

tinguished for his researches in phase-contrast microscopy.

#### Royal Society Delegation to Moscow

At the invitation of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., the Royal Society is sending a delegation to Moscow under the auspices of the Soviet Relations Committee of the British Council. The delegation will leave on May 18 and will spend a fortnight in the U.S.S.R. visiting scientific institutions. Lord Adrian, the immediate past-president of the Royal Society, will lead the delegation, and other members are: Lady Adrian; Dr. H. G. Thornton, foreign secretary of the Royal Society and head of the Department of Soil Microbiology at Rothamsted Experimental Station; Miss M. L. Cartwright, mistress of Girton College, Cambridge; Prof. J. H. Gaddum, professor of pharmacology in the University of Edinburgh; Prof. J. M. Robertson, professor of chemistry and head of the Chemical Laboratories of the University of Glasgow; Prof. M. Stacey, professor of chemistry in the University of Birmingham; and Dr. D. C. Martin, assistant secretary of the Royal Society.

#### Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research

THE facilities and staff of the Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research have been approximately doubled recently by the incorporation of several research groups at West Point, Pa., which were formerly part of the Sharp and Dohme Division of Merck and Co., Inc. There is now a staff of more than three hundred, sixty-five of whom hold M.D. or Ph.D. degrees. The Merck Institute, which was founded in 1933, is a separately incorporated organization of Merck and Co., Inc., its function being to investigate the biological properties of new drugs and chemicals and to conduct fundamental research in the medical and veterinary sciences. Besides its laboratories at Rahway, N.J., and West Point, Pa., it also has Branchburg Farm, a two-hundred acre experimental farm at North Branch, N.J. Dr. L. Earle Arnow, formerly vice-president and director of research of the Sharp and Dohme Division, has been appointed executive director of the Merck Institute and will direct all the activities of the various branches of the Institute. Dr. Hans Molitor, director of the Institute since its founding in 1933, has been elected chairman of the board of trustees of the Institute in succession to George W. Merck, and at the same time has been appointed director of scientific relations of the Merck Sharp and Dohme Research Laboratories, with the responsibility for the development of relations with investigators in the United States and abroad. Other appointments in the Institute are as follows: Dr. Harry J. Robinson, formerly associate director, to be director of the Rahway unit; and Dr. Karl H. Beyer, formerly head of pharmacological research at Sharp and Dohme, to be director of the West Point unit.

#### Statistics of Scientific Workers and Technologists in Britain

IN reply to a question in the House of Commons on April 18, the Secretary of State for Air said that about 7,500 graduate scientists and technologists of equivalent standing are employed in a civilian capacity in defence establishments in Britain, and about 3,000 men with such qualifications are doing National Service. The number of officers and men in

all three Armed Services with scientific qualifications of this standard is not readily available. In reply to a further question on April 19, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. H. Brooke, stated that it is not possible to give an estimate of the proportion of science graduates who, on leaving college, take up work in defence and civilian organizations, respectively. The only information is derived from returns by university authorities, which are not comprehensive and do not distinguish between work in defence organizations and in civilian organizations. Asked for an assurance that no part of the proposed £100 million savings in government expenditure would be made at the expense of technological education, Mr. Brooke said that the Government attaches the highest importance to increasing the numbers of scientific and technological graduates from the universities.

In a written answer on April 13, the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave the number of university students taking first degrees and diplomas in pure science during 1954-55 as 5,304. Of these, 2,226 were pass degrees and diplomas, and 558 general honours degrees; honours degrees in mathematics were 504; in biological sciences, 380; chemistry, 917; physics, 597; and in geology and related sciences, 122. For technology, the figures were: pass degrees and diplomas, 1,912; honours degrees in civil engineering and building, 215; chemical technology, 123; mechanical and aeronautical engineering, 191; electrical engineering and electronics, 158; mining, 52; metallurgical engineering and metallurgy, 114; general engineering, 364; other technologies, 36; and architecture, 56.

#### National Reference Library Plans

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer was questioned again in the House of Commons on April 24 about the funds he proposed to make available for the establishment of a National Reference Library of Science and a Lending Library. Mr. Macmillan said in reply that he is making £2,500 available during the current year for the purchase and binding of scientific periodicals as a beginning to the Lending Library, and that £10,350 has been included in the estimates for the purchase of books and periodicals for the Patent Office Library. This Library will eventually form the basis for the National Reference Library, but Mr. Macmillan declined to add anything to Mr. Bevin's statement on November 1 as regards capital expenditure. The proposals of the Advisory Council on Scientific Policy are still being considered. In a written answer on April 20, the cost of the new National Library in Bloomsbury was estimated as about £10 million.

#### Scientific Research in British Universities, 1954-55

THE Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has prepared a volume, "Scientific Research in British Universities, 1954-55", which provides brief notes indicating the scientific research in progress in British universities and university colleges during the academic year 1954-55 (pp. 572. London: H.M.S.O., 1955; 12s. 6d. net or 2.25 dollars). The material has been collected by the British Council from the heads of departments of the university institutions concerned and is issued by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research with the agreement of the Agricultural and Medical Research Councils. Entries are limited to permanent members of the staff normally engaged in supervising research.