

Zoology at Queen Elizabeth College, London :

Prof. G. Chapman

THE announcement has recently been made of the appointment of Dr. Garth Chapman to a newly created chair of zoology in the University of London, tenable at Queen Elizabeth College. Dr. Chapman, after graduating from Trinity Hall, Cambridge, in the early years of the Second World War, was for a time engaged in radar research at the Telecommunications Research Establishment, Malvern. He joined the staff of Queen Mary College, London, shortly after the return of the College to London from its war-time quarters in Cambridge. Among Dr. Chapman's many contributions as a teacher, the initiation and development of the courses in experimental zoology will be especially remembered and appreciated. Dr. Chapman's published papers include studies on the biology of marine animals living inter-tidally and of the environmental properties of sands and other forms of particular deposits. His researches have, however, mainly centred upon the nature and functions of the hydrostatic skeleton of invertebrates and of the mesogloea of coelenterates. Dr. Chapman's many friends and colleagues in London and elsewhere will wish him well in his new appointment and in the opportunities afforded for developing his research and in the building up of an honours school of zoology in Queen Elizabeth College.

Sir George Earle Trophy for Industrial Safety

THE Sir George Earle Trophy for a notable achievement in the cause of industrial accident prevention has been awarded this year to Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd., "in recognition of the far-sighted policy of its Board and its attitude towards the problems of industrial accident prevention and of the altruistic and generous way in which the extensive safety knowledge accumulated within its own organization has been made available continuously to industry throughout the world". This is the third time the Trophy has been awarded. In 1956 the recipients were H.M. Inspectors of Factories, and last year it was awarded to the Birmingham and District Industrial Safety Group. The president of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, Sir Howard Roberts, will present the Trophy, together with a commemorative plaque, at the National Industrial Safety Conference, to be held at Scarborough during May 9-11. The Trophy, a handsome silver Georgian inkstand, was presented to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents in 1956 by Sir George Earle, chairman of the Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers, Ltd., for annual award for outstanding achievement in the prevention of industrial accidents by an industrial or other organization.

Emigration of Scientists and Technologists

REPLYING for the Lord President of the Council, Mr. H. Nicholls, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works, said in the House of Commons on April 22 that further information about the emigration of qualified scientists and engineers had been obtained from a number of leading firms in response to a request from the Committee on Scientific Man-power. The investigation was continuing and it was hoped to obtain information from university professors of engineering and from the professional institutions. Most of the firms approached thought that their emigration losses were not excessive in relation to the size of their technical staff and their annual intake of

scientists and engineers. It was also planned to carry out a second inquiry into the number of qualified scientists and engineers employed in Great Britain, similar in scope to the first investigation made in 1955-56. In reply to a further question, Mr. Nicholls said that the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research had recently set up an Economics Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. E. A. G. Robinson, to advise it on the economic aspects of its scientific research policy and on the probable economic value of particular researches.

Immigration of Technical Personnel to the United States

A BULLETIN prepared by the Division of Scientific Personnel and Education of the National Science Foundation gives the immigration of professional, technical and kindred workers to the United States as 59,704 during the years 1953-56, or 6.4 per cent of all immigrants, the highest annual total being 18,995 in 1956. Of this total, 9,245 were engineers, 3,231 natural scientists, 766 college presidents and deans, professors and instructors (of whom 277 were professors or instructors, including those in engineering or natural or social science), 5,023 medical men, and 6,573 technicians. Canada supplied 15,933 or 26.7 per cent of the total, and Europe 25,696 or 43.0 per cent, of whom 6,890 came from Germany and 6,406 or 10.7 per cent from the United Kingdom.

Covenanted Subscriptions to Learned Societies

NOTING that the Chancellor is now allowing contributions to professional associations to be regarded as expenses from the point of view of tax relief, Mrs. Eirene White, in the debate in the House of Commons on the budget proposals on April 16, raised the question of the position of the learned societies, and asked the Chancellor to investigate the line now being taken by the Inland Revenue on the relief of tax by means of covenanted subscriptions to learned societies. The Society of Antiquaries and a large number of small archaeological societies have been placed in complete uncertainty as to their situation, and the Department of Inland Revenue has not disclosed the principles upon which it decides such matters. Neither the Financial Secretary to the Treasury nor the Chancellor referred to this point in speaking later in the debate.

Vacant Places in British Universities

IN a written answer in the House of Commons on April 21, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. J. E. S. Simon, said he had no information about vacant places in the current university session. The report of an inquiry commissioned by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals gave 503 vacant places in science and 396 in technology in October 1955 (excluding Oxford, Cambridge and Aberdeen). Of these 70 and 51, respectively, were in the Scottish universities; 164 and 51 in the University of Wales; 11 and 46 in the Queen's University, Belfast; 63 and 59 in London; 128 and 154 at Durham, Hull, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield; 20 and 35 at Birmingham, Leicester, Nottingham and the University College of North Staffordshire; and 47 in science at Bristol, Exeter, Reading and Southampton. Vacancies in medicine and dentistry and in agriculture and forestry totalled 131 each and in arts 1,358.