

the normal deltaic processes. The observations on the grade of the Coal Measures rocks of the area are also, in my opinion, too sweeping and need to be more precisely stated.

Despite these criticisms I feel that Spink has made a useful contribution to our knowledge of the geology of these coalfields and wish to make it clear that the National Coal Board is only too willing to make the geological information obtained from its deep mining activities freely available to serious researchers of the subject.

Yours faithfully,

G. ARMSTRONG

National Coal Board,
Hobart House,
Grosvenor Place,
London SW1.

What will Happen to Geology?

SIR,—It is not my intention to comment on the main theme of the interesting and provocative article entitled "What will Happen to Geology?" published in your issue of March 8 (221, 903; 1969) but to correct a misunderstanding in the article on the usage of this council's research vessel John Murray. This ship was provided specifically for university departments to carry out marine research; the needs of the IGS to study the geology of the continental shelf are met by hiring suitable ships and equipping them for the purpose. The limitations implied by your article have therefore not occurred.

Yours faithfully,

R. L. J. WRAIGHT

Natural Environment Research Council,
Alhambra House,
27-33 Charing Cross Road,
London WC2.

Demise of a Department

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to your discussion of the proposal to close the Department of the History and Philosophy of Science at University College London (*Nature*, 221, 995; 1969). You show that this would reduce the establishment of the college by four, and add that "eventually a second readership would lapse". In case the chairman of the University Grants Committee reads your article and thinks that this further reduction in the number of senior posts is imminent, I wish to point out that the readership in question is mine, and that it is due to lapse when I retire, about 1990.

You should know that Professor P. K. Feyerabend is on the staff of this department, not the Philosophy Department; that at least thirteen of our former students are lecturers, readers or professors at other universities, not a handful; that we have about twenty MSc students, not a dozen; and that we also have nearly twenty PhD candidates, and not just "the occasional" one.

Yours faithfully,

W. A. SMEATON

Department of the History and
Philosophy of Science,
University College London,
Gower Street,
London WC1.

University News

Professor G. V. Raynor, dean of the faculty of science and engineering, has been appointed deputy principal at the **University of Birmingham**.

Professor A. R. Battersby, University of Liverpool, has been elected professor of organic chemistry at the **University of Cambridge**.

Professor G. W. Mackey has been elected to the new Landon T. Clay professorship of mathematics and theoretical science at **Harvard University**.

Four new professorships in aspects of urban life, provided by a grant from the Ford Foundation, have been established at **Harvard University**. Dr J. F. Kain has been elected professor in economics, Dr L. Rainwater professor in sociology, Dr N. Glazer professor in education and social structure, and Dr F. E. Smith professor in advanced environmental studies in resources and ecology.

Dr E. A. Friedman, Chicago Medical School, has been appointed professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at **Harvard University**.

Dr C. M. Pierce has been appointed professor of education and psychiatry at **Harvard University**.

The title of professor of medicine has been conferred on **Dr T. R. E. Pilkington**, St George's Hospital Medical School, **University of London**.

The title of professor of histopathology has been conferred on **Dr G. B. D. Scott**, Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine.

The title of professor of pharmacognosy has been conferred on **Dr E. J. Shellard**, Chelsea College of Science and Technology.

Appointments

Mr C. W. Mallinson, County Treasurer, West Sussex County Council, has been appointed deputy chairman of the **National Computing Centre**.

Mr S. Spain has been appointed head of the Electrical, Chemical and Shipbuilding Industries Division of the Ministry of Technology.

Dr J. Raftery has been elected president of the **Royal Irish Academy**; **Dr V. C. Barry** has been elected treasurer.

Announcements

Alfred North Whitehead Fellowships for advanced study in education at Harvard University have been awarded to Mr R. H. de Lone, Professor T. F. Green, Mr J. W. Guthrie, Mr S. Halperin, Mr K. Haskins, Mr T. E. Nelson, Mr K. R. Plath and Mr M. Trammel. They will use the university's resources and those of the Cambridge-Boston community for a year of independent study.

