

United States National Committee for the Development of Scientists and Engineers

WHEN he announced, on April 3, the establishment in the United States of a National Committee for the Development of Scientists and Engineers, President Eisenhower said: "The National Science Foundation will provide staff services for the Committee and provide leadership to other departments and agencies in carrying forward activities which will contribute to a solution of the problem". The director of the Foundation, Dr. Alan T. Waterman, has recently welcomed this statement and reiterated the important part played by science and technology in the economy of the United States. Dr. Waterman emphasized that the problem of increasing the number of scientists and engineers in the United States is essentially one of educating American youth—a limited amount of education in the sciences for all young people and first-rate advanced training for the small proportion who show the necessary aptitude. Efforts must be made on a local scale all over the country, and the National Committee must stimulate non-Federal groups to encourage State and local approaches to the problem. On the national scale the various agencies of the Federal Government—notably the Department of Defense, Atomic Energy Commission, and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare—are keenly interested in the furthering of science and technology, and the National Science Foundation will co-operate with these agencies in supporting the programme of the Committee.

Scientists for Colonial Research

A QUESTION was asked in the House of Commons regarding the steps being taken to implement the proposals of the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy for home-based pools of scientists for use on Colonial problems. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works, representing the Lord President of the Council, in a written reply, said that such pools have been established at the instance of the Secretary of State for the Colonies at a number of agricultural research institutions and also at certain stations of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Some research on Colonial medical problems is also based on the United Kingdom. A new post is being set up for research on stored products, and two pools of scientists have recently been enlarged.

Re-development of the British Museum Library

THE Advisory Council on Scientific Policy in its seventh report supported proposals for a central reference library in London or for a national science lending library, and for a science centre, of which they would form part. These proposals were not mentioned in the debate on the new British Museum Library, usually referred to as the National Library, which Mrs. L. Seger raised on the adjournment in the House of Commons on April 10, though they are related to that scheme in so far as the discarding of literature more than fifty years old is concerned. Mr. J. R. Bevens, replying for the Government, stated that under the present plans the first relatively small stage of re-development of the British Museum Library would not take place before about ten years, and that the second stage was not expected to start before 1975, and would probably be later. It would seem from these comments that the Government

has no present intention of implementing the proposals for a science centre and its related library facilities.

Advisory Council of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization

THE following have been appointed new members of the Advisory Council of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Australia: Prof. N. S. Bayliss, Chemistry Department, University of Western Australia; Dr. A. R. Callaghan, director of agriculture, South Australia; Prof. H. R. Carne, professor of veterinary pathology and bacteriology, University of Sydney; Mr. T. A. Frankcomb, Tasmanian fruit- and hop-grower; Mr. A. McCulloch, chief engineer, Southern Electric Authority of Queensland; Prof. W. W. Macfarlane, Department of Physiology, University of Queensland; Mr. M. A. Mawby, vice-chairman of Consolidated Zinc Pty., Ltd., and commissioner of the Australian Aluminium Production Commission; Mr. W. W. Pettingell, general manager, Australian Gas Light Co.; Mr. W. J. Russell, Western Australian grazier; Mr. E. M. Schroder, managing director, Adelaide Cement Co., Ltd.; Mr. H. B. Somerset, managing director, Associated Pulp and Paper Mills, Ltd.; Prof. A. D. Trendall, master of University House, Australian National University; Prof. J. S. Turner, Botany Department, University of Melbourne; and Dr. J. Vernon, senior executive officer, Colonial Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.

The Scientist and Society

AN address, "The Dilemma of the Scientist", given on August 25 by Dr. J. Bronowski at the annual conference of the International Liaison Committee of Organizations for Peace, held in The Netherlands at Oosterbeek, has been published by the National Peace Council as No. 59 in the series of Peace Aims Pamphlets (pp. 10. London, 1955; 9d.). Dr. Bronowski points out that the main responsibility for the dangers which confront the world to-day rests on the peoples and governments and not on the scientist as such, who is not the keeper of the nation's policy. He is, however, the keeper of his own personal conscience, and Dr. Bronowski urges that governments have a duty to make it possible for the scientist to exercise his conscience and decline to participate in particular projects which are distasteful to him. Dr. Bronowski points out that, once a scientist touches the fringe of a secret subject, it is practically impossible for him to withdraw. The scientist's great responsibility, he argues, is to see that the public is sufficiently well informed on the scientific issues to vote wisely and thus secure sound decisions of policy; and a government has a further responsibility to see that scientists have the opportunity to speak freely on such issues. Dr. Bronowski concluded his address by indicating briefly the way in which the continuance of science itself as well as of a free society depends on the preservation of this right of discussion and dissent.

World List of Biological Periodicals during 1950-54

UNDER the title "Biological Sciences Serial Publications: A World List, 1950-1954", *Biological Abstracts* has published for the United States Library of Congress a list of biological periodicals that appeared during 1950-54 (pp. 270. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 1955; 2 dollars). Publications devoted entirely to medical and applied