

limits exist, and they have for the time being been nearly approached; the Committee urges that the time has come to concentrate upon increasing the national income in the cause of social progress by every means and particularly by increased industrial efficiency. The pamphlet is an honest attempt at clear thinking and is a striking contrast to recent pronouncements regarding the adoption of a forty-hour week, which have omitted all indication of the price which has to be paid for adopting any such objective in our immediate post-war programme.

Geographical Research in China

AN account of geographic research in China by Prof. Chi-Yun Chang (*Ann. Assoc. Amer. Geog.*, 39, No. 1, March 1944) contains a record of a great deal of valuable work, much of which, under present conditions, may have escaped notice in Great Britain. Large numbers of topographical maps have been printed recently including a bathymorphological one of the whole of China on a scale of one to three million. A beginning of land utilization maps has been made, and a generalized soil map has been published. The Research Institute of Meteorology of the Chinese Academy has been investigating the problems of winds and rainfall over China with the result that the old conception of the south-east monsoon being chiefly responsible for the rainfall has been displaced in favour of cyclonic influences being mainly responsible: most of the rainfall appears to be associated with cold fronts. In historical and other aspects of human geography research has also been active. The report also notes the development of geographical education, probably temporarily interrupted, the foundation of the Chinese Institute of Geography and a number of geographical periodicals.

Russian Papers on Pure and Applied Mathematics

A NUMBER of Russian publications containing papers on pure and applied mathematics have been received, and most of them have at least an abstract in English, French, or German. In a few cases the papers are entirely in English. They include numbers of the *Bulletin of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences (Mathematical Series)* (1941-43), the *Moscow Receuil Mathématique* (1942-3), *Applied Mathematics and Mechanics* (1943), *Engineering Review* (1943), and *Comptes Rendus* (1943). It is difficult to describe the mathematical contributions in a limited space; they deal with trigonometrical series, the theory of functions and other topics such as are treated in our own mathematical journals. As regards the engineering papers, attention may be directed particularly to the papers by Glagolev, Popov and Proktor on "The Mechanical Properties of Rubber"; Erokhin, Nikolaeva and Oghibalov on "Dynamic Brittleness of Metals"; Kasparov on "Distribution of Pressure on the Blades of a Hydroturbine" (all in *Eng. Rev.*, 2; 1943) and to those by Astrov, Levin, Pavlov, and Khristianovitch on "The Design of the Laval Nozzles", Pugachev on "The General Problem of Exterior Ballistics for Aviation Bombs", Četajev on "The Sufficient Conditions of the Stability of a Rotating Motion of a Projectile", Banin on "Approximate Conformal Transformations applied to the Plane-Parallel Flow past an Arbitrary Shape" (all in *App. Math. and Mech.*, 7; 1943).

Identification of Timbers

MR. ALEXANDER L. HOWARD'S "Studies of the Identification of Timbers" was reviewed in *Nature* of November 7, 1942. It is interesting now to record the appearance of a supplement containing 153 photomicrographs of different kinds of wood ("Supplement to Studies of the Identification of Timbers." By Alexander L. Howard. Pp. 19. London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd., 1943. 5s. net), and one cannot but admire the author's continued enterprise in producing a supplement to a book of this kind in time of war, and promising yet another in the near future. Attention was directed, when reviewing the original volume, to certain features of the book which limit its practical value. Since the supplement has been prepared along precisely the same lines, it will be found to present similar difficulties when used for the practical identification of timbers.

Announcements

WE regret to announce the death of Sir John Ledingham, C.M.G., F.R.S., formerly director of the Lister Institute, London, on October 4, aged sixty-nine.

THE Council of the Royal Aeronautical Society has awarded the Society's Gold Medal to Air Commodore Frank Whittle, for his work on jet propulsion. This award is the highest the Council can make, and has been made on only seven previous occasions, the recipients being as follows: Wright Brothers (1909), Prof. O. Chanute (1910), Prof. G. H. Bryan and Mr. E. T. Busk (1915), Dr. F. W. Lanchester (1926), Prof. L. Prandtl (1927), Sir Richard Glazebrook (1933) and Senor Juan de la Cierva (posthumously, 1937).

THE following appointments have been made in the University of London: Mr. H. Berry, to be professor of pharmaceutics; Dr. W. H. Linnell, to be professor of pharmaceutical chemistry. Both appointments are tenable at the College of the Pharmaceutical Society.

THE National Council for Mental Health has arranged a course of ten lectures, by various authorities, on "The Psychology of Frustration and Fulfilment in Adult Life". The lectures, which are addressed specially to those with social and educational interests, are being given on Tuesdays at 5.30 p.m. at the Caxton Hall, London, S.W.1, and began on October 3. A parallel course is being given on Wednesdays at 5.30 p.m. at the Friends' Meeting House, Bull Street, Birmingham. Tickets for the course can be obtained, price £1, from the Secretary, National Council for Mental Hygiene, 39 Queen Anne Street, London, W.1, or single tickets, 3s. 6d., at the door before each lecture.

THE Selection Committee of the Harrison Memorial Fund, consisting of the presidents of the Chemical Society, the Royal Institute of Chemistry, the Society of Chemical Industry and the Pharmaceutical Society, will make an award of the Harrison Memorial Prize in December 1944. The Prize, not exceeding £150, is open to a chemist of either sex, being a natural born British subject and not at the time more than thirty years of age, for original investigations in chemistry carried out and published during the past five years. Further particulars can be obtained from the President, Chemical Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1. Applications must be received not later than December 1, 1944.