

education, health and housing and the need to increase exports" cannot be solved by a restraint on wages and salaries.

THE Ministry of Defence (Royal Navy) says that the time signal service, which since January 1, 1966, has been provided by Crigglion VLF station (GBZ) on 19.6 kc/s while the Rugby station was modernized, will revert to Rugby (GBR) on 16 kc/s, as from 0001Z on September 1, 1966.

It is planned to have early in 1967 a special issue of *Radio Science* devoted to the subject of the propagation of long radio waves. Experimental and theoretical workers in this field are invited to submit manuscripts for consideration, and further information can be obtained from the Editor, *Radio Science*, Environmental Science Services Administration, Boulder, Colorado 80302.

PROF. F. SONDEIMER, who since 1964 has been holding a Royal Society research professorship at the University of Cambridge in the University Chemical Laboratory, will, from October 1, 1967, be holding his appointment in the Department of Chemistry at University College, London. The University has conferred the title of professor of chemistry on Prof. Sondheimer in respect of his appointment.

THE Canadian Society for Cell Biology was formed at a meeting held in the Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, during May 19-20, with an executive consisting of: *President*, Dr. H. F. Stich (McMaster University); *President-Elect*, Dr. L. Siminovitch (University of Toronto); *Secretary*, Dr. S. T. Bayley (National Research Council, Ottawa); *Treasurer*, Dr. G. Setterfield (Carleton University); *Directors*, Dr. S. J. Webb (University of Saskatchewan); Dr. J. G. Lafontaine (Laval University); Dr. M. Barr (University of Western Ontario); Dr. P. Ford (University of British Columbia).

THE third international Congress of Nephrology will be held in Washington, D.C., during September 25-30. Further information can be obtained from the Secretariat of the Congress, 9650 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington, D.C.

A CONFERENCE on "Hazards in Foundries", organized by the British Occupational Hygiene Society, will be held in the University of Birmingham during September 13-14. Further information can be obtained from Mr. D. C. Murphy, Medical Department, Esso Petroleum Co., Ltd., Esso Refinery, Fawley, Southampton.

THE sixth international symposium on "Gas Chromatography and Associated Techniques", organized by the Gas Chromatography Discussion Group of the Institute of Petroleum, will be held in Rome during September 20-23. Further information can be obtained from the Institute of Petroleum, 61 New Cavendish Street, London, W.1.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Gastrointestinal Radiation Injury" will be held in Richland, Washington, during September 25-28. Further information can be obtained from Dr. M. F. Sullivan, Biology Department, Battelle-Northwest, P.O. Box 999, Richland, Washington.

THE third international meeting on "Organic Geochemistry" will be held at the Imperial College of Science and Technology during September 26-28. Further information can be obtained from Dr. G. D. Hobson, Department of Geology, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, S.W.7.

A GENERAL discussion of the Faraday Society on "Colloid Stability in Aqueous and Non-Aqueous Media" will be held in the University of Nottingham during September 26-28. Further information can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary of the Faraday Society, 6 Gray's Inn Square, London, W.C.1.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Bionic Models of the Animal Sonar System", sponsored jointly by NATO and the Office of Scientific Research of the United States Navy, will be held in Frascati during September 26-October 3. Further information can be obtained from Dr. R. G. Busnel, Laboratoire de Physiologie Acoustique, Domaine de Vilvert, Jouy-en-Josas, S. et O.

A CONFERENCE on "Energy Beams and their Uses", arranged by the Electronics Group of the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, will be held in the University of York during September 28-30. Further information can be obtained from the Meetings Officer, the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

A RESIDENTIAL conference on "Integrated Process Control Applications in Industry", arranged by the Institution of Electrical Engineers, will be held at the Manchester Institute of Science and Technology during September 26-29. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London, W.C.2.

ERRATUM. Dr. B. G. Gowenlock has been appointed to succeed Prof. F. Bell to the chair of chemistry in the Heriot-Watt University, and not Dr. B. Glover as stated on p. 225 of the July 16 issue of *Nature*.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Unpublished Literature

SIR,—Your trenchant criticism of the proposed Physics Information Exchange Scheme (PIE) (*Nature*, July 23, 1966) rather suggests that you do not find much wrong with the present system of publishing the results of scientific research. I do not share your Candide-like attitude.

In the first place publication is often far too slow.

Secondly, the practice of selection by referee is open to considerable objection. Many people have had the experience of having a paper rejected, or worse still rewritten in an unacceptable form, by one journal, and subsequently promptly accepted by another. Moreover, though it does not happen often and has certainly never happened to me, there do appear to be instances in which a referee has abused his privilege and started work based on an idea gained from a paper sent by a journal for his opinion before the article was published.

Thirdly, in order to keep abreast of progress even in one limited field it may be necessary to see regularly several dozen journals.

The Immunopathology Exchange Group (IEG), of which I am a member and which seems to be very non-exclusive, is to me of enormous value and I am most delighted both to read and to contribute to its scientific memos. Of course IEG has its critics and no doubt there is room for improvement in regard to distribution and perhaps in other ways, but it does represent a new approach to the quick dissemination of scientific information which goes far to overcome the disadvantages of conventional publication, some of which I have listed above. I know little about high energy physics, and nothing about PIE beyond the information in your editorial, but the scheme sounds as if it might help physicists in the way that IEG helps immunologists. One would hope that a journal of such high standing as *Nature* would have adopted a less timid and more constructive attitude to such an important experiment.

Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL WOODRUFF

Professor of Surgical Science,  
University of Edinburgh.