

Commonwealth, and possibly of Western Europe (study in the United States is already provided for by the Commonwealth Fund of America). A scheme was started by the Foundation three years ago for young farmers in Great Britain to travel abroad to study their own particular interests in farming and the wider problems of farming generally. Visits were made to Europe, America, Australia and New Zealand, and the scheme has been highly successful. It will continue until 1954, seven or eight scholarships a year being offered, each for not less than six months, and £21,400 has been set aside for the purpose. As regards the medical fellowships of the Foundation, a change of policy has taken place, and it has been decided that in future a unified medical scheme will be offered whereby a number of fellowships will be open to highly qualified and promising medical men and women who wish to train further for senior appointments in teaching or research, with preference to those specializing in child health, social medicine, industrial health, psychiatry and chronic rheumatism. £50,000 has been provisionally allotted for these fellowships, which will be worth £900-1,300 a year, for one to three years. The fellowships and scholarships in dentistry and travelling awards in extraction metallurgy will carry on as before. Altogether, during the first six years of its work, the Nuffield Foundation has spent nearly £465,000 on fellowship awards.

University Foundation, Brussels : Annual Report

THE eighteenth annual report, covering the year 1947-48 (pp. 102; Bruxelles: Fondation Universitaire, 1949), of the University Foundation, Brussels, established in 1920 to assist young Belgians without means to enter higher educational institutions and to develop scientific production in Belgium, besides containing the lists of members of Council and the Publication and Grants and Library Committees and the financial statement, includes the regulations under which loans are made and some statistics for universities and high schools in Belgium. Of the 631 loans made during the year, 552 were to men and 79 to women, and 213 of these, amounting to 1,075,000 francs, went to students at the University of Brussels; other loans to students, with corresponding monetary totals, were: 80 (399,000) at Ghent, 79 (392,000) at Liège, 175 (874,000) at Louvain, 10 (115,000) at the Colonial University, Antwerp, and 21 (102,500) at the State Agronomic Institute, Gembloux. A further eighteen loans, amounting to 121,000 francs, were made to young persons for study abroad or for obtaining a supplementary diploma. Subsidies for publications during the year totalled 1,542,500 francs. Lists of institutions with which the Foundation exchanged publications during the year and to which the Foundation offered hospitality are also included, together with: a full list of recipients of grants; some notes on institutions, such as the National Foundation for Scientific Research, the Francqui Foundation and the National Cancer Foundation, with the work of which the Foundation has been associated; and notes on the exchange of professors with the United States and the arrangements for Americans to study in Belgian universities.

Grants by Private Industry to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

THE president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. James R. Killian, jun., has recently announced that the Institute has received industrial

grants-in-aid totalling 800,000 dollars, thus bringing the total gifts to the Institute in its current development programme to 6,526,914 dollars. These new grants include 250,000 dollars from the United Fruit Co. of Boston; 50,000 dollars from an unnamed Massachusetts corporation; 250,000 dollars from the Cities Service Research and Development Co. of New York; and 250,000 dollars from the Standard Oil Co. of California. The grant of the United Fruit Co. is earmarked to be invested with endowment and other funds until the capital may be spent, upon mutual agreement between the Company and the Institute, and in the meantime the income from invested funds will be allocated each year to fields jointly selected by the two parties. These fields include such projects as the Laboratory for Biology and Food Technology and the entire range of the activities of the Institute that are unclassified from the point of view of government security. Income from the fund may be applied to fellowships, operating expenses and other appropriate types of expenditure. The Standard Oil Co. of California has specified that a substantial part of its grant be applied to chemical engineering and chemistry, nuclear science and engineering, and research projects in lubrication, friction, and wear and corrosion. The grant of the Cities Service Research and Development Co. is to be applied to research and development work in the fields of nuclear physics and chemistry, mechanical engineering (including lubrication, gas turbines and internal-combustion reciprocating engines), and chemistry and chemical engineering (including fluidization of finely powdered solids and studies of hydrocarbons). The grant is payable at the rate of 50,000 dollars a year.

Epidemic Diseases of Wildfowl

IN the United States, wildfowl have been suffering from epidemic diseases, and, though there is no reason to believe that any such epidemics are likely to occur in the British Isles, investigations are being made into causes of mortality among wildfowl in Great Britain. Comparatively few wild ducks are picked up dead; but should any carcasses be found it is possible that the birds may have died from some disease and that a post-mortem examination would be of value. Carcasses should be forwarded to the Pathologist, Prosectorium, Zoological Society of London, Regent's Park, London, N.W.8, as quickly as possible after finding, as the longer the post-mortem examination is delayed the less likelihood there is of determining the cause of death. The birds should be carefully wrapped in paper and packed in a box in order to comply with an international post-office agreement, which stipulates that there must be no leakage from pathological specimens. The name and address of the sender, the place, and the locality and date of finding should be enclosed in the parcel. Postage will be refunded. Birds affected by oil should *not* be forwarded.

Field Scientific Liaison Work of Unesco

THE Field Scientific Liaison Work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation is described in a well-produced pamphlet recently issued by the Organisation (Pub. 361. Pp. 68; Paris: Unesco; London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1949; 1s. 6d.). Popularly but well written, it is addressed to educated people everywhere; and after a brief account of earlier international co-operation in science, including the work of the