

matters relating to timber investigations. The Laboratory propose in the first instance to devote attention to home-grown and imported foreign timbers, whilst the Institute will continue to deal exclusively with Dominion and Colonial woods. Arrangements have been made for mutual assistance in this work and for the exchange of reports and specimens; a representative of the Laboratory has also been appointed on the Institute's Committee on Timbers as liaison officer between the two bodies. During the year two investigations of a chemical nature were carried out at the Institute for the Laboratory.

A similar arrangement exists with the Imperial Forestry Institute at Oxford and with the Empire Forestry Association. A collection of Dominion and Colonial timbers received at the Imperial Institute during recent years has been supplied to the Oxford Institute.

Co-operation with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, has been strengthened by the appointment of the Director as a member of the Board of Governors, of the Advisory Council on Plant and Animal Products and of several of the Technical Committees. Valuable assistance has been rendered by Kew in determining the botanical identity of specimens received for examination. Enquiries are also referred as required to the Imperial Bureau of Entomology, the Imperial Bureau of Mycology, the Natural History Museum and other similar institutions.

The Institute is indebted to the Director of the Wellcome Chemical Research Laboratories for having undertaken the chemical investigation of the alkaloids of a West African plant, and to the authorities of St. Thomas's Hospital for conducting therapeutical trials with Cascara bark grown experimentally in Kenya.

Co-operation with many professional institutions, research associations, manufacturers' and trade associations, and other commercial organisations has also been ensured by the appointment of representatives of these bodies on the Technical Committees (see p. 19).

Recognition must also be made of the valuable services rendered to the Department by a large number of manufacturers, merchants and brokers, who have readily furnished information and suggestions relating to the possibility of utilising or marketing Empire raw materials in this country. In a number of cases, manufacturers have carried out trials with promising materials in continuation of the laboratory investigations.