

University News:**Aberdeen**

MR. R. E. H. MELLOR has been appointed to the chair of geography.

Edinburgh

DR. A. S. DUNCAN has been appointed to a personal chair of medical education, the first chair of its title in Britain, and Dr. C. B. Wilson, at present head of the Building Climatology Research Unit in the University of Liverpool, has been appointed to the new post of director of building physics in the Department of Civil Engineering.

Kent

DR. D. J. BARTHOLOMEW, senior lecturer in statistics in the University College of Wales at Aberystwyth, has been appointed professor of statistics. The following titles have also been conferred: *professorships*, Dr. E. F. Caldin (physical chemistry); Dr. G. Rickayzen (theoretical physics).

Miami

PROF. W. J. WHELAN, at present professor of biochemistry in the University of London and head of the Department of Biochemistry at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, has been appointed chairman of the Department of Biochemistry in the University of Miami, Florida.

Reading

THE establishment of a chair in applied optics has been made possible by a £105,000 donation from the Taylor Hobson Division of the Rank Organization. It is hoped the first appointment will be made from October 1, 1967.

Strathclyde

DR. D. S. ROSS, senior lecturer in production engineering, has been appointed to the new chair of production engineering in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Appointments

DR. J. V. BYRNE, professor of oceanography at Oregon State University, has accepted a one-year appointment as programme director for oceanography in the Division of Environmental Sciences at the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C.

Announcements

THE Bristol College of Science and Technology at Bath is to establish a Marine Geophysics Unit under Dr. W. D. Chesterman. The Unit will be chiefly concerned with ultrasonic studies of the continental shelf around the British Isles, and hopes to collaborate with other universities and with the Admiralty Hydrographic Service.

A COMMITTEE on Public Engineering Policy has been formed to provide policy guidance to the U.S. National Academy of Engineering in its official capacity as adviser to the Federal Government on matters of national interest pertinent to engineering, and also to initiate studies dealing with major policy questions in all fields of engineering, and to review reports prepared by other committees organized by the National Academy of Engineering that deal with matters of public policy. DR. C. STARR, vice-president of North American Aviation, Inc., is chairman of the committee, and the following members have also been appointed: L. L. BERANEK, president of Bolt Beranek and Newman, Inc.; P. E. HAGGERTY, president of Texas Instruments, Inc.; H. T. HEALD, partner in Heald, Hobson and Associates; F. A. L. HOLLOWAY, president of Esso Research and Engineering Company; J. R. PIERCE, executive director of research, Communications Sciences Division, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc.; S. RAMO, vice-chairman of the board, TRW, Inc. Dr. Starr has also been appointed dean of engineering in the University of California as from January 1, 1967.

KODAK, LTD., is to make a new series of awards in the form of financial grants to individuals for advanced studies in photography and its applications. The purpose of the awards is to stimulate original thought on problems relating to the photographic process and to extend the use of photography in other fields. Further information can be obtained from the Administrator, Kodak Awards, Kodak House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

A NEW international journal, entitled *Mathematical Biosciences*, is to be published quarterly by American Elsevier Publishing Company, the first issue appearing in January 1967. The journal will publish mathematical papers of both research and expository type devoted to the formulation, analysis and numerical solution of mathematical models in the biosciences, including biology, physiology, bioengineering, ecology, as well as psychology.

A CENTRE for documentation on crystal structure was established last year at Montpellier by the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. The first task undertaken by the centre has been the establishment of an index of university or industrial laboratories concerned with the production of different types of crystal not only in France but also abroad. The centre wishes to extend its contacts with other countries, and further information can be obtained from Madame le Professeur A. M. Vergnoux, Département de Physique Cristalline, Faculté des Sciences, Chemin des Brusses, 34-Montpellier.

THE first summer rencontres in mathematics and physics will take place at the Battelle Seattle Center during July 16-31. The chief topics in 1967 will be differential geometry, topology, relativity and Feynman graphs. Further information can be obtained from C. DeWitt, Department of Physics, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514.

ERRATUM. On p. 557 of the November 5 issue of *Nature* the name of Prof. P. W. Brian, whose appointment as a member of the Agricultural Research Council and election as an ordinary member of Council of the Royal Society of Edinburgh were both announced, was twice mis-spelt and appeared as Prof. P. W. Brain.

CORRESPONDENCE

Men in Wrong Places

SIR,—The publication of the Interim Report of the Working Party on Manpower Parameters for Scientific Growth (Swann Report) will doubtless spark off, in all sorts of minds, all sorts of bright ideas and gimmicks for resolving the apparent conflict between the "wishes of the individual and the needs of society" (your leader of 15th October 1966).

To how many of them will it occur that the most economical, quick and effective way of doing this is to use existing machinery, namely, university appointments boards, which need just a little better tools to do a much better job?

Let this should seem a novel idea to any of your readers, I ought perhaps to explain that a university appointments officer spends most of his days not in compiling statistics of what has happened historically to graduates for the Manpower Resources Committee to misconstrue, but in explaining the needs of society to undergraduate and graduate students (if they don't think it beneath their dignity to consult him); and that the great majority find that the supposed conflict was only apparent after all.

Yours, etc.,
H. V. WALTERS

The Appointments Board,
Universities of Newcastle and Durham.