

Day Excursions for 1955

THE Society's practice of organising day excursions to places of forestry interest was continued during the year. The first excursion was to Mountrath Forest on 1st May to study the cause and effect of the extensive windblow which occurred at the forest over the previous twelve months.

On 26th June we visited the estate of Captain Tottenham at Ashford, Co. Wicklow, where we had the opportunity of studying modern and progressive management of woodland areas on a private estate.

Our next excursion on 31st July was to Castlepollard Forest where the topic of discussion was the establishment of hardwood crops on limestone land with heavy hazel scrub.

Our last excursion was to Thomastown Forest on 18th September where we discussed the technique of establishing hardwoods by group planting in a matrix of conifers.

The Society wish to express their thanks to the Minister for Lands for permission to visit the State Forests and to the officers of the Forestry Division, particularly the foresters, on whose shoulders the main burden of these excursions rests, and whose enthusiasm and hard work, mostly behind the scenes, is so largely responsible for the success of these outings. We would mention in particular Mr. M. Dalton of Mountrath, Mr. McCarty of Castlepollard who was ably supported by Mr. Finnerty, who previously had charge of this forest, and Mr. Forde who is in charge of Thomastown Forest with his assistants, Mr. Aherne and Mr. Leonard.

We would also like to express our thanks to Captain Tottenham for a very instructive visit to his woodlands and for the generous hospitality we received from him and from Irish Forest Products on that occasion.

Lastly we must express our thanks for and appreciation of the generous hospitality we received from Mr. and Mrs. Dalton when we visited Mountrath Forest, and from Mr. and Mrs. McCarty at Castlepollard and from Mr. Forde at Thomastown.