

COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELFARE SCHEMES

REPORT FOR 1956-57

THE schemes made under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts in the period April 1, 1956-March 31, 1957, which are detailed in the latest return*, bring the total commitments for development and welfare under those Acts to £170,452,589, and for research schemes to £16,874,215, of which £23,755,193 and £2,202,880, respectively, are for the year in question. Of this last, £943,301 is for agriculture, £529,979 for medicine, £199,683 for tsetse and trypanosomiasis, £171,128 for insecticides, £103,085 for fisheries, £87,796 for products research, £14,982 for social science, £59,350 for locust control and £10,550 for economics research.

Of the actual research schemes, £166,744 is for the East African Veterinary Research Organization, £229,600 for the East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organization, £147,229 for the West African Council for Medical Research, £65,169 for the East African Medical Survey and Research Institute, £96,300 for the East African Virus Research Institute, £36,346 for the East African Marine Fisheries Research Organization, £36,711 for the East African Inland Fisheries Research Organization and £28,775 for the East African Institute of Malaria and Vector-Borne Diseases, all for the period 1956-60. The West African Institute for Trypanosomiasis Research received a supplementary £119,050, the Organization for Agricultural Research and Land Use Planning, Tanganyika, £99,616, the East African Trypanosomiasis Research Organization £68,174, the Colonial Pesticides Research Unit, East Africa, £97,150, the Colonial Microbiological Research Institute, Trinidad, £50,104, research into natural products of medical interest at the University College of the West Indies, £33,700, the establishment of a Soils Laboratory, Sarawak, £21,000, physiological and biochemical research in East Africa, £26,478, and research on cotton pests in Nyasaland, £14,487. Agricultural research services in Northern Rhodesia received £52,400 for 1956-58, £41,823 was provided for maintenance of the Colonial Section, Building Research Station (Department of Scientific and Industrial Research), and £15,308 for fundamental insecticides research at the Silwood Park Field Station of the Imperial College of Science and Technology. For the period 1956-60, £18,914 was provided to augment the staff at the Long Ashton Research Station; £79,473 for the Agricultural Research and Experimental Station, Lilongwe, Nyasaland; £60,000 to maintain the Medical Research Council's Field Station, Fajara, Gambia; £40,815 for the agricultural research section of the Abyan Development Programme, Aden; £50,500 for maintenance of the Experimental Rice Station, Federation of Malaya; and £30,550 for maintenance of the Livestock Experimental Station, Ebini, British Guiana.

The development and welfare schemes include a number of large schemes for the development of roads; for example, £1,800,000 for trunk roads in Nigeria, and £3,450,000 for the development of class B

trunk roads in the Northern Region there, £486,080 for road construction and improvements in North Borneo, and £297,750 for road construction in Fiji; and also for the development of water supplies, such as £1,300,000 for rural water supplies in Northern Nigeria and £100,000 for minor water supplies in rural areas in Jamaica. Major schemes of particular scientific interest include besides a further £555,000 for the central organization for the Colonial Geodetic and Topographical Survey, and £101,500 for the Central Directorate, Colonial Geological Surveys, £108,840 for the geological survey in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, £359,385 for expansion of the geological survey, British Guiana, and £115,180 for the geological survey, Jamaica, £294,750 for cacao expansion, Jamaica, £1,200,000 for African agricultural development in Kenya, £56,550 for leprosy control in Eastern Nigeria, and £120,000 for agricultural research and land use planning, Tanganyika. Among many schemes for educational development may be mentioned the £190,000 for a new hall of residence, £125,850 for senior staff housing, and £111,800 for extensions to the medical school, all at the University College of East Africa; £100,000 for the men's hall of residence and subordinate staff quarters, Royal Technical College, Nairobi; a further £168,000 for permanent buildings and equipment for the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland; a supplementary £516,000 for permanent buildings for the University of Malaya; and, to the University College of the West Indies and the associated teaching hospital, £205,255 for a fourth hall of residence, £137,500 for extension of science schools, and £100,000 for staff houses.

BRITISH NATIONAL FOOD SURVEY

THE preface of the sixth annual report of the National Food Survey Committee, which has recently been published*, states that the series "was introduced in 1950 with the object of providing continuous information on the trends of domestic food consumption, expenditure and nutrition in Great Britain". A few minor modifications in technique have been made in the course of the six years but, broadly, the recording and the analysis follow the same pattern and involve visits to about twenty thousand homes (20,400 in 1954; 18,580 in 1955) and the analysis of more than ten thousand completed records. The cost of the survey in both time and money must be very considerable and it seems pertinent to ask if the results are commensurate in value with the outlay.

Any government interested in maintaining the health of the people at a high level must seek to prevent the occurrence of malnutrition even in the mildest degree, and to do this requires to know the composition of the diet currently consumed. The Survey reports are not published until some eighteen months after the end of the year in which the data are collected, but it may be that the results are available to the Ministry itself in time for action to be taken if any marked fall in nutritive value of the diets

* Colonial Development and Welfare Acts. Return of Schemes made under the Colonial Development Acts by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with the concurrence of the Treasury, in the period from 1st April, 1956, to 31st March, 1957. Pp. 40. (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1957.) 2s. 3d. net.

* Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Domestic Food Consumption and Expenditure 1955: Annual Report of the National Food Survey Committee. Pp. iv+148. (London: H.M. Stationery Office, 1957.) 6s. 6d. net.