

Announcements

Sir Eric Mensforth has been elected chairman of the **Council of Engineering Institutions** for 1970 in succession to **Sir Leonard Drucquer**, and **Sir Arnold Lindley** has been elected vice-chairman.

The **Drummond Prize**, an annual prize of £250, is to be awarded for research in the field of nutrition. The prize will be open to competition among people who have not reached the age of 35 by the closing date, and will be awarded for research undertaken by people normally resident in the UK, although research cited may have been carried out overseas. Details may be obtained from Mr D. S. Miller, Hon. Secretary, Nutrition Society, Queen Elizabeth College, London W8, to whom applications and nominations should be sent before January 14, 1970.

The **Plastics and Polymer Group** of the Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) awards an annual prize of £50 for the best paper on any aspect of pure or applied polymer science. The competition is open to all British subjects whether or not they are members of the SCI and to overseas members of the SCI. Further details may be obtained from Plastics and Polymer Group Prize, c/o Society of Chemical Industry, 14 Belgrave Square, London SW1, where entries should be sent before March 31, 1970.

The 1969 **Albert Lasker Award for Clinical Medical Research** has been awarded to **Dr G. C. Cotzias** (Brookhaven National Laboratory) for the research which led to the treatment of Parkinson's disease with L-DOPA. **Dr B. Merrifield** (the Rockefeller University) has been awarded the 1969 **Albert Lasker Award for Basic Medical Research** for his work on the synthesis of polypeptides and proteins.

The **Kalinga Prize** for the popularization of science, which is awarded each year by an international jury chosen by Unesco, has been awarded this year to **Sir Gavin de Beer**, formerly director of the British Museum (Natural History).

The **Lampitt Medal** of the Society of Chemical Industry, which is awarded every two or three years for services to the society, has been awarded to **Mr F. Gamble**, honorary secretary of the Canadian Section of the society.

The 1969 **John Gamble Kirkwood Medal**, which is awarded annually by the Yale department of chemistry and the New Haven section of the American Chemical Society, has been awarded to **Professor N. Bartlett**, University of California (Berkeley), for his discovery of new reactions of the rare, heavy gas xenon, which led him to synthesize the compound xenon fluoroplatinate.

ERRATUM. In the article "Distribution and Temperature of Interstellar Electron Gas" by A. H. Bridle and V. R. Venugopal (*Nature*, **224**, 545; 1969), in line 44 for " $\langle R \rangle = 0.011 \pm 0.03$ " read " $\langle R \rangle = 0.11 \pm 0.03$ ". In line 70, for " $\tau(10) = 0.010 \pm 0.02$ " read " $\tau(10) = 0.10 \pm 0.02$ ".

CORRIGENDUM. In the article "Observations on the Hydraulics of *Ascidia*" by I. Goodbody and E. R. Trueman (*Nature*, **224**, 85; 1969), line 18 in the sixth paragraph, "the mantle, the left side adjacent to the branchial sac" should read "the mantle, the right side adjacent to the branchial sac".

ERRATUM. We regret that in the article "Placenta Critics Placated" (*Nature*, **224**, 747; 1969) the name of Dr W. D. Billington was in several instances misspelt as Billingham. We apologize to him for the mistake.

British Diary

Monday, December 1

- Anniversary Meeting** (2.30 p.m.) Royal Society, at 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1.
- Development on Concorde** (7 p.m.) Mr H. Hill, Institution of Electrical Engineers, at the Royal Star, Maidstone, Kent.
- Education and Careers in the Rubber Industry** (8 p.m.) Institution of the Rubber Industry, at the Angel Hotel, Cardiff.
- In This World, Many Odours** (7.30 p.m.) Dr W. McCartney, British Society of Perfumers, at the Royal Society of Arts, John Adam Street, London WC2.
- Molecules** (2.30 p.m. Civil Service Lecture) Professor G. Porter, FRS, Royal Institution, at 21 Albemarle Street, London W1.
- Recent Advances in Electrochemistry** (6.30 p.m.) Professor G. Hills, Society of Chemical Industry, at 14 Belgrave Square, London SW1.
- The Systems Approach** (5.30 p.m.) Professor G. M. Jenkins, Institution of Electrical Engineers; the Institute of Measurement and Control, and the I.Mech.E., at Savoy Place, London WC2.
- Viral Hepatitis and Hepatitis Viruses** (1 p.m.) Professor A. P. Waterson, University of London, at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School, DuCane Road, London W12.

