

bacteria and *Mycobacteria*, but some *Pneumococci*, most *Streptococci* and *Pseudomonas* are resistant. Anaerobic organisms, yeasts and fungi nearly all show high resistance. Resistance to kanamycin induced in *Staphylococci* and in *E. coli* is accompanied by complete cross-resistance to neomycin and paromomycin and by partial cross-resistance to streptomycin, but no cross-resistance to unrelated antibiotics. Clinical results show that, given intramuscularly, the drug is effective in staphylococcal infections, gonorrhoea, anthrax, and in many infections of the urinary tract, particularly when resistant to other antibiotics. Given orally, it inhibits aerobic intestinal bacteria. Alone, it is of doubtful value in tuberculosis, but is claimed to have some effect with *p*-aminosalicylic acid. The major toxic effects are on the kidney and eighth cranial nerve, but the renal toxicity is less marked than that of neomycin and the adverse vestibular and auditory effects are less than those obtained with streptomycin.

#### The Royal Institution : Officers

At the annual meeting of the Royal Institution, held on May 1, the following officers were elected: *President*, Lord Brabazon of Tara; *Treasurer*, Mr. W. E. Schall; *Secretary*, Sir Harold Spencer Jones; *Managers*, Dr. T. E. Allibone, Dr. H. D. Anthony, Mr. F. G. Brown, Dr. A. G. Gaydon, Prof. A. Haddow, Mrs. H. K. Hawkes, Dr. H. Heywood, Dr. R. Holroyd, Mr. E. Ironmonger, Prof. L. A. Jordan, Mr. J. Lawrie, Sir Ben Lockspeiser, Mr. J. A. Oriel, Mr. H. P. Rooksby, and Mr. P. H. Schwarzschild; *Visitors*, Mr. A. D. Baynes-Cope, Prof. H. Dingle, Dr. D. H. Follett, Mr. A. J. Haselfoot, Mr. S. Rees Jones, Mr. W. C. Lister, Miss C. M. McDowell, Mrs. J. E. Milton, Mr. F. A. Mitchell, Mr. N. P. W. Moore, Mr. J. D. Peattie, Mr. F. Y. Poynton, Mr. N. Shepherd, Dr. P. C. Spensley, and Dr. N. Stuart.

#### University News : Birmingham

THE Council of the University, subject to the concurrence of the Senate, has gratefully accepted the offer of a contribution of approximately £140,000 spread over seven years for the purpose of enlarging and developing the Graduate School of Highway and Traffic Engineering, and for the establishment of a chair in the subject. The offer is made by a number of bodies concerned with road development, including the motor industry, oil companies, civil and engineering and surfacing contractors, insurance firms and motoring organizations.

The Nuffield Foundation has made a grant of £12,000 to the University, spread over five years from May 1, 1959, towards the cost of an investigation to be carried out in the Research Department of the Institute of Education into the placing, counselling and teaching of part-time students in a local technical college. The research will be under the direction of Mrs. E. C. Venables, at present part-time research fellow in the Institute of Education.

The following have been promoted to senior lectureships from October 1: Dr. J. G. Valatin (mathematical physics), Dr. G. W. Greenlees (physics), Mr. R. H. Knight (physics), Dr. D. H. Whiffen (chemistry), Dr. V. G. Welsby (electrical engineering), Dr. V. Kondic (industrial metallurgy), Mr. P. T. Geach (philosophy), Dr. J. B. Finean (medical biochemistry and pharmacology). The following appointments have also been made: Dr. H. B. van der Raay, to be lecturer in physics; Dr. R. W. Smith, to be lecturer in physical metallurgy; and

J. A. Nelder, head of the Statistics Section of the National Vegetable Research Station at Wellesbourne, to be a recognized lecturer in the Department of Pure Mathematics.

London

THE following have been appointed to readerships tenable at the Imperial College of Science and Technology: Dr. F. G. H. Blyth (engineering geology); Dr. E. H. Brown (structural analysis); Dr. J. Edelman (enzymology); Dr. S. Eilon (production engineering).

#### Announcements

UNDER the statute of the Royal Society which provides for the election of persons who either have rendered conspicuous service to the cause of science or are such that their election would be of signal benefit to the Society, H.M. King Gustaf VI Adolf of Sweden has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

The charter of the Middle East Technical University, Ankara, has been approved by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. The conception of the University, which is intended to be an international centre of higher learning, was described in *Nature* of February 8, 1958, p. 382.

A SYMPOSIUM, arranged by the International Commission for Optics, in connexion with its fifth congress on Modern Systems for Detecting and Evaluating Optical Radiation, will be held in Stockholm during August 24-30. Further information can be obtained from Prof. E. Ingelstam, International Commission for Optics, Stockholm 70.

THE summer meeting of the Science Masters' Association will be held in the Science Laboratories of the Durham Colleges during July 27-31. In addition to the usual programme of meetings and visits, there will be Publishers', Manufacturers' and Members' Exhibitions, and a discussion on "General Trends in Science Teaching in the Universities of the Commonwealth", introduced by Prof. W. B. Fisher. Further details can be obtained from the Meeting Secretary, W. H. Dowland, 93 Westbourne Road, West Hartlepool, Co. Durham.

UNDER the auspices of the International Union of Biochemistry, a symposium on Hæmatin Enzymes is to be held in Canberra, Australia, during August 31-September 4. The symposium is being arranged by the Australian Academy of Science, and participation is by invitation. The proceedings of the symposium are to be published by the Pergamon Press in a special volume. Further information can be obtained from Prof. R. K. Morton, Department of Agricultural Chemistry, University of Adelaide, South Australia.

AN International Conference on Nuclear Structure will be held at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, during August 29-September 3, 1960. The conference, in addition to receiving support from the International Union of Pure and Applied Physics, will be sponsored in Canada jointly by Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd., and Queen's University. The secretary of the conference is Dr. L. G. Elliott, Atomic Energy of Canada, Chalk River, Ontario, to whom further inquiries can be directed.

ERRATUM. In the article "A New Short-acting Thiobarbiturate", by Dr. M. E. Peel *et al.*, published in *Nature* of May 23, p. 1443, in Table 1 for compound B.137, R' should read Bu<sup>8</sup>, not Bu<sup>1</sup>.