

passed and will pass again every few years through the bodies of worms. The plough is one of the most ancient and most valuable of man's inventions, but long before he existed the land was in fact ploughed and still continues to be ploughed by earthworms. It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world as have these lowly organised creatures.

Darwin estimated that, on measured acres of land, worm casts amounted to 10 tons to the acre per year. Other estimates in similar areas have been given at 18 tons to the acre per year. This soil, if spread out evenly, would be some 2 inches per acre in ten years. Obviously the amount will vary according to the worm population and this in turn will be governed by soil conditions and the availability of food. In the Nile Valley, for example, the weight of castings is considerably greater. The important point is that much of the soil on the earth's surface has passed through the bodies of earthworms at least once and possibly many hundreds of times.

News of Members

Miss Joan Dingley has just left for a three months' visit to England via the United States. She intends to study type material in the interests of straightening out some knotty fungus problems. We wish her a satisfying trip.

Mr. and Mrs. T. Wood are now overseas and we expect that more will be heard of them in a later News Letter.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Coyle are also having a very extensive trip overseas. We shall be publishing an article by Mrs. Coyle in our next News Letter.