Tuesday, December 2

- Annual General Meeting and Scientific Papers** (2 p.m.) Society for Analytical Chemistry, Atomic Absorption Spectroscopy Group, at the Geological Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1.
- Quenched and Tempered Pressure Vessels** (whole-day discussion) Institution of Mechanical Engineers, at 1 Birdcage Walk, London SW1.
- Safety of Nuclear Power Stations** (1.20 p.m.) Dr J. Lewins, University of London, at University College London, Gower Street, London WC1.
- Statutory Requirements for Biological Substances of the B.P.** (6 p.m. informal discussion) Society for Analytical Chemistry, Biological Methods Group, at the "Feathers" Restaurant, Tudor Street, London EC4.
- Synaptic Transmission in the Central Nervous System** (5.30 p.m.) Dr J. Diamond, University of London, at the Institute of Child Health, Gullford Street, London WC1.
- The Design of Active Filters** (6 p.m.) Dr A. G. J. Holt, Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers, at 9 Bedford Square, London WC1.
- The Specification of Fan Performance** (6 p.m. discussion) Institution of Mechanical Engineers, at 1 Birdcage Walk, London SW1.

Wednesday, December 3

- Advances in Hardware Components in Process Plants** (9.30 a.m. symposium) Institution of Chemical Engineers, at the University of Aston in Birmingham.
- Biological Rhythms** (7 p.m.) Prof F. A. Jenner, University of London, at the Institute of Neurology, The National Hospital, Queen Square, London WC1.
- Electrical Aspects of Spacecraft** (7.30 p.m.) Mr J. H. Sketch, Institution of Electrical Engineers, at Mullard Research Laboratories, Salfords, Redhill.
- Industrial Relations** (6 p.m.) The Rt Hon George Woodcock, CBE, Plastics Institute, at the Great Western Hotel, Paddington W2.
- Nuclear Methods in Trace Element Analysis** (7 p.m.) Mr A. A. Smales, Society for Analytical Chemistry; and the Royal Institute of Chemistry, at the College of Technology, Huddersfield.
- Photography in Engineering** (two-day conference) Institution of Mechanical Engineers; the I.Mech.E., and the Royal Photographic Society, at 1 Birdcage Walk, London SW1.
- Prospects for Future Developments in Ultrasonic Diagnostics** (whole-day meeting) British Institute of Radiology; and the Hospital Physicists Association, at 32 Welbeck Street, London W1.
- The Ceramic Colour Standards** (3 p.m.) Dr F. J. J. Clarke, Mr G. E. V. Lambert and Mr F. Malkin, Colour Group (Great Britain), in the Physics Building, Imperial College, London SW7.
- Your Choice—Careers Convention** (3.30 p.m.) Institution of Chemical Engineers, Graduates and Students Section, at University College London, Gower Street, London WC1.

Thursday, December 4

- Computer-Based Telemetry Systems for Distribution Management** (6 p.m.) Mr R. A. F. Smythers, Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers, at 9 Bedford Square, London WC1.
- Emulsion Polymerization of Vinyl Acetate** (6.30 p.m.) Mr A. Laws, Oil and Colour Chemists' Association, at the Royal Turks Head Hotel, Grey Street, Newcastle upon Tyne.
- Field Application of Hermetic and Semi-Hermetic Compressors** (6 p.m.) Mr F. W. Harris, Institute of Refrigeration, at the National College for Heating, Ventilating, Refrigeration and Fan Engineering, Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1.
- Lymphography** (5.45 p.m. discussion); **The British Institute of Radiology—Evaluating the Assets** (7.15 p.m.) Mr H. W. Grover, British Institute of Radiology, at 32 Welbeck Street, London W1.
- Practical Application of Computers to the Control of Chemical Plant** (6.30 p.m.) Mr E. I. Lowe, Institution of Chemical Engineers, at Widnes Technical College, Widnes.
- Regulation by Insulin of Protein and Amino-Acid Metabolism** (5.30 p.m.) Dr K. L. Manchester, University of London, at the Institute of Child Health, Gullford Street, London WC1.
- South American Triassic Reptiles, Gondwanaland** (5.30 p.m.) Professor A. S. Romer, in the Anatomy Theatre, University College London, Gower Street, London WC1.