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International Collaboration

THE publication as a "Penguin Special" (price 9d.) of E. R. Stettinius' "Lend-Lease: Weapon for Victory" shortly after its original publication as a substantial work of 358 pages (New York: The Macmillan Company; London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd.) is a real service to Anglo-American understanding. Intended originally to facilitate the understanding in the United States of the Lend-Lease Act, it should contribute equally in Britain to the same end. This is important, because, if the new lend-lease agreement with the United States announced in November by the Prime Minister is to be fully understood, it must be remembered that the Lend-Lease Act is for the defence of the United States, and is strictly limited to what is necessary for the effective prosecution of the War by the United States and its Allies. The picture which Mr. Stettinius here paints of the way in which Lend-Lease developed and of the magnitude of the contribution which has been made to victory in Europe in this way is most impressive in its demonstration of the possibilities of collaboration between the United Nations and of the advantages which all might reap from the pooling of economic resources in facing the tasks and problems of peace. At a time when the organization of world order is receiving close attention, it is well that there should be made so widely available such an admirable account of one great experiment in international collaboration which has played a large part in bringing the war in Europe to a successful conclusion. The principle of mutual aid embodied in the Lend-Lease Act and agreements will not come to an end when the war with Japan ends: to it we must also look for the strength to build a world in which freedom and opportunity are secure for all.

British Grassland Society

At the Fourth International Grassland Congress held in Great Britain in 1937, a group of grassland specialists met to consider the advisability of forming a society in the United Kingdom to promote the study of grassland husbandry. The outbreak of war prevented further progress with the scheme, but in November 1944 a group interested in grassland research met to discuss the foundation of a British Grassland Society, the activities of which would be field tours, discussions and the publication of a journal. The Society was formed early in 1945 and the first meeting was held at Stratford-on-Avon during June 20-22. About one hundred and fifty members attended. At the opening general meeting the following committee and officers were elected for 1945: *President*, Sir R. George Stapledon; *Vice-President*, Dr. Wm. Davies; *Committee*, J. H. Faulder, H. J. Gill, W. D. Hay, F. R. Horne, Prof. T. J. Jenkin, M. G. Jones, Prof. S. J. Watson; *Secretary*, Dr. R. O. Whyte; *Treasurer*, P. A. Linehan; *Editor*, Dr. H. I. Moore. The office of the Secretary is at the Agri-

cultural Research Building, Aberystwyth. It was agreed at this meeting that membership should be confined in the meantime to scientific and technical officers of Ministries, research institutes, war agricultural executive committees and similar bodies. Specialists in countries other than Great Britain can become members.

During the meeting, members visited the Grassland Improvement Station at Drayton, its former substation at Colesbourne in the Cotswolds and representative grassland areas in Leicestershire. At Drayton, herbage crops in seed production and leys of different age, history, seeds mixtures and seeding rates were inspected. An interesting feature of the work at Drayton is the increasing emphasis which is being placed on the interpretation of sward improvement through the animal rather than by means of botanical or chemical analyses alone; live-weight production trials accompanied the experiments. At Colesbourne there were fertilizer trials accompanying the establishment of leys and the seed production of various forage crops. Visitors were impressed at the productivity obtained from this thin Cotswold soil which only three years ago was derelict turf and dense thorn bush. Those from the north were particularly interested in the crops of sainfoin. In a tour through Leicestershire members inspected trials of cocksfoot, perennial ryegrass and other grasses conducted jointly by the Royal Agricultural Society of England and the Leicestershire War Agricultural Executive Committee at Dunton Bassett and Thorpe Langton. They saw the trial now in progress on the famous Mill Field at Medbourne to compare beef production on an old pasture (about one hundred and fifty years old) with that on a new ley in an adjacent field. Members also inspected ley farming and a grass and grain drying plant at Skeffington. Future plans of the Society will be decided shortly. There will probably be an autumn meeting at which papers will be read and a field meeting next summer in some other part of Great Britain. It is proposed to publish a journal, which will be available to members under their subscription to the Society (21s. per annum), and to others at a subscription rate to be decided.

Education and Training of Aircraft Workers

THE Royal Aircraft Establishment of the Ministry of Aircraft Production has just issued an interesting and informative pamphlet on the general subject of aeronautical training. If, says the pamphlet, Great Britain is to maintain its superiority in the air, we must enlist the help of intelligent young men and young women, and give them a training in an attractive career full of possibilities. The basis of the scheme now proposed is the highly efficient technical college which has been built up as an integral part of the Establishment. The scheme set forth in the pamphlet is a system of apprenticeship, the apprentices being of three types: (1) engineering apprentices, who are trained to become aeronautical research engineers, and are drawn from boys who have attained a high standard of secondary school education; (2) craft apprentices, who are trained to become skilled craftsmen for service in laboratories and in experimental work; and (3) laboratory assistants, who are employed in the research laboratories, and must have obtained a school-leaving certificate with credit in science and mathematics. Details are given concerning the course of training for each of the three types of apprentice. The course in each case