

NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTY IN DERBYSHIRE.

The possessions of the National Trust in Derbyshire have been extended very widely during recent months by further generous gifts from private donors.

Alderman J. G. Graves, of Sheffield, has purchased and presented 200 acres of Shining Cliff Woods, on the Alderwasley side of the Derwent, near Whatstandwell, and it is proposed to extend the range of public paths in this beautiful portion of the lower Derwent valley, and to provide accommodation for a bird sanctuary and a wild-flower reserve. Adjoining this estate 100 acres of woodland have been purchased on behalf of Grith Fyrd Unemployment training camp scheme, and the whole of these fine woodlands and cliffs may be preserved for all time.

Mr. Robert McDougall, of Manchester is concentrating on Dovedale, and its tributary Manifold. If he keeps on with his good work there will be no need to ask the government to make Dovedale a national park. His earlier gifts in Dovedale were at Hurts Wood and Hall Dale, Mill Dale, and recently he has added a further 50 acres at Lode Mill near Mill Dale, on the Derbyshire side of the Dove. This new National Trust estate is below Alsop-en-le-Dale station, and not far from the two first mentioned properties given by Mr. McDougall. His latest gift is Ilam Hall and grounds on the Manifold, which although in Staffordshire is part of the Dovedale area and should be considered along with the latter. Part of the hall is to be demolished, and the remaining portions to be adapted as a model international Youth Hostel.

Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. have given about 30 acres of land on the Derbyshire side of the Dove, south of Iron Tors, from Coldeaton Bridge down to Nettly Knowe. The newly-acquired property is only 200 yards north of the boundary of Fishponds Plantation, Lode Mill, given earlier in the year by Mr. McDougall.

Mr. F. A. Holmes, J.P., of Buxton, a well-known member of the Derbyshire Archaeological Society has given 28 acres near Rowsley and Haddon Hall. It lies on the bold gritstone escarpment of Stanton Moor Edge, overlooking the wide valley of the Derwent from Rowsley down to Matlock, and is on the edge of the extensive plateau of Stanton Moor, which is so prolific in remains of the Bronze Age.

By the courtesy of the *Derbyshire Countryside*, we are able to give a list of National Trust holdings in the county and Dovedale:—

Longshaw Moor: 750 acres (purchased by public subscription for £14,000).

Winster Market-house.

Duffield Castle site: (given by the Hon. F. and Mr. G. H. Strutt).

Alport Height: (anonymous donor).

Taddington Wood: 50 acres (anonymous donor).

Hurts Wood and Hall Dale, Dovedale: 110 acres (given by Mr. Robert McDougall).

Mill Dale, Dovedale: 50 acres (given by Mr. Robert McDougall).

Shining Cliff Woods: 200 acres (given by Ald. J. G. Graves).

Stanton Moor Edge: 28 acres (given by Mr. F. A. Holmes, J.P.).

Ilam Hall and grounds: (given by Mr. Robert McDougall).

Iron Tors, Dovedale: 30 acres (given by Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd.).

Many parts of Derbyshire are in danger from speculative development, either for housing or industry, and further gifts to safeguard these beauty spots will be welcomed. Many public spirited landowners have taken adequate steps to safeguard much of Derbyshire's scenery, and so long as estates remain in their hands all continues well. The danger arises with the sale and break-up of estates. Only stringent measures of Town and Country, or the purchase of vital spots for presentation to the nation can then act as safeguards.
