them famous, but they themselves are better known than their discoveries. Faraday's reverence for truth and unselfish devotion to its acquisition have a higher value than the laws which he established. We gladly admit our debt to Pasteur and to the Curies, and yet the inspiration which we draw from their lives is even better than the results of their work. The world admires Franklin for his discoveries in electricity, yet it respects him more for his wisdom. I might prolong the list, but every one here can do that for himself. In brief the spirit in which knowledge is sought and the manner in which it is used are more important, more real than knowledge itself.

The records of scientific discovery, of the development of the fields of experiment which began three hundred years ago, have shown the growing power of science. The extent of their power is to-day a chief concern; we must, as so many are now trying to do, give anxious thought to its exercise. The power is not actually in the hands of the scientist, though he is deeply interested in its future because he has been and is the occasion of its existence. It may fairly be inferred from experience that the scientist himself will never be a tyrant. His work does not rouse in him the desire to dominate, but rather to assist. Love of accuracy, patience, perseverance, self-denial have been common qualities and necessarily so. These have a place in the general esteem, and therefore have their effect. Most of all the world respects the devotion to service that has so often been found; the warm love of their fellows which has inspired so many to give themselves and their labor without counting the return. We must hope that such a spirit will continue in ourselves, whether as individuals or as societies.

The problems of society and in particular those into which natural knowledge enters so powerfully will long demand a patient examination. But whatever may be the tactics that are developed in the end, it is certain that the satisfactory solution will be based upon moral influence. It is for us, as scientists, to supply the natural knowledge and help in its application, but that is not the complete account of what we have to do. Our effectiveness will depend, as is shown by all human history including our own limited experience, upon the devotion, wisdom and good-will which we bring to our task.

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON

IN a summary of the annual report of the Zoological Society of Great Britain, given in the London *Times*, it is reported that there was a decrease of 130,885, compared with 1937, in the number of visitors to the Zoological Park, London, last year. This is attributed mainly to the September crisis. The total number was 1,816,012. At Whipsnade there was an attendance of 523,345, a decrease of 23,073.

The number of visitors to Regent's Park was the twelfth highest in the history of the society. Admission receipts were £5,628 less than the previous year, and total income amounted to £112,957, a decrease of £12,165. Expenditure was £112,488, a decrease of £5,061, leaving an excess of income over expenditure of £469. Receipts for admission to Whipsnade decreased by £1,077. Income was £33,575, a decrease of £2,421, and expenditure was £27,568, a decrease of £738, giving an excess of income over expenditure of £6,007.

The average strength of the society's collection, excluding aquarium, reptile and insect houses, was 1,035 mammals and 1,846 birds. The animals at Regent's Park consumed 91 tons of hay, 156 tons of clover, 124 tons of horseflesh, nine tons of monkey nuts, 12 tons of bread, 244,649 bananas and 4¼ cwt. of honey.

The aquarium was visited by nearly 15 per cent. of those who entered the gardens. The visitors numbered 283,248, compared with 271,933 in 1937. The increase was largely due to the reduced charge of 6d. on Saturdays, instituted during the year.

In September, it is stated, a scheme was worked out for measures in case of war or other emergency. This involved the conversion of basements into air raid shelters and the removal of valuable books and documents and the families of the staff to Whipsnade.

THE TRANSFER OF DIFFICULT ALPINE PLANTS MADE AT WASHINGTON ARBORETUM

ALTHOUGH the Washington Arboretum at Seattle has been established for less than three years it is producing results that are attracting the attention of both layman and scientist. Thousands of plants have been propagated that are now being placed in permanent locations on the grounds where they will be kept under observation for developments of scientific and educational value.

A significant accomplishment has been the transfer, in one year, of alpine and subalpine plants from their natural altitudes to sea level with no loss of vigor and with no apparent change in character. Three notable instances of successful transfer were *Campanula piperi,* a miniature evergreen member of the Campanulaceae; *Lewisia tweedyi,* the largest and most beautiful of the Lewisia tribe, and *Douglasia dentata,* a rose-colored evergreen member of the Primulaceae. The domestication of these three little known but valu-