

important factor in the progress of the campaign is the attendance of medical practitioners and other personnel from the territories at tuberculosis courses in the United Kingdom.

Colleges of Advanced Technology

QUESTIONED in the House of Commons regarding the progress of the designated colleges of advanced technology, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education, Sir Edward Boyle, said in a written answer on August 1 that, at Bradford, Salford, and the Welsh College of Advanced Technology, Cardiff, new governing bodies have been set up, and at the other colleges the schemes of government have been modified, especially to give better representation to industry and commerce and other outside interests. At three of the colleges, new principals have been appointed and at all of them extra staff is being recruited. During 1957-58, the three colleges in London and the Loughborough College will be concentrating entirely on advanced work. All the colleges have been actively promoting new advanced courses, especially sandwich courses, and large-scale building developments are in progress at Salford and Birmingham, while plans for new buildings are being urgently prepared at Bradford, Cardiff and Loughborough.

Work on the National Institute for Nuclear Science

In a written answer to a question in the House of Commons on July 30 regarding the National Institute for Nuclear Science, the Prime Minister said that the first task of the Institute has been to examine the proposals for the construction of a new particle accelerator. The design of this machine, a 7,000 MeV. proton synchrotron, which is expected to cost about £7 million, has now been agreed, and its construction, on a site adjacent to the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, has been put in hand.

Nigerian Cotton

THE progress reports from experiment stations in Northern Nigeria for 1955-56 (pp. 25. London: Empire Cotton Growing Corporation, 1957. 9d.) record a commercial crop of 152,000 bales of 400-lb. cotton, the second largest ever recorded, although an even larger crop had been expected. This relative deficiency is attributed to excessive rainfall in three provinces in August and September, followed by an early and unusually abrupt onset of the completely rainless and cold weather, with extremely low humidities, of the Northern Nigerian winter. The general incidence of insect pests at Samaru did not appear notably higher than usual, but there is evidence that considerable loss of crop occurred from that cause, and this may also apply to the commercial crop, although at Kontagora and Mokwa damage was far heavier and a severe local outbreak of pink bollworm in northern Katsina also resulted in notable damage. Bacterial blight (*Xanthomonas malvacearum*) was not conspicuously more in evidence but may have done rather more damage, and over the greater part of the cotton belt the weather was such that failure to follow the rules of good cultivation probably incurred a heavier penalty than usual. In seed dressing trials with Agrosan GN5 against bacterial blight, the protection given to the plants was reflected in the seed cotton yields, but in a spraying trial with 2 lb. DDT and 0.6 lb. gamma-BHC per acre at fortnightly intervals, although a 500 per cent increase in yield was obtained there was

no significant difference in yield from different spacings, and last season's tentative conclusion that close spacing results in substantially higher yields was not confirmed at Kontagora. *Diperopsis watersii* was the most damaging bollworm at Samaru, but the highest incidence occurred at Kontagora. Together with pink bollworm, both false codling moth (*Argyroplote leucotreta* Meyr.) and spiny bollworm (*Earias* sp.) are assuming greater importance with the southerly extension of the main cotton-growing areas.

Ergot in Gramineae

THE well-known ergot disease (*Claviceps purpurea*) occurs on many grass species, including important cereal and forage crops. Further studies of the pathogenicity of this fungus have now been described by W. P. Campbell (*Canadian J. Bot.*, 35, 315; 1957). Four hundred and twenty-one isolates of *Claviceps purpurea* from thirty-eight different host species were cultured on an artificial medium. The conidial cultures were used for inoculating rye, wheat and barley growing in the greenhouse. All cultures, except one from *Glyceria borealis*, infected the three host species. Honeydew from rye was used for inoculating forty-six gramineous species in the field and in the greenhouse. Every one of these grasses became infected in both locations. The author has shown that all indigenous and forage grasses constitute a reservoir of ergot inoculum for rye, wheat and barley, and that these cereals can be infected provided the environmental conditions are such that inoculum will be disseminated at the time that the cereal crops are in blossom.

Medical Research Council Travelling Awards

THE Medical Research Council announces that it has made the following travelling awards for the academic year 1957-58. *Rockefeller Travelling Fellowships in Medicine*: Dr. J. Butler, senior registrar, Medical Professorial Unit, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham; Dr. W. I. Cranston, assistant to the regius professor of medicine, University of Oxford; Dr. D. A. Heath, lecturer in pathology, University of Birmingham; Dr. F. P. Muldowney, University tutor in medicine, St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin; Dr. W. L. Nicholas, lecturer in zoology, University of Liverpool; Dr. G. R. Webster, senior lecturer, Department of Chemical Pathology, Guy's Hospital Medical School. *Lederle Travelling Fellowship in Medicine*: Dr. A. M. Dawson, registrar, Department of Medicine, Postgraduate Medical School, London. *Dorothy Temple Cross Research Fellowship in Tuberculosis*: Dr. H. P. Lambert, registrar, University College Hospital, London. *Alexander Pigott Wernher Memorial Travelling Fellowships in Ophthalmology and Otology*: Dr. R. P. Gannon, medical officer, Royal Air Force, and officer in charge, Royal Air Force Acoustics Laboratory; Dr. D. M. Maurice, Medical Research Council Ophthalmological Research Unit, Institute of Ophthalmology, London; Dr. J. S. Speakman, resident in ophthalmology, Toronto General Hospital, Toronto. *French Exchange Scholarships in Medical Science*: Mr. B. L. Silver, research scholar, University College, London; Dr. Constance E. Work, first assistant, Department of Chemical Pathology, University College Hospital Medical School, London. *Lilly Foreign Fellowships*: The Eli Lilly Company of Indianapolis has also selected the following candidates, nominated by the Medical Research Council, for Lilly Foreign Fellowships