

change between the universities in the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Germany and Yugoslavia; it is hoped to include other countries in the scheme very shortly. Of the twenty-four British research workers who visited European universities one-sixth were from Oxford; not one came from Sheffield, Manchester, Liverpool or Edinburgh. The report also contains details of arrangements for longer teaching visits which are to begin in the academic session 1957-58, postgraduate scholarships, and the various awards by international bodies.

Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission

THE third annual report of the Marshall Aid Commemoration Commission (pp. 8. Cmd. 167. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1957. 6d. net) covers the year ended September 30, 1956, the first academic year in which a full quota of Marshall Scholars consisting of two groups selected in 1954 and in 1955 have been living in the United Kingdom. The work of the Commission has been directed mainly to making the best arrangements possible to enable these students to proceed with their studies and to selecting a further group of scholars to take up courses in British universities in October 1956. A list of these twelve scholars-elect is included in the report. Of the twelve scholars selected for the original awards, seven completed their tenure at the end of the academic year 1955-56, and of these two gained a Ph.D., one an M.Sc.(Econ.) and three a B.A. (one with first-class and two with second-class honours). The one who failed to graduate is being allowed to submit his M.A. thesis in a revised form at a later date, and the remaining four are to continue as students in British universities in 1956-57, three with extensions of their scholarships by the Commission. The remaining scholar had to resign his award for family reasons at the end of his first year. The Commission, while arranging for the proper reception of each group of scholars arriving in Britain, has not felt it necessary or desirable to organize an 'orientation programme' for the party as a whole, but has sought to encourage the newcomers to settle in as soon as possible at their several universities. The Commission acknowledges with gratitude the offers of hospitality to Marshall Scholars by various bodies, such as the English-Speaking Union and the Dominions Fellowship Trust. The Commission is studying the problem of payment of fares of candidates summoned for interviews, with the view of finding some solution which will not upset the distribution of awards between different areas in the United States, but which may prove less expensive in travel costs than the present system. All applicants continue to express strong preference for the Universities of Cambridge, London and Oxford, and in future they will be required to state a second preference elsewhere.

Fresh Water from Salt Water

PRESENT methods of and future prospects for preparing fresh from salt water have been reviewed by D. Neville-Jones, of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (*Colonial Plant and Animal Products*, 6, No. 1; 1956). In the near future there is every prospect that electro dialysis will prove the cheapest process for preparing fresh water from salt waters containing four or five thousand, and possibly eight or nine thousand, parts per million of salt. For waters containing more salt than this, and particularly with sea water, some form of distillation re-

mains the only process which can at present be offered with confidence. In an area of high fuel cost, where a compact and self-contained plant is required, the choice would probably lie with vapour compression distillation. Solar distillation may be useful for the provision of small quantities of drinking water in isolated areas of high fuel cost where sunshine is fairly abundant.

Hydraulics Research

SEVENTY years ago Osborne Reynolds was conducting his classical experiments into the behaviour of models of tidal estuaries. Ten years later the first permanent river hydraulics laboratory was set up at Dresden. This was followed by a series of other large laboratories in Germany, the United States, India and Holland. Just after the Second World War, Britain was the only major country which practised hydraulic engineering on a large scale with no adequate laboratory as judged by international standards. In spite of this, valuable work was done, notably at the University of Manchester and the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London. In 1946 a Hydraulic Research Board was set up to organize work on loose boundary hydraulics on a national scale. A site for a laboratory was acquired at Howbery Park, Wallingford, in 1949 and was partially occupied in 1951. This laboratory, the Hydraulics Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, came into full use at its present stage of development last year. This point in the progress of the Station was marked by a visit by H.M. the Queen in November 1956.

The work of the Station during 1956 is recorded in its annual report, "Hydraulics Research 1956" (Report of the Hydraulics Research Board with the Report of the Director of Hydraulics Research. Pp. vi+54+12 plates. London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1957. 4s. 6d. net). Although the Station was intended for the study of loose boundary hydraulics, it has, in fact, undertaken work connected with other branches of civil engineering. Such work includes the action of sea waves on walls and in harbours, flood-relief schemes and testing of spillway designs. Roughly one-fifth of the effort of the Station is devoted to background research. This is partly exploratory work into loose boundary problems, such as the action of sea waves in scouring and silting beaches, and partly basic research, much of which is done in conjunction with university departments.

Citrus Fruits in Assam

CULTIVATED and wild forms of citrus have been known in Assam from ancient times; indeed, their abundance and diversity are such as to suggest that this region may have been a centre of origin and dispersal of some of the species and varieties. Under the auspices of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, S. C. Bhattacharya and S. Dutta have produced a comprehensive monograph, with many excellent plates in colour, entitled a "Classification of Citrus Fruits of Assam" (Indian Council of Agricultural Research. Scientific Monograph No. 20. Pp. vi+110+84 plates. Delhi: Manager of Publications, 1956. Rs. 34; 52s.). Like other workers in this field, the authors have recognized the acute nomenclatural difficulties and the need for more systematic and other work, the more so as natural cross-pollination has resulted in the production of new forms adapted to the varied environments which the region affords. The present work is based on