

of insects, plant diseases and weeds, the charge of which he assumed in 1937. In 1941 he was appointed associate research manager in charge of medicinal and pest-control research, his new responsibilities including early work on penicillin. Important discoveries within the Department under his leadership up to 1956 include "Sulphamezathine", "Paludrine", "Antrycide" and "Mysoline". In 1951 Dr. Sexton became a director of the Pharmaceuticals Division of Imperial Chemical Industries, and since 1956 has been responsible for all chemical and biological research in that Division. In 1953 he published a text-book on "Chemical Constitution and Biological Activity".

Mr. W. G. Templeman joined the staff of the Jealott's Hill Agricultural Research Station of Imperial Chemical Industries in 1933 as assistant to G. E. Blackman (now Sibthorpe professor of rural economy, Oxford), whom he succeeded as head of the Botany Section in 1935. More recently, he became associate research manager in charge of the Biological Section and deputy head of the Station. While studying the effects of natural hormones and synthetic analogues on plants and the mechanisms of these effects, Mr. Templeman discovered that naphthylacetic acid killed charlock without harming cereals. Appreciating the practical significance of this, he and his colleagues started an intensive study of the use of synthetic compounds as selective weed-killers. This led to the discovery first of MCPA and then 2,4-D, although work on the latter was proceeding simultaneously at Rothamsted and in the United States. While seeking a chemical which will control monocotyledonous weeds in di-cotyledonous crops as effectively as MCPA and 2,4-D control broad-leaved weeds in monocotyledonous crops, Mr. Templeman found that isopropyl phenyl carbamate is toxic to certain grassy weeds such as couch, providing a good research lead which is being actively followed up.

Beit Memorial Fellowships for Medical Research

PROF. G. F. MARRIAN has been elected a member of the Advisory Board of the Beit Memorial Fellowships for Medical Research in succession to Dr. C. H. Andrewes, who is retiring after fourteen years membership of the Board.

The following have been elected to Junior Fellowships (worth £900 a year) tenable at the institutions named in brackets: Dr. Phoebe M. Cotes, to study the formation of red blood cells and haemoglobin in bone marrow cultures from normal and uræmic subjects; and the effects of fractions from normal and uræmic plasma on such cultures (Medical Unit, University College Hospital Medical School, London); Dr. J. G. Nicholls, to investigate the responses of sensory nerve endings in mammalian muscle to stretch and mechanical stimulation, by electrically recording the receptor potential in the nerve endings following stimulation of isolated preparations of muscle (Department of Physiology, University College, Gower Street, London); Dr. G. M. A. Gray, to study the pattern of phospholipids in selected animal tissues with differing biological functions, with the view of correlating this pattern with biological function (Department of Biochemistry, Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, London); Mr. J. B. Gurdon, to study the developmental potentialities of embryonic somatic nuclei, transplanted into unfertilized egg from which the pronuclei have been removed (Department of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy,

University of Oxford); Dr. Margarethe M. A. Holzbauer, to study the adaptive regulation of aldosterone secretion, with special reference to the role of the brain and the pituitary; and the separation and identification of hormones of hypothalamic and posterior pituitary origin (Department of Pharmacology, University of Edinburgh); Dr. F. H. Taylor, to study the dynamic equilibria that exist between unbound and combined lipid components of the erythrocyte membrane; and the relation of the equilibrium states to the structure, breakdown and permeability of the cell wall (Imperial College of Science and Technology, London).

The Orbit of Sputnik 3 (Satellite 1958 δ)

FROM radio measurements made at various places in Britain, the following orbit has been derived for artificial Earth satellite 1958 δ (see *Nature* of May 24, p. 1441), for 10.40 hr. U.T. on May 20:

Inclination of orbit to equator	64.9° ± 0.1°
Nodal period of revolution	105.90 ± 0.02 min.
decreasing at about	1 sec./day
Semi-major axis	4001.6 ± 0.6 naut. miles
Eccentricity	0.111 ± 0.001
Perigee occurs going north at latitude of about	51° N.
Height at latitude 51.2° N. going north	122.5 ± 0.8 naut. miles
Rate of rotation of orbital plane (east-west)	2.57 deg./day
Rate of rotation of major axis (retrograde)	0.30 deg./day
Estimated life-time	1½ years

British Scientific Attaché in Moscow

MR. H. NICHOLLS, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Works, in a written reply in the House of Commons on May 22, stated that the Government proposes to appoint a scientific attaché at the British Embassy in Moscow to advise the British Ambassador on scientific matters, and to report on scientific and technical research and development in the Soviet Union.

Committee on Government Research

REPLYING to a question in the House of Commons on May 21, Mr. Harmer Nicholls, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Works, said that the Lord President of the Council, in respect of his general responsibility for scientific research, has decided to set up a committee to inquire into the techniques employed by Government departments, and other bodies wholly financed by the Exchequer, for the management and control of research and development carried out by them or on their behalf, and to make recommendations. The membership of the committee is as follows: *Chairman*, Sir Claude Gibb, managing director, C. A. Parsons and Co., Ltd.; Dr. Willis Jackson, director of research, Metropolitan Vickers, Ltd.; Dr. R. P. Linstead, rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology; Mr. A. A. Part, Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Education; Sir Solly Zuckerman, professor of anatomy, University of Birmingham; Mr. D. Neville-Jones, secretary to the office of the Lord President of the Council.

Society for the Study of Human Biology

ALTHOUGH there are many scientific societies for the furtherance of the biological study of man as an individual, there has been no organization in Britain catering for those (such as physical anthropologists or human geneticists) concerned with human populations. The need for such an association was made