

Press, appeared this week. All new journals of this kind are necessarily precarious ventures, but there are good hopes that this one will fulfil the need it has been produced to meet. It is taking the place of the *Transactions* of the Club, which have been published now for more than fifty years. It will contain the more important lectures given from time to time to the Club, discuss problems connected with study and research in science and medicine at Oxford and review the work of the different scientific departments. The opening number contains the Robert Boyle lecture by Sir Edward Mellanby on methods of discovery in the fight against disease, an article by Prof. F. Paneth on atomic transmutation, an account of recent investigations on the structure of proteins by D. Parker Riley and an article discussing and criticizing medical curricula by one of the medical tutors. Some of the articles are illustrated. There are also editorial and other notes and a few book reviews. Altogether this is a lively first number that should make a wide appeal to the student of science interested in other sciences besides his own and in the problems that their impact on the world and the university has produced.

Gardeners of Essex

THE presidential address of Dr. John Ramsbottom to the Essex Field Club provided an opportunity to present much historical gardening knowledge in a pleasant, intimate form ("Old Essex Gardeners and their Gardens", *Essex Naturalist*, 26, 65-103; 1938). *Yucca* first flowered in England during the year 1604, in the garden of William Coy at Stubbers, North Okington. This same garden also enjoys the distinction that it was the source whence the ivy-leaved toadflax, *Linaria cymbalaria*, first spread to become apparently native upon walls throughout England. It would be difficult to over-estimate the valuable work of another Essex gardener, Lord Petre, who stimulated the collection of many foreign plants which have become accepted beautifiers of British gardens. Richard Warner of Woodford introduced the genus *Gardenia* to English horticulture in 1754, and Dr. John Fothergill, 1712-80, had an influence similar to that of Lord Petre. He stimulated numerous useful projects, and himself cultivated many new and curious plants. No geographical limits were set by these Essex plant collectors, but they appear to have been especially responsible for the introduction of North American species to the gardens of Europe.

National Planning

THE Town Planning Institute has issued a report of the National Survey and National Planning Committee (price 1s.). The report stresses several matters of importance, and points out that in England and Wales (for Scotland is not included) about three quarters of the local authorities have applied the various Acts to about two thirds of the total land area. The process of planning, however, appears to be slow and essentially local in outlook. The Committee believes that national planning is required to supplement and reinforce local and regional planning. There is no national policy or guidance in the preserva-

tion of land for agriculture and for the reservation of national parks and other large open spaces. Further, in problems of transport, such as roadways and airports, a national, rather than a regional, outlook is necessary. The report contains a strong plea for a new department of Government which should take the form of a National Planning Commission. Its functions would be, first, the completion of a national survey, and secondly, advice and guidance to other Government departments and local authorities. Thus it would be possible to formulate and execute a national policy in the utilization of land.

Earthquake in the East Indies

THE U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D.C., has announced the occurrence of an earthquake on October 10d. 20h. 48m. G.C.T. with provisional epicentre lat. 1° N., long. 125° E. The epicentre was determined from instrumental data obtained at twelve United States seismological observatories. The epicentre is to the west of the Molucca Passage and the nearest town of any size is Menada in the north of Celebes. No damage has so far been reported from here. According to Dr. S. W. Visser and his colleagues of the seismological observatory at Batavia, small earthquakes are quite frequent near this spot. World-shaking earthquakes are somewhat infrequent, however, and the last ones were the swarm of July 10-12, 1926, epicentre lat. 1° N., long. 126° E. It is possible that the earthquake on July 10, 1926, was multiple, as the *P* residuals appear to show groupings which are confirmed by the *S* residuals.

Traffic in Women and Children

THE League of Nations Committee for the Suppression of Traffic in Women and Children recently proved by investigation that there is a connexion between licensed houses of prostitution and traffic in women. The League, therefore, sought information from many Governments and voluntary associations respecting the early lives of women who afterwards became prostitutes, and has issued an analysis of this information, with comments, in a report recently issued ("Prostitutes: their Early Lives". Geneva, 1938. London: Allen and Unwin. 3s.). Some 60 per cent of the women were considered to be below normal in intelligence. Poverty and destitution, early seduction, and the desire for an easy life seem to be the main causes responsible for women adopting this kind of life.

Monkeys as Botanical Collectors

THE *Kew Bulletin* No. 7, 1938, quotes from the annual report of the Director of Gardens, Straits Settlements, an account given by the acting director, Mr. E. J. H. Corner, of the use made of berok monkeys (*Macacus nemestrina*) to collect specimens from tall trees. Two young beroks are at present employed; they understand twelve words of Kelantanese and can thus be instructed to pick specific twigs and drop them to the ground. Mr. Corner states, "A berok upon the shoulder can be likened, in effect, to a falcon on the wrist; and its employment is recommended both to amateurs for its charm and cheap-