.
- Cryptobiosis*—the state of an organism when it shows no life-like activities while still being capable of resuscitation.
- Darwin*—the rate of evolution of a quantitative character, the natural logarithm of which changes by unity in a million years.
- Epontic*—growing on any surface, plant, animal or mineral.
- A broader term than epilithic or epiphytic.
- Euphenics*—the improvement of individual people by chemical or surgical means. Analogy with eugenics in the sense that phenotype is opposed to genotype.
- Gangliospor*—a fungal spore developed from the swollen tip of a hypha.
- Kronism*—the killing (and sometimes eating) of eggs and nestlings by the parent bird.
- Lomasome*—a sponge-like structure in fungi contiguous with the hyphal wall as revealed by the electron microscope.
- Poxvirus*—a group of viruses of complex structure, 200-300 nm in diameter, usually causing lesions involving skin in birds and mammals (includes vaccinia, variola and various animal poxes).
- Tachyphylaxis*—the diminishing response to successive doses of any material active in biological systems.
- Teleonomic*—a neutral word implying that an adaptation is useful for achieving a certain result without the implication that design of purpose was involved.
- Trophogenic*—the surface layer of a body of water in which photosynthesis can occur. Also used for an effect produced by feeding.

### Bakery Planning

No baker intending to build new premises, or to expand or modernize his existing bakery, has had cause for complaint since June 1964. For since then there has been available for the would-be planner a comprehensive guide