

Announcements

Award

The Belgian Academy of Medicine has awarded the Pfizer Prize 1972-1973 to **Professor Jacques E. Dumont** of the Institute of Interdisciplinary Research, School of Medicine, University of Brussels.

Appointments

Dr Arturo Gomez-Pompa has been elected chairman of the International Co-ordinating Council of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme.

Dr Frank Read has been made a Professor in the Department of Physics at the University of Manchester.

Professor Sela has been inaugurated as president of the Weizman Institute.

International meetings

January 28-29, **The northern great barrier reef**, London (The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG, UK).

February 2-6, **Nuclear techniques in animal production and health as related to the soil-plant system**, Vienna (H. D. Hamel, Joint FAO/IAEA Division of Atomic Energy in Food and Agricul-

ture, Kärntner Ring 11, P.O. Box 590, A-1011 Vienna, Austria).

February 4, **Replacement of biological methods by chemical and physical methods**, London (Chemical Society, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN, UK).

February 5-7, **Applied clinical immunology**, Houston (The Office of the Director, The University of Texas Health Service Centre at Houston, Division of Continuing Education, P.O. Box 20367, Houston, Texas 77025, USA).

February 11, **Techniques for the determination of traces of volatile compounds**, London (Chemical Society, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN, UK).

February 18, **Analysis of pesticides**, Chesterford Park (Chemical Society, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN, UK).

February 18, **Adhesion of thin films**, London (The meetings officer, Institute of Physics, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QX, UK).

February 18-19, **Contraceptives of the future**, London (The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG, UK).

February 26-27, **Methods and applications of ranging to artificial satellites and the moon**, London (The Royal Society, 6 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AG, UK).

Answers to Christmas quiz

1. (a) Not necessarily (see *Nature*, 256, 206; 1975).

(b) Nägeli the botanist and other naturalists failed to recognise their importance; Mendel became involved with administration on his appointment as abbot of his monastery, and as his girth expanded Mendel found it increasingly difficult to reach his pea plants (especially the short breed).

2. Norbert Wiener entered college at the age of 11 and gained his PhD at 18. The others were retarded to the extent of only starting college at 14/15 and not obtaining their doctorates until 21/22.

3. Both had to overcome a severe physical handicap. Sumner had his left arm amputated as a teenager. Cornforth has been completely deaf from birth.

4. The female deep sea angler fish can be 500,000 times heavier than the male.

5. Notorious, directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Professor R. A. Millikan told him that the whole idea of an atomic bomb was ridiculous, but the FBI still kept Hitchcock under surveillance for 3 months.

6. (a) *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* by Jules Verne;

(b) *The War in the Air* by H. G. Wells;

(c) *The Unparalleled Invasion* by Jack London;

(d) *The Space Merchants* by Frederick Pohl and Cyril Kornbluth.

7. Letters and postcards between Albert Einstein and Willem de Sitter were found at Princeton and Leiden. They discussed the nature of the Universe.

8. In January this year Dr J. D. Isaacs and colleagues suggested that cars driven constantly on one side of the road can create atmospheric vorticity, leading to the formation of tornadoes (see *Nature*, 253, 254; 1975).

9. When deprived of vitamin B₁₂, some bats develop symptoms of demyelination. They may provide a useful system for research (see *Nature*, 254, 148; 1975).

10. Amphetamine, synthesised in 1927, was first used clinically in 1935. It produces a state of well being, decreases appetite and increases physical activity.

11. There is an excess of persons born in the first 3 or 4 months of the year in samples of schizophrenic

Reports and publications

Mammals of the Wankie National Park, Rhodesia. By V. J. Wilson (Museum Memoir, No. 5). Pp. 147. (Salisbury: The Trustees of the National Museums and Monuments of Rhodesia, 1975.) [1010]

Congress Against the President. Edited by Harvey C. Mansfield, Sr. Pp. 200. (New York: The Academy of Political Science, 1975.) [1010]

Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology, No. 202: Cyclopoidea Copepods (Nanaspidae and Sabelli-philidae) Associated with Holothurians in New Caledonia. By Arthur G. Humes. Pp. iii + 41. (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1975. For sale by US Government Printing Office.) [1010]

Publications of the United States Naval Observatory, Second Series, Vol. XXIV, Part 1: Third Catalog of Trigonometric Parallaxes of Faint Stars. By R. S. Harrington, et al. Pp. 30. (Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 1975.) [1010]

Smithsonian Contributions to the Earth Sciences, No. 13. Distinctive Properties of Turbiditic and Hemipelagic Mud Layers in the Algeiro-Balearic Basin, Western Mediterranean Sea. By Nicolaas A. Rupke and Daniel Jean Stanley. Pp. iii + 40. (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1974. For sale by US Government Printing Office.) 95 cents. [1310]

United States Department of the Interior: Geological Survey, Bulletin 1395-H. Geologic Setting of the Glacier Peak and Mazama Ash-Bed Markers in West-Central Montana. (Contributions to Stratigraphy.) By R. W. Lemke, M. R. Mudge, Ray E. Wilcox and H. A. Powers. Pp. iii + 31. Professional Paper 877: The Black Hills-Rapid City Flood of June 9-10, 1972: A Description of the Storm and Flood. By Francis K. Schwarz, Lawrence A. Hughes, E. Marshall Hansen, M. S. Petersen and Donovan B. Kelly. Pp. vi + 47. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1975.) [1310]

Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology, No. 206: The Echinoids of Carrie Bow Cay, Belize. By Porter M. Kier. Pp. iii + 45. (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1975. For sale by US Government Printing Office.) [1710]

Theories of Nature and Physics. By Herbert A. Bosch. Pp. 40. (Box 12, Little Falls, Minnesota: Herbert A. Bosch, 1975.) [1710]

United States Department of the Interior: Geological Survey, Water-Supply Paper 2123: Surface Water Supply of the United States, 1966-70. Part 8: Western Gulf of Mexico Basins, Vol. 2: Basins from Lavaca River to Rio Grande. Pp. ix + 861. \$5.70. Water-Supply Paper 2134: Surface Water Supply of the United States, 1966-70. Part 13: Snake River Basin. Pp. ix + 821. \$5.50. Water-Supply Paper 2155: Quality of Surface Waters of the United States, 1970. Part 6: Missouri River Basin. Pp. xi + 554. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1974 and 1975.) [1710]

patients. This is called the season-of-birth effect.

12. In 1665 *Philosophical Transactions* was founded by Henry Oldenburg, Secretary of the Royal Society.

13. David Davies, editor of *Nature*, seen through the eyes of daughter Rebecca (see *Nature*, 254, April 3; 1975, front cover).

14. Charles Wheatstone (see *Nature*, 256, 532; 1975).

15. Members of the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center at Cornell University in a message beamed to globular cluster M13, 24,000 light years away. *Nature*, failing to appreciate the subtleties optimistically aimed at our potential cosmic correspondents, printed the pictorial message the wrong way up. (see *Nature*, 253, 230; 1975).

16. Most people working on the structure of chromatin (see *Nature*, 257, 177; 1975).

17. (a) Miguel de Unamuno, *The Tragic Sense of Life*, page 90;

(b) O. W. Holmes, *Medical Essays*, page 211;

(c) Plato, *Theoetetus*, section 1.82;

(d) Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, book 5, part 3, section 3.