

supplied with regard to methods for large-scale storage and the grading and sale of bulbs for wholesale or retail trade.

#### Improvement of Grassland

THE outstanding work on grassland carried out by the Welsh Plant Breeding Station at Aberystwyth is well known to all specialists of the subject. A definite insight has now been gained into the meaning of the agricultural value of hay and pasture, and the methods by which the desired results may be obtained, even if much more knowledge is still required before adequate control is reached. For the student and farmer, however, much of the published work on the subject is perhaps too elaborate to be of immediate practical use, and the booklet by Prof. R. G. Stapledon entitled "Four Addresses on the Improvement of Grassland" will be welcomed by many (Aberystwyth: University College of Wales, 1933. 1s.). The fundamental aims and methods of grassland management are described in a clear, concise and eminently practical manner. Given a good grass mixture, then judicious grazing and the use of the mowing machine are two of the chief factors upon which success depends, the important part played by the grazing animal being clearly brought out. Where the improvement of land in very poor condition is the problem, the necessity of sowing wild white clover is stressed and the use of some form of phosphatic manure advocated. In fact, the proper balance between grass and clover seems to be the central feature of all good grassland, and in the attainment and maintenance of this optimum ratio by wise choice of mixture, judicious grazing and introduction of wild white clover when needed, the secret of success would seem to lie.

#### Report on the Science Museum

IN the report for 1932 of the Advisory Council of the Science Museum (London: H.M. Stationery Office), special reference is made to the future policy of the Museum, particularly in relation to its utility to industry. With the co-operation of outside bodies, such as the National Physical Laboratory and various research associations, during the past six years special exhibitions have been arranged which have proved attractive not only to the general public but also to technical visitors. At the present time three such exhibitions are being organised annually. A further development of these exhibitions has been suggested in order to afford facilities to an industry or group in an industry, to show informatively its products to other industries, and such exhibitions the Council thinks might be of special service to the minor industries now being encouraged in many parts of Great Britain. It is pointed out, however, that here the Museum is handicapped by the want of space, and the Council expresses the hope that the erection of the centre block will soon be taken in hand. The report deals also with the attendances at lectures, the acquisitions, the publications, and with the activities of the Library. In 1931 a sub-committee was appointed to report upon

the Library and its working, and among its recommendations was that in the interest of the progress in science and technology and their industrial applications, there is need for a National Library of Science in Great Britain.

#### Catalogue of Educational Films

THE issue of a catalogue occupying 184 pages by the Central Information Bureau for Educational Films, is a notable event ("A Guide to Instructional and Educational Films available for Use by Educational and Social Organisations in Great Britain." Pp. vi+184. London: The Central Information Bureau for Educational Films. 3s. 6d.). In the introduction it is stated that this is the first occasion on which a conspectus of the films available for education in Great Britain has been attempted. The present survey is purely quantitative, but the views of educational and social bodies on films found to be of special value are invited. The range of subject matter is very wide and illustrates the great possibilities of films alike as a means of inspiring interest and conveying information. The main sections comprise art, engineering and industry, geography and travel, history, literature, religion and Bible stories, science, social activities and sport. Science alone, however, comprises seven sub-divisions including astronomy, hygiene, nature study and physiology. One might perhaps single out as of special interest the films produced by various scientific institutions and Government departments (such as the Ministry of Agriculture), certain fascinating summaries of scientific research extending over many years, as in the Canti films, films utilising photomicrography, and the really remarkable range of travel films presented. In general, the titles of films are sufficiently descriptive but, where necessary, explanatory paragraphs are added. Films are classified into 35 mm., 16 mm. and 9.5 mm. to suit the financial resources of schools. In an appendix a list of the names and addresses of Government departments, societies and firms mentioned in the catalogue is given.

#### A Proposed Marine Biological Station in India

IN *Current Science* (vol. 1, No. 10, April 1933) it is stated that at a joint session of the Botany and Zoology Sections of the Indian Science Congress recently held at Patna under the presidency of Prof. Gopala Aiyer, the desirability of establishing a Marine Biological Station in India was discussed. Col. Sewell opened the discussion. It was suggested that the authorities of the Science Congress should sanction a certain sum of money which would act as a nucleus for private subscription, and the general opinion was in favour of the station being at Bombay, which with its central position and varied coast line offers an ideal site for such a laboratory. It was moved and seconded that a committee of five biologists be appointed by this joint session of Botany and Zoology Sections of the Indian Science Congress to go into the question of establishing a Marine Biological Station in India and the resolution was carried by a large majority. The committee was constituted as follows: Dr. S. B. Setna, of Bombay (convener),