

After the War, we must produce for export not the apparatus which other countries rightly wished to manufacture themselves, but commodities in which we have the technical ability to make ourselves supreme. By complete co-ordination of industrial organizations and research establishments electrical engineers can assist very materially, and the adoption of international standards must be considered. Mr. Taylor suggested uniformity of design for utility electrical products in common use both in the industrial and domestic fields. Such a standard, to be effective, would need to have behind it the authority of the British Standards Institution, and its adoption might even need legislative action. Manufacturers would be encouraged to adopt these standard commodities as their first line of production, and in consequence they would ultimately replace the many specialized products now on the market.

Arterial Road Lighting

THE arterial road connecting Toronto and Niagara Falls, known as Queen Elizabeth Way, is lighted by incandescent lamps in parallel over its whole length of 70 miles. Already the lighting installation enjoys the distinction of being the longest in the world, and no doubt it will be continued on the proposed 20-mile extension of the highway to Fort Erie, making a total of 90 miles. In planning the installation provision was made for maximum silhouetting of obstacles. The Way consists of dual concrete tracks 20–23 ft. in width with an intervening strip of grass 28–30 ft. wide; the standard equipment comprises wooden poles, along the centre line of the grass, with welded cross-arms overhanging each traffic lane to the extent of 3 ft. The availability of cheap electric power from existing rural circuits operated by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario seems to have been a determining factor in the adoption of incandescent lighting and parallel distribution. Sodium lamps are used to mark intersections. Distribution transformers of 15-kva. capacity feed the 115-v. lighting cables from the 2,300-v. rural distribution network. The lamps are of 6,000 lumens, 400 watts, spaced 200 ft. apart, and maintenance is by group replacement twice a year. Operating experience and costs from this installation should be of material assistance in planning the general lighting of arterial roads.

Discovery of Smithfield Industries in Kenya

THE September–October number of *Mun* contains a letter which is of distinct importance to those who concern themselves with the problems of Stone Age Africa. It would seem certain that Archdeacon Owen has discovered in a rock-shelter in Kenya an early Smithfield industry, and that Prof. van Riet Lowe has agreed with his interpretation. Smithfield industries occur over large parts of South Africa, especially in the Free State, the material used for their manufacture being usually the local indurated shale which chips well. Scrapers, awls, beads, and occasionally a little pottery have been found. The range in time of the culture extends backwards from

modern days to an unknown, but probably fairly remote, period as the later Smithfield industries show differences when compared with the earlier ones. Thus the plano-convex knife is an early tool type and does not recur in the more recent finds, while pottery seems to be absent from the earlier ones. In South Africa, too, there are regional differences in the industries which add to their complexity. But the main great problem has always been as to whether the Smithfield culture as a whole was an autochthonous growth in South Africa itself, engendered perhaps by culture-contacts; or whether it was not rather introduced into the subcontinent by migrations from the north. Archdeacon Owen's new discovery of Early Smithfield material—considered in fact to be even somewhat older than the Early Smithfield of South Africa—in Kenya would suggest that the latter hypothesis is the correct one.

Folk-lore of Alcoholism

IN a paper on this subject (*Brit. J. Inebriety*, July–October), Dr. J. D. Rolleston remarks that with the exception of Hovorka and Kronfeld's great work on comparative folk medicine no writers have dwelt at length on folk-lore in relation to alcoholism. He has therefore collected the folk-lore of this condition, as he has recently done in the case of general medicine, dermatology and pulmonary tuberculosis. His paper deals with the nomenclature, popular phraseology, superstitions and leechcraft connected with alcoholism and alcohol, the term 'leechcraft' being that commonly employed in the language of folk-lore to indicate popular methods of prevention and treatment. In a previous paper on "Alcoholism in Classical Antiquity" (*Brit. J. Inebriety*, 24, 101; 1927) he directed attention to the numerous synonyms for inebriated or bibulous persons, both in Greek and Latin, as well as in English, which contained about seventy such terms, only a minority of which could be called slang, whereas there are more than 280 slang synonyms for the word 'drink', 160 for the verb 'to drink', and 150 for various forms of intoxication. Popular interest in the consumption of alcohol, especially in excess, was further demonstrated by the great variety of similes connected with the subject. After dealing with the superstitions and popular errors connected with alcohol and alcoholism, which are legion, Dr. Rolleston discusses the popular methods of prevention and cure for inebriety, which he classifies under the headings of animal remedies, including coprotherapy, plant remedies, of which a large proportion are mentioned by Pliny, mineral remedies, invocation of patron saints and water.

