

The first issue contains, besides the foreword by Dr. D. A. Cameron, Minister for Health and Minister in Charge, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, a forthright article entitled "New Deal in Science Education", by Prof. H. Messel, and articles on mast cells, automatic computation, seashore life in Australia, genetics, civil engineering, cosmic radiation, plasma physics, the cyclotron, drugs and the heart, all by Australian authorities, and aimed at the greatest possible circle of readers. The outward appearance of the journal is most striking, and all articles are generously illustrated, and some even include a portrait of the author. While certain illustrations are much enhanced by colour, it does not seem that some warrant it (Figs. 4 and 5 on pp. 64-65), and their reduction to black and white would have, at least, done something towards lowering the cost of production and hence the price of the journal.

### Birds killed by Poisonous Seed-Dressings

A REPORT, issued jointly by the British Trust for Ornithology and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, is presented in an *Intelligence Unit Bulletin* (No. 13, March 1961) issued by the Council for Nature, and provides firm evidence that many, if not most, of the large numbers of birds found dead in various parts of Britain in the spring of 1960 had been poisoned by consuming dressed corn either directly or by eating some other creature that had itself eaten the corn. The report lists 67 localities from Aberdeenshire to Kent in which dead birds were found; in 59 of these cases seed dressings are believed to have been the cause of death. Sufficient corpses were analysed to point to dieldrin as the seed dressing principally concerned. The most numerous birds reported dead were wood pigeons; there were almost as many pheasants, and smaller numbers of rooks, crows, chaffinches, partridges and blackbirds. Among insectivorous and predatory birds killed were two each of the tawny owl, buzzard and wren, and single specimens of the barn owl, lapwing and kestrel. A few mammals were also reported killed in the same way, among them three dogs, three cats, two hares and singletons of the fox, weasel and hedgehog. Fear is expressed that another great slaughter of birds is likely this spring, due to the heavy sowing programme which, as a result of the wet autumn and winter, farmers will have to undertake in the next few weeks. An appeal is made therefore to all naturalists to send information of any dead birds they may find to Peter Conder, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 25 Eccleston Square, London, S.W.1. The basic facts required are the date on which kills began, the numbers and species of birds and mammals involved, and the name of the seed dressing used nearby. One or two of the corpses of birds larger than pigeons, from each kill, would also be most useful for chemical analysis to determine the cause of death.

### Nature Conservancy: New Appointments

LORD HURCOMB has been appointed chairman of the Nature Conservancy in succession to Mr. Arthur Bryce Duncan. Previously, Lord Hurcomb was chairman of the Committee for England, and is succeeded by Prof. A. R. Clapham. Lord Howick of Glendale has been appointed as a member of the Nature Conservancy. Sir Charles Connell, Prof. J. H.

Burnett and Major S. F. Macdonald Lockhart have joined the Conservancy's Scottish Committee; the vacancies having arisen through the retirement of Prof. J. R. Matthews, Major D. C. Bowser and Mr. Michael Noble. Dr. A. M. Masee and Prof. D. L. Linton have replaced on the Committee for England Sir William Taylor and Dr. A. S. Watt, who have retired. On the Committee for Wales, Prof. P. F. Wareing and Mr. W. Vaughan Lewis fill the vacancies arising from the retirement of Prof. F. W. Rogers Brambell and Mrs. I. M. Vaughan.

### The Textile Institute Scholarships

THREE scholarships are being offered by the Textile Institute: *The Textile Institute Scholarship*, which is a three years scholarship, total value £1,050, for the study of textile technology, and is open to young people who are, or have been, or intend to be, engaged in the cotton spinning or cotton weaving section of the textile industry in the United Kingdom; *The Peter Coats Scholarship*, which is for two or three years to the value of not more than £100 per annum, tenable at the textile department of any technical college in the British Isles, and is open to students who wish to take a course leading to a college diploma or other qualification in subjects connected with the cotton industry; *The Rowland Spencer Scholarship* is for training or research, to the value of £100 per annum, for persons already engaged in the textile industry and undertaking a part-time course at a recognized technical college. The closing date for applications for all scholarships is May 1, and application should be made to the General Secretary, Textile Institute, 10 Blackfriars Street, Manchester 3.

### Gulbenkian Foundation Grants

THE trustees of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation of Lisbon have announced the grants, totalling about £550,000, made during the second half of 1960 (making a total of more than £1 million for the year). Of these, grants in the United Kingdom and British Commonwealth total about £70,000. Among the grants in aid of science are: £2,000 per annum for five years to the University of London Institute of Archaeology (total £10,000) for the academic part of a postgraduate course in the care and restoration of ancient buildings; £2,000 for a gas liquefier for the Gulbenkian Radio-carbon Dating Laboratory, to the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland; £29,949 for cytological work at the Institute of Histology and Embryology, University of Lisbon; £3,750 to the Fondation Européenne pour les Echanges Internationaux to enable postgraduate science students to study in Portugal.

### University News:

Belfast

ADRIAN P. ROBERTS has been appointed senior lecturer in engineering mathematics. Mr. Roberts has been a lecturer in electrical engineering at the Imperial College of Science and Technology.

### The College of Aeronautics, Cranfield

THE following appointments have been announced: *Lectureships*, E. R. Norster and J. H. Dunmore (aircraft propulsion); H. B. Gatland (electrical engineering); D. Hodgetts and G. H. Tidbury (automobile engineering). *Senior research fellowships*, Dr. G. T. Csanady (Department of Aerodynamics); Dr.