

would give the poorer countries a larger share of world trade, and in replying on the debate, apart from pointing out that the magnitude of the British effort was often not appreciated, essentially endorsed most of the points that had been made about voluntary effort, trade and the supply of skill.

Almost simultaneously with Lord Brain's reference to this whole question of aid to the developing countries, the August number of the *OECD Observer* included an article on the role of trade with developing countries which explained the significance to members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. Even closer to Lord Brain's argument about the growth of population and its implications are two articles published in the summer 1964 issue of *Daedalus*. This issue is devoted to four disparate, though not entirely unrelated, themes: population, prediction, conflict and existentialism, and in the first of two articles on population, H. Hoagland discusses the mechanisms of population control, arguing that only by fundamental changes in our way of thinking can the population problem be solved. He is not pessimistic although he admits that family planning and limitation call for a critical level of education and prosperity which is not now found in the very poor countries.

Prof. Jean Mayer in his article "Food and Population: the Wrong Problem?" is more challenging and argues that it is unwise, if not dangerous, to link the population problem too closely with food. His argument runs very close to that of Lord Brain. He points out that there are other shortages which are likely to become critical, besides food supply, if we do not start urgently to face the situation. The whole weight of his article lies behind Lord Brain's assertion that our greatest need to-day is to acquire the power of looking ahead, forecasting and preparing for the consequences of the accelerating developments in science and technology.

Nevertheless, Prof. Mayer is emphatic that we need also to make effective use of the knowledge that we already have. This is not to deny that more knowledge is still needed in many fields or to disparage a further article in *Daedalus* in which Prof. D. Bell outlines twelve nodes of prediction. Knowledge may be wasted for lack of the right technique for its use. These articles and debates in sum, however, illustrate the timeliness of Lord Brain's observations and the urgency that the utilization of Britain's resources of materials and manpower should be tackled with all the insight and skill that existing knowledge permits, and also with the most effective tools and techniques that modern technology has placed at the service of the planner and the administrator. It is no longer a matter of whether to plan but how to plan most effectively.

SOVIET ANTARCTIC RESEARCH

Soviet Antarctic Expedition

Information Bulletin, Vol. 1: Pp. xv + 404. 90s. Vol. 2: Pp. x + 318. 80s. (Amsterdam, London and New York: Elsevier Publishing Company, 1964.)

SOME scientific reports of Antarctic expeditions take a notoriously long time to appear. Two scientific reports from pre-First World War expeditions have appeared within the past two years, and publication is not yet complete. Reports of inter-war and post-Second

World War expeditions are similarly incomplete. (I have myself one such report on my conscience!)

In these circumstances, the shorter paper or brief preliminary report has much to commend it, both for the reader, who obtains a general picture of work carried out, and for the investigator, who establishes without much delay his claim to have contributed to knowledge at a particular time. This problem has been tackled in various ways. The Antarctic Research Programme of the U.S. National Science Foundation publishes a monthly *Antarctic Report* summarizing reports from the field. The British Antarctic Survey now publishes its *Bulletin* at irregular intervals, but this is mainly intended for shorter final reports. Annual reports of National Committees on Antarctic Research to SCAR (the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research of the International Council of Scientific Unions) present useful summaries of present and proposed activities in the Antarctic, but these are not widely available.

The Soviet Antarctic Expedition, which has been in operation since 1955, has solved the problem in a useful manner by producing *Informatsionnyy Byulleten Sovetskoy Antarkticheskoy Ekspeditsii*, which has appeared at irregular intervals since 1958, the latest being No. 46. Issues average 50-60 pages in length, including illustrations, and include about ten short scientific articles many of which summarize work of considerable interest. There are also brief observers' notes on items of interest, summaries of radio messages from Soviet stations in the Antarctic and such items as recommendations of various Antarctic meetings, notes of work of other countries, reviews of books, maps, etc. An English index in each volume has served to direct those without a knowledge of Russian to articles for which they need a translation, but in spite of this aid it has been difficult for non-Russian scholars to gain a general appreciation of the scope and standards of Soviet researches in Antarctica.

The initiative of Dr. George P. Wollard and the University of Wisconsin, aided by a grant from the National Science Foundation, in translating the Soviet *Bulletin* has made this general preliminary survey accessible to English readers. Final editing has been done by Scripta Technica, Inc., and the first two volumes now published by Elsevier cover *Bulletins* Nos. 1-20 (1958-60).

A spot check shows that care has been taken in the translation, and the English language presentation is good. No errors of translation were noted; a couple of unimportant sentences were omitted. The system of transliteration is reasonably consistent though it differs from that of most map makers. Retransliteration of proper names is a fruitful source of errors, and a few minor errors of this type were noted, for example, *W. Fuchs* for *V. Fuchs*, *Argentina Islands* for *Argentine Islands*. Two errors, one of them unimportant, were found in five large tables.

The translation is not 'cover-to-cover', but deals with all the main scientific papers. The section called "By Radio from Antarctica" has rightly been omitted as ephemeral, while "Observers' Notes" have been translated only when they are of particular interest. The maps are photo-reproductions of the originals with new letterpress superimposed as necessary for the English language reader. Some are over-reduced, for example, I, p. 81, while half-tone reproductions are poor—but so are the originals in the Russian version.

A third volume in the series is due shortly, presumably covering *Information Bulletins* Nos. 21-30. It is to be hoped that the response will be sufficient to encourage the promoters to catch up on the backlog and to continue with a speedily available translation of future numbers. Close co-operation between the Russian editors and the translators and publishers could ensure that this interesting *Information Bulletin* receives the notice it warrants in other countries. If this can be arranged at the present reasonable price, a very useful service will be provided.

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