

that they have started mudslides when landing on steep slopes. Attempts to start them by using explosives in canyons have had little success. Altogether, considering its potential importance in the formation of abyssal plains and the structure of some sedimentary rocks, the turbidity-currents hypothesis seems to have had little influence on marine geologists. It is surprising, for example, that following the classical Grand Banks turbidity current only two cores have been collected from the area

and they apparently during borrowed time from a cruise with other objectives. Both these cores, taken some 20 km. apart, have sand layers at the surface. Below this, each has further layers of sand, but there is so little correlation between them that one can only speculate as to the horizontal structure. Taking closely spaced cores is technically difficult, time-consuming and expensive, but in some areas the expense would surely be justified.

H. CHARNOCK

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

REPORT FOR 1957-58

THE annual report of the British Council for 1957-58* includes a general survey of the year and is preceded by an article on the printed word by Sir Charles Snow, which stresses the importance of the work the Council is doing in this field on an expenditure of only £17,000, but urges the need for expansion. The report is accompanied by a separate account of the Council's work for visitors and students from overseas. More than half the report is occupied by appendixes listing the officers, executive committee, advisory committees and panels, with their membership, and giving particulars of university interchanges, courses and study tours, etc., arranged by the Council in the United Kingdom or overseas, exhibitions and publications, and an analysis of the estimates and accounts.

The increase in the Government grant for 1957-58 to £3,378,271 out of gross expenditure of £3,867,899 enabled the Council to start improving the supply of English teachers and teaching material for overseas and other work in accordance with Government decisions contained in the White Paper on Overseas Information Services. Further activities will be possible in 1958-59 with the increase of nearly £650,000 on the original estimates for 1957-58. For this year the Council is recruiting, or helping to recruit, on improved terms, for about seventy overseas teaching posts in English in schools, training colleges and universities, chiefly in Asian countries. It is also co-operating closely with a unit established by the Ministry of Education to assist in placing satisfactorily the returning teacher. Much is being done abroad to help overseas teachers of English, and the Council has also been closely associated with the new School of Applied Linguistics in the University of Edinburgh, to which one of its most experienced English-teaching specialists is being seconded. The Council is contributing £5,000 towards the establishment of an Overseas Visual Aids Centre to further increased and more efficient use of visual and audio-visual aids in formal and informal education overseas.

The specialist tours arranged by the Council include an advisory unit at the request of the Burmese Government of Prof. H. F. Humphreys and Mr. W. J. Deacon to examine and report on the state of education in Burma, a visit to Turkey of thirteen British surgeons, headed by Sir Clement Price Thomas, and tours of Prof. C. Wells to Pakistan, Burma, Thailand, the Philippines, Australia and Canada, to advise on surgical techniques and radiological services, and of Sir Alister Hardy to Pakistan, Thailand, Hong Kong and Japan to inspect oceanographic institutions. More than 1,800

visits of scientific specialists to and from Britain were assisted by the Council in one way or another in 1957-58, representing 35 per cent of the total for all subjects and professions. In numbers this represents 42.6 per cent out of 4,902 visitors to the United Kingdom under the auspices of the Council, compared with 18.5 per cent in social studies, 14.8 per cent in education and 10.1 per cent in medicine; for 1951, the corresponding figures were 23.5, 15, 14.5 and 10 per cent, respectively. There has been a striking growth in recent years of the Council's responsibilities as agents for the United Nations Specialized Agencies, the Colombo Plan, the Baghdad Pact and other international agencies offering training in the United Kingdom, and in 1957-58 1,012 such visitors were cared for in the United Kingdom by the Council, compared with 191 in 1950-51. About £380,000 a year is administered by the Council for international and overseas organizations.

The fifteen short specialist courses arranged annually included one on the economic problems of developing countries, for senior officials and administrators, and in 1957 study tours were arranged for 67 groups, many from British Colonial territories, while in the autumn of 1957, 300 Soviet students and young people were invited to visit the United Kingdom for periods of three weeks. This programme has made considerable progress on an exchange basis with the co-operation of leading student and youth organizations in the United Kingdom, while the Council has also placed a number of postgraduate Soviet scholars in British universities and promoted exchange visits of teachers of English and Russian to summer schools in the United Kingdom and the U.S.S.R.

The number of overseas students in the United Kingdom rose in 1957 to 35,000 and is now about 38,000, less than a third of whom are at universities. In 1957, 7,782 students were met on arrival, 4,644 were assisted to find permanent accommodation, 386 becoming permanent residents in the Council's own residences, which also provided transit accommodation for 1,692 students. New premises were acquired during 1957-58 in Hull, Leeds, Liverpool and Nottingham. Some 13,259 overseas students attended British Council vacation and week-end courses and study visits, and private hospitality was arranged for 5,481 students. Travel grants to university teachers on study leave and to postgraduate workers totalled thirty-six (twelve from Australia) for visits to the United Kingdom and four for visits from the United Kingdom, and under the younger research workers interchange scheme twelve visited the United Kingdom and twenty-five from the United Kingdom visited six European countries.

* British Council. Annual Report 1957-1958. Pp. vi+111+8 plates. (London: British Council, 1958.)