

PUBLICITY

Through the courtesy of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, a free stand was made available to the Trust at the R.S.P.B. Exhibition at the Central Hall, Westminster, in April, 1949. Among the exhibits was a fine model, in a glass case, of the South Pipe of the decoy, made by the Northampton Society of Model Engineers. This was made at the cost of the materials only, and the Council is most grateful to Mr. W. A. Wells and his assistants for the work they have put into this beautiful scale reproduction.

The Trust had a stand in the Forestry Section of the Bath and West Agricultural Show at Cardiff in June, 1948, and will have an independent exhibit in the 1949 Show at Bristol, when some birds will be shown on one of the natural ponds on the show ground.

Four minutes of Pathé Pictorial No. 183 was devoted to the work of the Trust, and we are grateful to the Directors of Pathé Pictures Ltd. for a 16 mm. copy of the film for use at lectures. More recently a film has been taken by the Merlin Film Co. Ltd., for the Central Office of Information. This film is for overseas distribution, but once again a 16 mm. copy of the material has been made available to the Trust.

The Trust has been mentioned in a large number of broadcasts and magazine articles and on many occasions in the local and national press.

LEASE AND LICENCE

As the Council is convinced of the long-term interest which has been aroused in the Trust's work, negotiations are in progress with the Berkeley Estates Company for a 25 years' lease of the Headquarters and of the 21 acres of enclosures, which include the decoy and all the pens. It is also proposed that there should be a licence for our Members to watch the geese, under certain conditions designed to protect the birds themselves and also the agricultural interests. Thus for that period the continuity of the Trust's work is assured, if indeed anything can be assured for so long in a changing world.

ACCOMMODATION

The work of the Trust has hitherto been limited by lack of space for staff, laboratories, and visiting students. Plans have been examined for a new building which will provide the necessary accommodation. The development of these plans has been delayed by the continued tenancy of parts of the two farms on the New Grounds by the County Agricultural Committee. This has caused a modification of the plan, but it is hoped that it can go forward shortly.

Meanwhile the difficult accommodation problem is being met by a modern caravan, a fine Gypsy Waggon of the Burton type which has been most generously lent to the Trust indefinitely by Col. J. Clarke, and the converted Narrow Boat *Beatrice* which, after an adventurous passage through the canals from Birmingham, is now safely moored at the Patch Bridge, less than half a mile from the Headquarters. This boat was converted by Messrs. Spencer, Abbott & Co., and beautifully painted in the traditional style, complete with castles and roses, by Mr. Allen, Foreman of the yard, who was also responsible for the conversion. The glass for the windows was most generously donated by Mr. G. L. Pilkington. It has sleeping accommodation for 11 Members and guests who do not mind the comparatively primitive amenities of life afloat. We are indebted to Mr. C. H. Taplin, whose advice was invaluable during the conversion and who formed part of the crew during the hazardous passage of the Stratford Canal. We are also greatly indebted to the Inland Waterways Association, for their helpful co-operation in the development of this project.