

undertaking to pay special attention to amenity in afforesting the remainder of the plantable ground. The total area of the estate which will be ultimately planted is less than 2,000 acres of the 7,000 acres purchased. It has become evident that afforestation in the Lake District offers considerable difficulties, as a countryside can be completely changed by stretches of woods, and especially coniferous woods. With this object in view, the Joint Committee has recommended that a central block of some three hundred square miles in extent should be excluded from afforestation work.

#### British Films and the Cinema

THE Committee appointed by the Board of Trade to consider the position of British films in view of the approaching expiry of the Cinematograph Films Act, 1927, has now issued its report (Cmd. 5320. London: H.M. Stationery Office. 9d. net). It finds that in some important respects the situation is still the same as in 1926. The much greater home market available for United States films, which is represented by some 11,500 picture-houses and a seating capacity of about 10,000,000, as against 4,300 cinemas in Britain and a seating capacity, including that of the Dominions, of less than 6,000,000, offers a security encouraging a flow of capital to the American industry which finds no parallel here. The United States accordingly occupies a commanding position, contributing all but 25 per cent of the films shown in Great Britain, and the Committee was unanimous in its decision that the quota system should be continued and the quotas, under certain conditions, increased. The detailed proposals of the report are accordingly designed to deal with admitted flaws in the present system rather than to modify its principles. A quality test is proposed to restrict the deplorable output of bad films made simply to satisfy quota requirements. An increase in the penalty for blind booking, which is to apply to renters and not to exhibitors, removal of restrictions on advance booking but prohibition of block booking, and the application of the quota system to short as well as to long films are among other recommendations of the Committee. It is suggested that long and short films should be judged by different standards, and stress is laid upon the value of the short film as an opportunity of experimenting with new ideas within reasonably safe financial limits. The ultimate aim of the measures proposed is to reach a quota of fifty per cent in the next ten years, and to give effect to its recommendations and administer the provisions of the new legislation required, the report recommends the constitution of a Film Commission of members entirely independent of any professional or financial interest in the industry.

#### Architectural Lighting

A PAPER by R. O. Sutherland published in *Light and Lighting* of December gives a history of the progress made in architectural lighting during the last ten years. He states that this kind of lighting

received great inspiration from the French Colonial Exhibition in 1925. As a result of the illumination shown at this festival, ornamental features in the form of tiles and richly decorated panels in moulded glass were popularized in buildings, especially those used for catering and entertainment purposes. The floral character of this lighting soon gave way to a more restrained treatment. Plain sheet opal glazing was largely substituted for moulded glass. This made it economical to have large areas of lighted panels. Once the idea of converting an architectural element into a lighting feature was established, it rapidly became a typical method of architectural lighting technique. A photograph of the lighting of the Egyptian Hall in the London Mansion House, and of the lighting in the library of the University of Cambridge, show how the architectural treatment is emphasized in a simple and dignified way by the illumination. To Londoners and visitors to London the lighting of some of the escalators on the underground railways is of interest. The barrel ceiling is lighted from standards placed at 8-foot intervals, each containing a 100-watt lamp in a suitable reflector. The illumination is ample for the needs of the traveller, and is sufficient for the vault sides to be used as advertisement space. In the lighting of the gallery of the Shakespeare Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon, the acoustic panels at the back of the auditorium are also utilized as light reflectors.

#### Timber for Wood-Turning

AN interesting, and, from the point of view of encouraging small local industries in the countryside, practical report has been issued by the Forestry Commission (H.M. Stationery Office, 1936), entitled "On the Demand for Timber in Wood-Turning in Great Britain". The investigation was carried out in 1935, when 438 firms were visited, all but 14.8 per cent being wood-turners. The information upon which the report is based comes therefore from 373 firms ranging from single-handed turners who have one room or a small shed fitted up as a workshop, to mass-production factories with a hundred or more automatic or semi-automatic machines. Some of these latter specialize in the production of a single commodity, such as heels for shoes, legs for chairs, bobbins for textile mills, rollers for mangles, the manufacture of tool handles, or bungs for beer-casks; others are general turners, fabricating a wide variety of products. The majority of the firms are turners only. The last census returned 56,930 persons, including pattern makers (the latter being chiefly of wood), as employed in the United Kingdom in wood-turning. It is difficult to obtain figures of the actual consumption of wood in this industry; but, from information supplied, approximately two hundred firms are using 6,000,000 cubic feet of timber in wood-turning annually, of which about 53 per cent is home-grown and 47 per cent imported.

#### Agricultural Meteorology

MR. J. W. HOPKINS has recently published a paper, entitled "Agricultural Meteorology: Some