Tuberculosis and War

ACCORDING to an editorial in the August issue of the *Statistical Bulletin* of New York, tuberculosis is already on the increase in other countries than the United States, although the evidence is based only on provisional or fragmentary data. In England and Wales the death-rate among male civilians rose slightly in 1939 and in 1940 in both sexes. For males the death-rate from tuberculosis rose 13 per cent

between 1939 and 1940 from 77.1 per 100,000 to 87.4; for females the increase was 7 per cent from 50.9 to 54.7. In Scotland the deaths from tuberculosis in 1940 increased 14 per cent over 1939, and the death-rate in 1940 was the highest since 1932. In Canada the mortality from tuberculosis did not rise in 1940, but there was a significant increase for the first half of 1941. In Germany and the occupied countries statistics on tuberculosis are not available. As regards France, a sharp increase in the disease has been reported from Vichy. The longer the War lasts and the farther it extends the greater will be the increase in tuberculosis, as is shown by the War of 1914-18, particularly among the women and children in Germany, Belgium, and eastern and south-eastern Europe, and to a less degree among the neutral countries.

Prevention of Typhus Fever

At a meeting of the Section of Epidemiology and State Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine on November 28, Dr. Melville D. Mackenzie read a paper on the control of louse-borne typhus fever in Great Britain in the light of experience in Russia, Poland, Rumania and China. After discussing the epidemiological relationship of the disease to movements of population, under-nourishment and climatic conditions, he dealt with the rapidity of the spread of typhus fever, the frequency with which it is associated with other diseases and other factors which might complicate diagnosis, the method of infection, the importance of improved nutrition in the control of an epidemic, the value of reducing the number of lice in the population generally in addition to the tracing and delousing of contacts, the possible importance of dried faeces in the spread of the disease and the danger of the first cases being overlooked. Stress was laid on the necessity of utilizing young personnel in anti-typhus work. The greatest importance was attributed to the necessity for the thorough disinfection of patients and contacts, the premises and their contents, as well as of the ambulance and the staff after duty.

The National Institute for Research in Dairying

THE report of the National Institute for Research in Dairying (University of Reading) for the year ended September 30, 1940, has just been published. Many members of the staff are now acting in an advisory capacity on various war-time committees appointed by the Government, especially the Ministry of Agriculture. The realization of the essential need for milk to balance the deficiencies of a war-time dietary and the multifarious problems that this involves is, of course, making demands on the work of the staff and thus a number of long-range research projects have been shelved in order that the staff may devote more time to advisory work and short-range investigations of war-time problems of the dairy industry. Details of the work of the various departments of the Institute, namely, dairy husbandry, chemistry, bacteriology, dairy bacteriology advisory, physiology and biochemistry, and of the experimental dairy are included in the report. Sixty-six research

papers were published by various members of the staff during the year, and as usual a separate list of papers which can be supplied by the Librarian is appended. This latter list contains twenty-nine titles. The address of the Institute is Shinfield, near Reading, Berks.

Country-Side

THE first number of the war-time issue of *Country-Side*, the quarterly journal of the British Empire Naturalists' Association, has appeared to start the twelfth volume of this well-known journal. It is edited by Mr. Leslie Beckett, the honorary organizing secretary, and comprises a twenty-page octavo issue containing five original papers, a number of smaller notes and lists of regional field records on birds, insects and fungi. There is a list of twenty-one local branches of the British Empire Naturalists' Association (including a new one at Bath) which are remaining active during war-time. Mr. J. W. Bradley has a short article on the birds of Burma, Mr. E. L. Swann describes the formation of a Norfolk salt marsh and its subsequent flora, and Mr. M. B. B. Heath some recent observations of Mars. Among smaller notes there is an account of *sotto voce* song in the hen black-bird, the timing of the reeling song of the grasshopper-warbler to vary from 20 to 65 seconds with stops of 4-20 seconds between; Captain T. Dannreuther describes the immigration of clouded yellow butterflies to Great Britain in 1941. Mr. A. H. Wolley-Dod correlates the rarity of autumn bird song with the dry season, and there is a note on the abundance of privet hawk moth larvae, even in London, this autumn. Field records include the wood-sandpiper, ruff, shelduck and gadwall at Cambridge sewage farm, the autumn passage of white wagtails in Lancashire, and October song of the blackbird in Wiltshire, where the speckled wood and comma butterflies were very numerous all the season.

Horticultural History

THREE papers in recent numbers of the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* describe the history of gardens and gardeners of the past. The gardens at Wormley Bury, Broxbourne, Herts, have been the means of introducing many new plants to the horticulture of Britain. Sir Abraham and Lady Amelia Hume introduced many species between 1785 and 1825, including several notable Amaryllids, two species of *Pæonia*, *Rudbeckia pinnata* and *Humea elegans*, named after the introducers. Major Albert Pam writes the article (66, Pt. 9, Sept., 1941), and is himself the present owner of Wormley Bury. The other two papers (66, Pts. 9 and 10, Sept. and Oct., 1941) are by the assistant secretary of the Society, and deal with the activities of William Forsyth in founding the Royal Horticultural Society. Forsyth's memory is maintained in the genus *Forsythia* which Vahl named in his honour, but he also experimented upon the treatment of wounded trees by covering the cut portions to exclude harmful fungi. He made useful contributions in this connexion, but clouded them so with extravagant claims that the benefit came to be largely discountenanced.