

Society, the Institute of Physics and the Institution of Electrical Engineers, was set up in 1945 "to receive applications from British subjects who are research workers in Great Britain for grants for the design, construction and maintenance of novel, unusual or much improved types of physical instruments and apparatus for investigations in pure or applied physical science".

Simon Memorial Prize

IN memory of the late Sir Francis Simon, the Low Temperature Group of the Physical Society has decided to institute a prize to be known as the Simon Memorial Prize, to be awarded for distinguished work in experimental or theoretical low-temperature physics. An appeal for financial support has been made to several industrial firms, and their generous support has already ensured the success of the scheme. However, it is believed that many other organizations and individuals will wish to make small contributions so that the memorial is truly representative of the many who have known and benefited from the life and work of the founder of the Group. The fund will therefore remain open until the annual general meeting of the Group on January 15, and contributions should be sent to the Chairman or Hon. Secretary before that date, addressed to the Low Temperature Group, Physical Society, 1 Lowther Gardens, Prince Consort Road, South Kensington, London, S.W.7.

University News :

Glasgow

THE U.S. National Institutes of Health have provided a grant of 45,000 dollars for one year, renewable at the rate of 27,000 dollars for each of four successive years, for the expansion of research on human genetics in the Department of Genetics. This has made possible the planning of a concerted attack on the problem of whether genetic analysis in man, and slow-breeding animals and plants, can be based on mitotic segregation in somatic cells. Investigation of this problem, under Prof. G. Pontecorvo, requires initially the combination of research workers with a variety of skills—for example, protein chemists, immunologists, virologists. For this reason, the grant provides not only for equipment, but also for adequate visiting fellowships, which will permit senior workers to join the team for suitable periods. With the installation of the English Electric DEUCE computer at the beginning of this session, the Computing Laboratory has now been established under the direction of Dr. D. C. Gilles; and additional staff, including D. C. Williams as lecturer, has been appointed. Arrangements are being made for a formal opening of the Department in the New Year. The new engineering building at the eastern extremity of the University site is now occupied. A. F. Munro has been appointed senior lecturer in veterinary physiology, and C. G. Elliot, Matthew Holmes and Ian S. Hughes have been appointed to lectureships in agricultural botany, physiology and natural philosophy, respectively. For the present session, 372 new students (284 men and 88 women) have been admitted to the science departments, compared with 351 in 1957. The total of matriculated students in the University as a whole now stands at 6,330.

Qualifications in Mathematics

THE Council of the Mathematical Association has set up a sub-committee to consider and report upon

the proposal that the Association should establish an examination machinery in mathematics. The underlying principle is that there are many teachers who would wish to improve their academic qualifications but who have neither the time nor the facility to read for an external degree. It is thought that a diploma of efficiency in either or both pure and applied mathematics to the standard of the old ordinary degree might be of value to these men and women and, at the same time, a reward for further study.

Announcements

PROF. A. SALAM, professor of applied mathematics in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, has been awarded the Hopkins Prize of the Cambridge Philosophical Society for his contribution to the theory of non-conservation of parity in physics. The Prize has been awarded every three years since 1867 for work in mathematical-physical or related fields. The present award relates to the period 1955-57, and is of the value of £80.

THE Transactions of the fourth International Congress on Biochemistry, held in Vienna during September 1958, representing all the symposia, colloquia and discussions, will be published in fourteen volumes by the Pergamon Press. These will appear early in 1959.

THE British Institution of Radio Engineers announces the formation of a Medical Electronics Group. This is in accordance with the policy of the Council to establish specialist groups to foster the general dissemination of information in the specialized fields of radio and electronic engineering. The chairman of the Group Committee is Mr. W. J. Perkins. There will be five meetings of the Group during the current session. The inaugural meeting will be on January 23, when Prof. A. V. Hill, emeritus professor of physiology in University College, London, will give an address.

THE Department of Extra-Mural Studies of the University of London and the Association of Agriculture are holding a course of ten weekly lectures on "Britain's Food Supplies". The lectures will be given weekly at 6.30 p.m., starting on January 14 at the British Institute of Recorded Sound, 38 Russell Square, London, W.C.1.

AN International Colloquium on Communication and Language is being organized by the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Paris, with the collaboration of the professor of otorhinolaryngology, the Société Française de Phoniatrie, the Laboratory of Physiological Acoustics and the professor of neuro-physiology in the Collège de France. It will be held at the Faculty of Medicine, 45 rue des Saints-Pères, Paris 6^e, during January 22-25, 1959. Communication and language will be discussed from the point of view of information theory, and the programme will deal with the following aspects of the subject: mathematical and philosophical, physical, physiological, pathological, psychological, statistical. Further information can be obtained from Dr. B. Vallancien, 16 rue Spontini, Paris 16^e.

ERRATUM. In the communication entitled "Alary Polymorphism in the Gerroidea (Hemiptera Heteroptera)", by Dr. R. O. Brinkhurst, in *Nature* of November 22, p. 1461, par. 3, line 11, for "grow" read "row".