

#### Activities of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust

THE report of this body for 1932 tells how some £200,000 was spent during the year in furtherance of the multifarious enterprises which the Trustees elected to help. Some idea of the variety of the Trust's operations is conveyed by the following partial summary of grants paid or partly paid during the year in fulfilment of its promises: libraries, £85,000 (161 items including central libraries and regional library bureaux, county libraries, municipal book grants, boys and girls clubs, etc.); rural development and social service, £36,000 (112 items including village halls, rural community councils, new estates community associations and many national associations); music, drama, and related activities, £10,500; playing fields and play centres, £30,000 (123 items); adult education, £7,000; museums, £1,500; physical training college for men teachers, £14,500. Substantial as are these amounts, they are far from commensurate with the value of the services rendered by the Trust to the community, for a cardinal point of its policy is to stimulate enterprises which are likely to become independent and have permanent national value.

THE cumulative result of such a policy directed by a group of individuals with the wide and varied interests and mature experience of the Trustees untrammelled by regulations or suffrages obviously cannot be measured in terms of money. At many points, the operations of the Trust were related to problems arising from unemployment. The great gathering at the Albert Hall on January 27, to the cost of which the Trust made a large contribution, inaugurated a voluntary service movement, led by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, in which the Trust played an important part and which culminated in the Government's decision to promote, through the agency of the National Council of Social Service, a systematic national scheme for organising voluntary occupations for the unemployed. Another movement fostered by the Trust was that associated with the Commission on Educational and Cultural Films, which promises to eventuate in the setting up of a National Film Institute, with functions more or less analogous to those of the British Broadcasting Corporation.

#### Scientific and Industrial Research in Australia

THE sixth annual report of the Commonwealth of Australia Council for Scientific and Industrial Research gives a brief review of the main activities of the Council in the year ended June 30, 1932. As might be expected, the major part of the work is concerned with plant and entomological diseases, animal, soil, forest products or storage problems, and the report reveals the admirable extent to which the Council is fostering important investigations in these fields. Due provision is made for co-operation with State organisations within the Commonwealth and also for Imperial co-operation, and the report includes full particulars of the staff of the Council, the official correspondents, as well as of the publications issued during the year and of expenditure. According to

the report, Australia suffers an annual loss of no less than £12,000,000 from animal diseases, and the investigations of the Plant Division have already materially assisted in the control of bitter pit of apples, blue mould in tobacco, water-blister on pineapples as well as in breeding strains of wheat more resistant to fly smut.

MUCH valuable information has been acquired regarding the losses suffered by exporters of Australian apples, particularly in the prevention of bruising, while the Entomological Division records important progress in the control of blowfly attack of sheep, as well as in the eradication of weed pests. Control of the apple thrips is being attacked mainly by the investigation of repellents. The Division of Animal Health is able to report an outstanding achievement in the discovery and practical application of an effective vaccine against black disease of sheep, which occasions an estimated annual loss in Australia of £1,000,000. In this field as in its investigations on cold storage, the utilisation of waste kari and mari barks for tannin extracts, the prevention of wood taint in butter, the establishment of the paper-making industry in Tasmania from local hardwoods, or on timber mechanics, the Council has already been responsible for large national savings or for constructive enterprises representing sums greatly exceeding its annual expenditure.

#### National Research Council of Japan

THE report of the National Research Council of Japan for the year April, 1930-March, 1931, has recently been issued (Report: National Research Council of Japan, Imperial Academy House, Ueno Park, Tokyo. March, 1933). It contains a complete list of papers published during that year in the various journals under the control of the National Research Council. These journals cover astronomy and geophysics, physics, geology and geography, botany, zoology, medical sciences, mathematics and oceanography. The divisional and committee meetings of the Council are also recorded. There are also reports of the delegates to the fourth general assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics held at Stockholm in August 1930, and the tenth conference of the International Chemical Union, held at Liège in September 1930. A list of the members of the National Research Council is appended.

#### Fuels and Fuel Testing in Canada

THE Mines Branch of the Canada Department of Mines report on fuels and fuel testing for the year 1930-31 records considerable analytical and other work on the solid, liquid and gaseous fuels, and reflects on the special problems of the Dominion. Interesting large-scale tests on the storage of coal are recorded, notably one at Montreal, where 35,000 tons of Nova Scotia coal stored in a pile 40 ft. high attained a maximum recorded temperature of 88° F. The geographical distribution of fuel supplies in Canada is unfortunate and the storage problem is important. Efforts are being made to increase the