The **Bertner Foundation Award** of the University of Texas M. D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute at Houston will be awarded to **Professor Boris Ephrussi**, director of the Centre de Genetique Moleculaire, Centre Nationale de la Recherche Scientifique of France, for his contribution to cancer research; **Dr T. S. Painter**, professor emeritus of zoology at the University of Texas, will receive the first **Anderson Award** for scientific creativity and teaching.

The **American Institute of Physics** and the **United States Steel Foundation** have instituted a new science writing prize for physicists and astronomers. Material submitted must have appeared in newspapers, magazines or books intended for the general public between June 1, 1968, and May 31, 1969. Further information may be obtained from the Public Relations Division, American Institute of Physics, 335 East 45th Street, New York, NY 10017, USA.

International Meetings

April 7-10, **Chemistry of Interfaces**, Lunteren (Mr J. W. Th. Lichtenbelt, Van't Hoff Laboratory, Sterrenbos 19, Utrecht, Netherlands).

April 8-10, **Computer Processing in Communications**, New York (Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, 333 Jay Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, USA).

April 18-21, **Medicine, Pharmacy and Population in the 18th Century**, Nottingham (British Society for History of Pharmacy).

April 19, **British Society for Social Responsibility in Science**, London (Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1).

July 21-24, **Clustering Phenomena in Nuclei**, Bochum (H. v. Buttler, Physics Department, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, D463 Bochum, Federal Republic of Germany).

August 4-15, **NATO Advance Study Institute in Vertebrate Evolution: Mechanism and Process**, Istanbul (M. K. Hecht, Department of Biology, Queens College, Flushing, New York, NY 11367, USA).

September 11-12, **Sulphur in Nutrition**, Oregon (J. E. Oldfield, Chairman, Symposium on Sulphur in Nutrition, Oregon State University, Withycombe Hall, Corvallis, Oregon 97331, USA).

September 15-18, **Internal Medicine**, Warsaw (Professor Marian Tulezyski, ul. Lekarska 11, Warszawa 22, Poland).

September 23-25, **Microcinematography as a Research Method in Cytology**, Hradec Kralove (Secretariat of the Organizational Committee, Biological Department, Faculty of Medicine, Charles University, Simkova 870, Hradec Kralove, Czechoslovakia).

September 24-27, **Amorphous and Liquid Semiconductors**, Cambridge (Professor Sir Nevill Mott, Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, UK).

September 29-October 2, **International Orbiting Laboratory and Space Sciences**, New Mexico (Dr E. A. Steinhoff, Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, School of Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA).

Sabbatical Itinerants

In the hope of providing some practical assistance in the good cause of mobility between laboratories, *Nature* advertises the needs for housing of families about to take up periods of sabbatical leave. To begin with, no charge will be made for advertisements like this. It is hoped that a period of experiment will show what form these advertisements could most usefully take and whether they are effective.

WANTED: Furnished one-room plus bath and kitchenette flat for three months from October for single professor of genetics at American medical college. Easy access to University College London important. Please contact Walter Landauer, Animal Genetics, University College London, 4 Peterson Way, London NW1.

WANTED: Furnished room or flat with cooking facilities for American medical student and wife for July and August, within reach of the Royal Army Medical College, Chelsea, London. Please contact R. D. Swartz, 1008 Island Drive Court, Apartment 101, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105, USA.

VACANT: Furnished house, four bedrooms, in Highgate, 5 miles from the centre of London. Available from early July to mid-September 1969. Please contact L. V. Crawford, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2.

BRITISH DIARY

Tuesday, April 8

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRONIC AND RADIO ENGINEERS, EAST ANGLIAN SECTION (joint meeting with the IEE, at the Civic Centre, Duke Street, Chelmsford), at 7 p.m.—Mr P. J. Cott: "Receivers for Satellite Ground Stations".

Wednesday, April 9

INSTITUTE OF REFRIGERATION (joint meeting with the Institute of Food Science and Technology, at the University of Aston, Birmingham)—All-day meeting on "The Cold Chain".

