

Review

Timber Research

Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough

*Published free by Her Majesty's Stationery Office, London,
for the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.*

A publication of this sort does not lend itself to normal critical review as it is no more than a well-illustrated booklet setting out the objects of the Laboratory. However, the photographs, illustrating the work done, are of a very high quality and they are supported by short notes on the activities of each Section.

The importance of this Research Institute is underlined by a statement in the Preface which points out that more than 90 per cent. of Britain's timber and wood-pulp is still imported, and that after processing this is valued at about £600 million a year. The Laboratory, therefore, has a very real part to play in the national economy, by finding ways and means of improving technical efficiency and reducing waste with regard to wood products. With more home-produced timber becoming available and the greater use of softwoods becoming evident, a swing away from the testing of tropical hardwoods is inevitably taking place. An instance of this is the recent testing of a load of *Pinus contorta* logs from Blessington Forest, Co. Wicklow, supplied by the Department of Lands. Pulping, plywood, particle-board and laminated boards are a few of the more interesting and up-to-date problems being tackled.

Great attention to detail is paid to the pages dealing with information on how to get to the Laboratory, by maps and descriptions. This is consistent with their policy of welcoming all visitors or groups. For anyone interested in Forestry and forest products, and with time to spare, a visit to this large establishment is well worthwhile. Princes Risborough is only 37 miles from London on a main railway line to the West, and is well served by buses from High Wycombe and Aylesbury.

A.M.S.H.