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FORESTRY COMMISSION

REPORT ON  
FOREST RESEARCH  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
MARCH, 1949

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# Part I. Work carried out by Forestry Commission Staff

## INTRODUCTION

By JAMES MACDONALD  
*Director of Research and Education*

### Staff

During the year ended 31st March, 1949, the writer became Director of Research and Education in place of Mr. W. H. Guillebaud, who succeeded Mr. Gosling as Deputy Director General. Forest research in Great Britain to-day is very largely Mr. Guillebaud's own creation, for he built up from small beginnings the organisation which we now possess, and during his long period of office, as Chief Research Officer and Director of Research, exercised a profound influence on the trend of silvicultural development.

Other changes during the year included the resignation of Mr. I. J. Leadbeater, District Officer, who received another appointment, and the recruitment to the staff of Mr. J. D. Matthews, District Officer, who will work on Genetics.

The sudden death of Dr. M. C. Rayner is much regretted. Her long association with forestry produced most valuable results and was, all through, a rich source of ideas. It is fortunate that Dr. I. Levisohn is available to carry on the work which Dr. Rayner initiated.

### Forest Research Station—Alice Holt

The installing of mains electricity into Alice Holt Lodge was nearing completion at the end of the year under review, while the building is now completely centrally heated and provided with domestic hot water as a result of work carried out during the summer of 1948.

The neglect of the grounds during the war is gradually being made good, and greenhouses and out-buildings are being repaired and adapted to meet the needs of the Station. The former cucumber house has been fitted up for propagation, with electrical bottom-heat, and the fig-house is being used for experiments in grafting. It is proposed to instal a refrigeration chamber in one of the outhouses.

Office and laboratory accommodation is being used to the limit and it has been necessary, already, to obtain and adapt two sectional wooden huts for extra office accommodation. Although some space will be set free by the winding-up of the Census of Woodlands, there is no doubt that proposals for extending Alice Holt Lodge will require to be seriously considered in the not too distant future.

### The Year's Work

The work which is going on falls into two main classes :

- (a) Work carried out directly by Research Officers of the Forestry Commission. (Part I of this Report.)
- (b) Work on special problems carried out by Universities and other Institutions with the help of grants from the Forestry Fund. (Part III.)