

Appointments

Mr. D. B. WEIGALL, at present assistant director of engineering at the BBC, has been appointed deputy director of engineering on the retirement of Mr. M. J. D. Pulling. Mr. J. REDMOND, senior superintendent engineer, television, will at the same time become assistant director of engineering, with responsibility for the operations side of the division's work.

Announcements

THE first annual Glaxo travelling awards for British science journalists were made last week to Mr. Anthony Tucker of the *Guardian* and Mr. William Mackie of the Aberdeen *Evening Express*. The awards, which are administered jointly by the National Council for the Training of Journalists and the Association of British Science Writers, are worth £500 and are made by Glaxo, Ltd. It is intended that one award each year shall go to the journalist "who does most to break new ground" in bringing news of science to the general public. The second award goes to a provincial journalist.

THE following have been awarded the three Royal Medals for the current year on the recommendations made by the Council of the Royal Society: J. A. RATCLIFFE, formerly director of the Science Research Council's Radio and Space Research Station, for his studies in the ionosphere and on the propagation of radio waves; DR. F. YATES, deputy director and head of the Department of Statistics and Agricultural Research Statistical Service at Rothamsted Experimental Station, for his contributions to the statistical methods of experimental biology; C. S. COCKERELL, consultant to Hovercraft Development, Ltd., for his pioneering invention, and major contributions to the subsequent development, of hovercraft.

DR. R. A. SAWYER, acting director of the American Institute of Physics, has been awarded the New York Section annual medal award for 1966 of the Society of Applied Spectroscopy.

PROF. BORIS EPHRUSSI and PROF. HARRIETT EPHRUSSI-TAYLOR, at present in the Department of Biology, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, will resume their functions at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Paris and the Laboratoire de Génétique Physiologique of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique at Gif-sur-Yvette, France, as from the beginning of the academic year 1967-68.

THE Westinghouse Electric Corporation in the United States claims to have sold its largest reactor, producing 1,060 MW of electricity, to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company. Work will start on the plant next year and will be finished in 1971.

A SYMPOSIUM on "The Triplet State" is to be held in Beirut during February 14-19. Further information can be had from the Secretary, Symposium on the Triplet State, Physics Department, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Origin and Distribution of the Elements" under the co-sponsorship of the International Association of Geochemistry and Cosmochemistry, Unesco and the International Union of Geological Sciences, originally scheduled for September 21-23, 1966, will now be held in Paris during May 8-10, 1967. Further information can be obtained from Prof. L. H. Ahrens, Department of Geochemistry, University of Cape Town, Rondebosch.

THE next meeting of the International Mineralogical Association will take place in Prague in August, 1968, on the invitation of the Czechoslovak Society for Mineralogy and Geology. At the closing session of the fifth

general meeting, held in Cambridge at the beginning of September, the invitation of the Mineralogical Society of Japan to meet in Tokyo in September 1970 was enthusiastically accepted.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Membrane Structure and Function", sponsored by the Biochemistry Division of the Chemical Institute of Canada and the Canadian Biochemical Society, will be held at the Alpine Inn, St. Marguerite, Quebec, during February 27-March 3. Sessions on electron microscopy, chemistry and composition, membrane structure, model systems and surface films, and membrane transport are scheduled. Further information can be obtained from the Chemical Institute of Canada, 151 Slater Street, Ottawa 4, Ontario.

THE 1967 International Solid-State Circuits Conference, the fourteenth annual meeting, sponsored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the University of Pennsylvania, is to be held in Philadelphia during February 15-17. Further information can be obtained from either Prof. G. B. B. Chaplin, Department of Electrical Engineering Science, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, or Virgil I. Johannes, Room 3E-323, Bell Telephone Laboratories, Inc., Holmdel, New Jersey 07733.

CORRIGENDUM. In the article entitled "Gamma Emitting Radionuclides in Subarctic Vegetation during 1962-64" by Erkki Häsänen and Jorma K. Miettinen, which appeared on p. 379 of the October 22, 1966, issue of *Nature*, in Table 6 the area number corresponding to Inarinjärvi should be 11 and that corresponding to Kilpisjärvi should be 10.

ERRATUM. In the announcement of Royal Society Visiting Professorships in *Nature*, 212, 661-2 (1966), Professor L. Fowden was incorrectly described as Director of the A.R.C. Unit of Nitrogen Fixation. That post is held by Professor J. Chatt.

CORRESPONDENCE

Men in Wrong Places

SIR,—You have recently devoted a good deal of space to the Triennial Survey of Sir Willis Jackson's Committee on Manpower Resources for Science and Technology, and the Interim Report of my own Working Party on Manpower Parameters for Scientific Growth. Like Sir Willis Jackson, I welcome this public discussion of the serious manpower problems that now face us.

In your perceptive editorial, you imply that the Swann Committee is stronger on diagnosis than on cure. And on this, as on most of the other points you make, I agree with you. Our interim report was, in fact, only intended to be a diagnosis. But in our final report we hope to examine possible cures in a good deal more detail, and in this we should welcome assistance from the scientific world at large.

No doubt many of your readers will have ideas on how a greater proportion of the best scientific talent can be encouraged to go into industry and school-teaching, without at the same time endangering the highly successful university research structure that has been built up in recent years. If so, I invite them to write to me at the address below.

Yours faithfully,

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Principal and Vice-Chancellor

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