

present research programme was established.

We all wish him well in his new venture.

PRESENTATION TO MR. L.G. SMITH.

At the social evening which marked the conclusion of the recent staff conference, opportunity was taken to say farewell to Mr. L.G. Smith, who retired from the position of Technical Officer, Grade 1, towards the end of last year, after having served the Department faithfully and well for nearly 28 years.

Both the Minister and Director spoke of the contribution made to the Department during Mr. Smith's long association with it in the capacity of inspector and, later, technical officer. On behalf of the assembled guests, the Minister presented to Mr. Smith a transistor radio in token of the high regard in which he had always been held.

DRIFTING SEEDS.

In the March and June issues of 1961, we published notes on the identification of logs and other vegetation washed up on our shores. Some interesting details have recently come to hand on the finding of seeds of tropical plants on our southern and western beaches. A large, dark-brown, D-shaped seed about 2 inches by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches was found by Honorary Warden W.H. Horley, of Mudiarrup, on the beach at Bremer Bay, east of Albany. The seed was identified by the Curator of the State Herbarium, Mr. R.D. Royce, as that of Entada scandens, a widely distributed plant. It grows in jungles and its bean pods are three to four feet long. It is believed that they break off and float down the rivers and are carried away on currents. The seeds break away from the pods and many are washed up on distant shores. The plant is also known as the matchbox bean. The shells are extremely hard and are sometimes polished and sold as curios and jewellery.

Mr. Royce says that the recovery of these seeds have been reported from our south coast for many years. They are washed up mainly around Denmark, but

have also been found from a little to the east of Albany up to Cottesloe Beach. He added that last season quite a lot of unusual seeds or fruits were washed ashore. Entada was widespread and a number of other types were found. These included Nipa fruticans (a palm), Heritiera (a tropical plant called dungun), Carapa (commonly known as crab wood) Sapium (called the tallow tree or milkwood) and Picea, a member of the spruce family.

Professor H.N. Barber, of the University of Tasmania, to whom the latest specimens were also forwarded, says that Entada seeds are carried across the Atlantic in the Gulf Stream. He wondered whether the plant was grown here in cultivation or if it were possible that they, and the Picea, might have been carried from the northern hemisphere by natural drift. As far as is known by Mr. Royce, the only Entada grown here was from a seed which an Albany resident was able to germinate, but nothing is known of the fate of the seedling.