

fish, and by his work on sex-determination and differentiation in fish. He would turn to systematics in his work on the amphipod *Niphargus* as well as to the biology and systematics of fish, particularly of sturgeons and of eels: and these widening interests led him into his researches in hydrobiology and oceanography, and to his book *The Struggle for Existence*, well known in both the Italian original and its English translation.

He received many well-deserved honours both in his own country and in others. He was awarded the National

Prize of the Accademia dei Lincei in 1955 and the Medaille Memorial of the Fondation Albert 1<sup>er</sup> Prince de Monaco. Only last year he received the Manley Bendell Prize.

Learned and kindly, he saw what should be done and how to get things done, and how to promote international goodwill and co-operation to extend our knowledge of Nature. We offer our sympathy to his wife, herself a distinguished zoologist and his collaborator, and to his daughter, a pathologist in the University of Padova.

C. F. A. PANTIN

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Chief Scientist of the Army Department:

Mr. E. C. Cornford

MR. E. C. CORNFORD has been appointed chief scientist of the Army Department in succession to Dr. W. Cawood, who has been appointed chief scientist of the Ministry of Aviation (*Nature*, 204, 923; 1964). Mr. Cornford graduated in mathematics at the University of Cambridge in 1938 and in the same year entered the Ministry of Supply. In 1945 he joined the Guided Weapons Department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment and stayed there until 1951. During this period he was concerned not only with guided weapons development but also with weapons research, air warfare and radar aids to navigation. From 1951 until 1954 Mr. Cornford served on the Staff of the Scientific Adviser to the Air Ministry. He then rejoined the Royal Aircraft Establishment, eventually to become the head of the Guided Weapons Department. In 1961 he joined the Ministry of Defence as chairman of the Defence Research Policy Staff. Since then he has been assistant chief scientific adviser (projects) at the Ministry of Defence. Mr. Cornford took up his new appointment on January 1.

### Department of Genetics in the University of Leeds

A DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS has been established in the Faculty of Science of the University of Leeds. The new Department will be closely associated with the other biological departments in a School of Biological Sciences, a new building for which is at present being planned. It will be responsible for the elementary and advanced teaching of genetics both to specialists and to students from other departments, and the members will undertake, supervise and promote research in the subject, and co-operate with other departments in which research in genetical topics is already being undertaken.

Prof. J. R. S. Fincham

DR. J. R. S. FINCHAM, head of the Department of Genetics at the John Innes Institute, has been appointed to the chair of genetics and the headship of the new Department of Genetics in the University of Leeds. Dr. Fincham was educated at Hertford Grammar School and Peterhouse, Cambridge, where he read the Natural Sciences Tripos and gained first-class honours in Parts I and II. He was awarded an Agricultural Research Council research studentship in 1946 and spent two years in the School of Botany, Cambridge, followed by one year at the California Institute of Technology. During 1949–50 he was a Bye Fellow of Peterhouse and in 1950 he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy for his dissertation on "Genetic and Biochemical Studies on *Neurospora*". Dr. Fincham joined the staff of the Department of Botany at University College (later the University of) Leicester as lecturer in 1950 and was appointed to a readership in genetics in 1954. He has held his present post as head of the Department of Genetics at the John

Innes Institute, Bayfordbury, Hertford, since 1960. He spent the academic year 1960–61 as visiting associate professor of genetics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1964, Dr. Fincham was awarded an Sc.D. degree of the University of Cambridge. His main research interests are in the field of microbial and molecular genetics and will complement work already in progress in the biological sciences in the University under the direction of Prof. R. D. Preston in the Astbury Department of Biophysics, and Prof. F. C. Happold in the Department of Biochemistry.

### U.S. National Academy of Engineers

A NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING has been formed under the charter of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. Acting under the authority granted by its Congressional Act of Incorporation of 1863, the National Academy of Sciences has approved Articles of Organization which bring the National Academy of Engineering into being as part of its own structure, operating on an autonomous and parallel, but co-ordinated, basis. The new Academy will share in the responsibility of the National Academy of Sciences of advising the Federal Government, on request, in all areas of science and engineering.

The adoption by the National Academy of Sciences of the Articles of Organization of the National Academy of Engineering brings to a climax the discussions which began in 1960 when the Engineers Joint Council, in co-operation with the Engineering Foundation and the Engineers Council for Professional Development, and with representatives from the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council, appointed a committee to make an intensive examination of the need and feasibility of an engineering academy. The President of the National Academy of Sciences will sit *ex officio* on the Council of the National Academy of Engineering, and the National Academy of Engineering will, in turn, have *ex officio* representation on the Governing Board of the Academy-Research Council. Concerning membership of the National Academy of Engineering, the Articles of Organization state that, in addition to the primary qualifications of important contributions to engineering theory and practice or unusual accomplishment in technology: "A candidate for membership shall be recognized by his associates and others for his professional integrity, as well as for his engineering accomplishments. Effectiveness and efficiency in leadership of organizations that have conducted pioneering or complex programs, have made noteworthy contributions to the field of engineering education, should be weighed as supplementing the primary qualifications . . ."

### Aims and Objectives

THE aims and objectives of the National Academy of Engineering, as formulated by the committee appointed by Dr. F. Seitz and set forth in the Articles of Organization