

Cork Substitutes

As a result of the War, imports of cork have almost, if not entirely, ceased in various parts of the world. Consequently, ingenuity has had to be exercised in providing substitutes. For obvious reasons stoppers for bottles were one of the earliest articles for which replacement was required. One of the countries effected was India, where the imports of cork from Europe very soon ceased, and the need for a substitute material for use as stoppers in different types of bottles, and as liners for bottle crowns and so forth, became keenly felt. The Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun took up the matter, as explained in a Leaflet No. 6, Utilisation ("Note on Some Experiments on Cork Substitutes", by Dr. N. Narayanamurti, J. N. Pande and D. C. Roy (Research Institute, Dehra Dun, 1941). Experiments were conducted on the production of corks made of wood, composition corks made of disintegrated tree barks and pith corks for hypodermic tabloid tubes. So far, experiments have shown the following suitable substitutes. Bottle stoppers: stoppers of *Cryptomeria japonica* wood suitably slotted and softened by chemical treatment; crown cork liners: composite cork made from *Erythrina suberosa* bark and bagasse fibre have been found suitable; corks for tabloid tubes: paraffin-impregnated sola pith is suitable. The methods of manufacture of these substitutes are described.

Nature Reserves Investigation Committee

A NATURE Reserves Investigation Committee has been established with the following membership: Sir Lawrence Chubb (chairman), Mr. G. Dent, Capt. C. Diver, Mr. J. C. F. Fryer, Mr. N. B. Kinneer, Prof. W. H. Pearsall, Dr. J. Ramsbottom, Prof. James Ritchie, Prof. E. J. Salisbury, Dr. G. F. Herbert Smith (honorary secretary), British Museum (Natural History), London, S.W.7.

The object of the Committee is to examine proposals for the establishment of nature reserves as part of any general scheme of national planning; and to obtain information from such bodies or persons as may be directly or indirectly concerned with the formation, organization, or administration of nature reserves or sanctuaries. In particular, the Committee will inquire into the types and approximate areas of reserves and sanctuaries which should be provided to ensure the preservation of communities or species; the species of plants and animals which are in danger unless special arrangements are made to secure their preservation and reproduction; the localities where such reserves and sanctuaries should be situated; the extent to which the public should have access to the various reserves; and the most appropriate methods for acquiring, financing and administering the reserves.

Scientific Film Conference

THE first Scientific Film Conference in Great Britain met in the County Buildings, Ayr, during August 1 and 2. In Ayrshire there are four scientific film societies in operation, while an Army and an Air Force camp also arrange periodic shows of scientific films. The Conference was attended by forty-three delegates appointed by the film societies, universities and technical colleges, research institutes, technical departments of local government bodies and the Association of Scientific Workers. Dr. Norman Wright, director of the Hannah Dairy Research

Institute, Mr. Arthur Elton and Dr. Blodwen Lloyd presided at the three sessions held on August 1. The delegates decided to form a National Federation of Scientific Film Societies, which would co-ordinate the activities of a Scottish and an English association of such societies. The great need for the increased production and showing of good scientific films was stressed by Mr. Elton (Ministry of Information) during a symposium on "The Scientific Film", to which Miss Mary Field (Gaumont British), Dr. A. Clow (University of Aberdeen), Mr. Stewart Paterson (Ardrossan S.F.S.) and Dr. B. Lloyd (Glasgow S.F.S.), among others, contributed papers. There was general approval of a resolution that both the winning of the War and the planning of post-war reconstruction require the application of the scientific method, and that a wider understanding of this method could most readily be achieved through the medium of the film.

Library of the Philippines

COLONEL C. P. ROMULO, formerly a publisher in Manila, now aide-de-camp to General MacArthur, has reported in the *New York Herald-Tribune* of July 17 that the Japanese have destroyed by fire the Library of the Philippines at Manila. According to Colonel Romulo, the aim of this vandalism is to obliterate all reference to the United States and Great Britain and anything savouring of Anglo-Saxon culture and democracy. With this aim in view, the occupying forces have formed a Text-book Board comprising seven Japanese and three Filipinos, which is expected to see that no reference to the above countries or culture shall be available in schools. Colonel Romulo was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for 1941 for his interpretative articles on Japanese aims. It will be remembered that university buildings in Manila escaped damage during the attack on Manila (NATURE, July 4, p. 20), and it would appear that the destruction of the Library referred to above occurred after the Japanese occupation.

Bournville Village Trust

UNDER the title "Sixty Years of Planning: the Bournville Experiment", the trustees of the Bournville Village Trust have issued an admirable illustrated account of the development of Bournville from the building of the factory there by Richard and George Cadbury in 1879, when the first houses were also built to provide accommodation for those of the workmen who had to live near the factory (Bournville Village Trust, Birmingham 30). Bournville Village as we know it to-day dates from 1895, and the land and houses were transferred to an independent body, the Bournville Village Trust, when the success of the Bournville Estate seemed assured in 1900. The trust deed laid down the broad lines of future development, and this pamphlet shows the many sides of the work at Bournville in their true perspective. Housing schemes, the reconditioning of slum property and the planning of both municipal and private developments, as well as research into building and planning properties all find some mention in a book which is of real topical value apart from its historical aspect as a popular account of a great pioneer development. The illustrations of amenities, community activities, the planning of and provision for recreation, as well as for cultural needs, the treatment of transport and road problems and the preservation of the countryside show what is possible