

British Field Sports Society. Much experience has been gained as a result of these meetings in bringing together the interests of conservationists and wildfowlers and about the selection and management of wildfowl refuges, such as those already set up on the Humber, at Southport and at the Caerlaverock National Nature Reserve. Wildfowl refuges form a desirable and, in some conditions, an indispensable means of conserving and increasing wildfowl stocks, in which the wildfowlers are no less interested than the protectionists and scientists. It is now intended to develop out of this consultation and agreement a National System of Wildfowl Refuges which will in due course form the main British contribution to the projected international network of European refuges. North America has long since operated such a system with outstanding success. The Conservancy has decided in view of the importance of the work of this informal group that it should now be formally constituted as the Wildfowl Conservation Committee with the status of a special advisory committee of the Conservancy. Mr. E. M. Nicholson, director-general of the Nature Conservancy, will be chairman of the Committee, which will include members of the Wildfowlers' Association of Great Britain and Ireland, namely, Lieut-Comdr. J. W. Anderton, Mr. J. L. Hirst, Brig. G. D. Holmes, Colonel J. N. Vallance, Mr. E. L. Parish and Dr. G. W. Storey; the Wildfowl Trust, Mr. Peter Scott, Dr. G. V. T. Matthews, Mr. G. L. Atkinson-Willes and Mr. Hugh Boyd; the British Field Sports Society, Major J. G. Morrison, Brigadier A. H. Pepys and Sir Ralph Clarke; and the Nature Conservancy, Dr. J. Berry, Dr. E. B. Worthington and Mr. R. E. Boote. There are also two independent members of the Committee, namely, Colonel H. J. Cator and Major-Gen. C. B. Wainwright.

Country Life

AN interesting example of the fine work done by the Council for the Preservation of Rural Wales is described in its annual report for 1958-59 (Pp. 77+5 plates. London: Council for the Preservation of Rural Wales, 1960). In 1958, the late Lord Bledisloe, then president of the Gloucestershire branch of the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, offered to present a cup to be competed for annually for the best kept village in that county. Since then, many other competitions on a county basis have been held throughout England and Wales based on the Gloucestershire pattern. Some of these have been held under the auspices of various branches of these two councils, others under the auspices of other bodies such as women's institutes, county associations of parish councils, and rural community councils. In Wales, the competitions were inaugurated in Glamorgan through the award of the D. C. Jones Challenge Cup for the best kept Village in the Vale, under the joint sponsorship of the Council for the Preservation of Rural Wales, Glamorgan Branch, and the Barry Horse and Horticultural Society. Now there is a competition annually in most of the Welsh counties, and the entries are increasing every year. In the first year's competition, twenty-one villages entered and the prize was awarded to St. Nicholas, which was runner-up jointly with St. Fagans to St. Hilary last year. The report, available from the Secretary, Council for the Preservation of Rural Wales, 4 Hobart Place, London, S.W.1, contains full details of the many-sided activities of the Council in its work. The Council would welcome new members.

Archive for History of Exact Sciences

IN spite of the proliferation of scientific periodicals of all kinds, a warm welcome must be extended to the publication of a new journal, *Archive for History of Exact Sciences* (Vol. 1, No. 1. Pp. 106. Five numbers, individually priced, constitute a volume. D.M. 19.60. Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1960). It should help in what has become almost an international duty, namely, to build those bridges possible between the domains of the sciences and the humanities. To do this is far from easy, but the need is a very real one. A study of the history of science is beneficial in both camps, always provided that it does not become merely a soft option; in other words, that the standards are set high. This, the new journal seems prepared to accept: it has a distinguished editorial board, and it will do well if it lives up to its dedication, "to uphold the tradition of P. Duhem and E. T. Whittaker". The first issue contains two papers—both dealing with important themes—one on rational mechanics in the Age of Reason, and the other on the beginnings of Euclid's axiomatic system. Contributions will be acceptable in the usual European languages, with the addition of Latin. To judge from the publisher's notice and the first of these articles, the English rendering leaves a good deal to be desired; the phrasing is a little clumsy and in one or two cases quite obscure. Improvement here should not be difficult, but it needs taking in hand at once, before this otherwise excellent production becomes suspect and its merits overlooked.

Leather Manufacture

THE inaugural lecture by Prof. A. G. Ward, following his appointment as professor of leather industries at the University of Leeds, was concerned with science and art in leather manufacture. Prof. Ward emphasized that, despite sixty years of intensive research, the making of leather still remains mainly an art and will continue to do so until its properties become amenable to measurement. At present there is little unanimity about what those properties are. In a brief historical review, Prof. Ward showed how much the improvement in the qualities of leather has been due to practical tanners who used methods analogous to scientific experiment but who lacked an accepted body of theoretical knowledge (*Science and Art in Leather Manufacture: an Inaugural Lecture*. Prof. A. G. Ward. Pp. i+20. Leeds: Leeds University Press, 1960. 2s. 6d.). Many efforts to provide the theoretical background to empirical facts have so far failed to provide an accepted and adequate view of leather-making processes. But the pace of change to-day makes it dangerous to the industry to assume that the art can develop fast enough to meet the challenge from industries based on science. Both the need of the industry and the state of the subject emphasize that an extension of basic science in this field is opportune. It is to be hoped that successful research can enable one more of the great craft industries of Britain to play its part in the modern world.

Some Water-mites from Seepage Water

COLLECTIONS by T. Gledhill from one locality yielded seven species of water-mites, each from a different family; four species are new to Britain and a fifth has previously been recorded from Ireland. The collections were made in seepage-water and are