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (at the Royal Aeronautical Society, 4 Hamilton Place, London, W1), at 6 p.m.—Discussion meeting on "Safety Analysis of the Design of Complex Systems" opened by Mr C. M. Copage, Mr E. Lloyd, Mr T. A. McMullin and Mr G. Southcombe.

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRONIC AND RADIO ENGINEERS, NORTH EASTERN SECTION (at the Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne), at 6 p.m.—Mr J. K. F. Jowett: "Satellite Communications—State of the Art".

PLASTICS INSTITUTE, SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE SECTION (at the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, Cardiff), at 7.15 p.m.—Mr G. H. Arnold: "Chlorinated PVC".

PLASTICS INSTITUTE, SOUTHERN SECTION (at the Polygon Hotel, Southampton), at 7.30 p.m.—Mr P. W. Milner: "Getting the Best from Polymer Blends".

Wednesday, April 9—Friday, April 11

INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS (at the University of Warwick)—Symposium on "Technical Advances in Gas Turbine Design".

Thursday, April 10

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRONIC AND RADIO ENGINEERS, JOINT IERE/IEE COMPUTER GROUPS (at 9 Bedford Square, London, WC1), at 6 p.m.—Colloquium on "Modern Trends in Magnetic Disc Storage".

INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, FLUID PLANT AND MACHINERY GROUP (at 1 Birdcage Walk, London, SW1), at 6 p.m.—Discussion on "The Practical Importance of Transient Phenomena in Fluid Power Circuits".

NORTH EAST METALLURGICAL SOCIETY (at the Cleveland Scientific Institution, Corporation Road, Middlesbrough), at 7.30 p.m.—Mr E. W. Voice: "The Role of Research in Ironmaking".

Thursday, April 10—Friday, April 11

UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD, in association with the Faraday Society (at the University)—Informal discussion on "Developments in Polymerisation".

Friday, April 11

HOSPITAL PHYSICISTS' ASSOCIATION; and the INSTITUTE OF UROLOGY (at the Royal College of Surgeons, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.2), at 10.30 a.m.—Meeting on "Science and Technology in Renal Dialysis".

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (at Savoy Place, London, WC2), at 5.30 p.m.—Mr A. W. Stannett, Mr A. J. Lambeth, Mr D. J. Parr, Mr R. M. Scarisbrick, Mr A. Wilson and Mr R. G. Kingston: "Resin-bonded Glass Fibre Outdoor hv Insulators".

SOCIETY OF COSMETIC CHEMISTS OF GREAT BRITAIN (at the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, London, WC2), at 7.30 p.m.—Dr I. Sarkany: "Organ Culture of Skin".

Monday, April 14

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS (at Savoy Place, London, WC2), at 5.30 p.m.—Discussion meeting on "Switchgear Arcs" opened by Dr W. Rieder.

Monday, April 14—Tuesday, April 15

LINNEAN SOCIETY OF LONDON (at the University of Sheffield)—Symposium on "Biosystematics and Taxonomy of Higher Plants".

Monday, April 14—Wednesday, April 16

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH COUNCIL (at the Meat Research Institute, Langford, Bristol)—Symposium on "The Production of Meat from Male Animals".

INSTITUTION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS, in association with the Royal Institute of Chemistry; the Institution of Chemical Engineers; and the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society (at Imperial College, London, SW7)—Conference on "Influence of Electric and Magnetic Fields on Chemical Engineering".

Monday, April 14—Friday, April 18

CHEMICAL SOCIETY; and THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY (at the University of Nottingham)—Joint Annual Meetings.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON FRACTURE (at the Metropole Hotel, Brighton)—Second International Conference on "Fracture".

REPORTS and other PUBLICATIONS

(not included in the monthly Books Supplement)

Great Britain and Ireland

Radiation Protection. ICRP Publication 12: General Principles of Monitoring for Radiation Protection of Workers—a Report by Committee 4 of the International Commission on Radiological Protection. Pp. v+24. (Oxford, London and New York: Pergamon Press, 1969. Published for The International Commission on Radiological Protection.) 15s.; \$2. [142