

heap on a North Canterbury farm. The envelope contained a flowering stem of bindweed, *Calystegia sepium*, portions of an inflorescence of tall oat grass, *Arrhenatherum elatius*, and a bent grass, *Agrostis* sp. Such containers when discarded are generally thrown on rubbish heaps and other sites suitable for weed establishment. A plate-glass container from an English source, examined in the Wellington district, contained wheat straw in which was found portions of Californian thistle, *Cirsium arvense*, cleavers, *Galium aparine*, willow weed, *Polygonum*, fruiting material of *Beta* sp., nipplewort, *Lapsana communis*, and a hemp nettle, *Galeopsis* sp. This straw was being used locally both for compost heaps and in racing pigeon cages, which would further serve to disperse the weeds throughout the country. An examination of the trouser cuffs of a tourist returned from a trip through Spain, France, Switzerland and Italy revealed fruits of Gramineae and Compositae.

#### University News :

#### Birmingham

THE title of reader in mathematical physics has been conferred on Dr. J. G. Valatin, senior lecturer in mathematical physics. The following appointments have been made to lectureships: Dr. H. B. Griffiths (pure mathematics); Dr. J. K. Brown (chemistry); Dr. M. E. Davies (botany); Dr. Nancy Montgomery (botany); Brenda Manly (zoology); J. Cohen (zoology); C. R. Sladden (biology in the department of zoology); Dr. D. J. Blundell (geology); I. R. Smith (electrical engineering); K. B. Haley (engineering production); Dr. V. G. Jenson (chemical engineering); K. A. Redish (computing in the Department of Mathematical Physics); N. A. Dyson (physics); N. A. J. Rogers (chemistry).

The annual lecture of the Institute of Education is to be named "The Raymond Priestley Lecture" in recognition of the help which Sir Raymond Priestley gave to the Institute of Education when the Institute was established.

Preliminary plans have been approved for a building for highway and traffic engineering as an addition to the new Civil Engineering Building.

#### Oxford

THE following research grants are announced: from European Research Associates, Brussels, £1,200 for one year from September 1, for research on acetylene chemistry being carried out in the Dyson Perrins Laboratory under the direction of Prof. E. R. H. Jones; from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research a grant not exceeding £3,400 for the year ending July 31, 1960, for the maintenance of the 140 MeV. synchrotron for nuclear physics research in the Clarendon Laboratory; from the Colonial Medical Research Council a grant not exceeding £2,500 for a further two years ending August 31, 1961, for the study of the sensory neuro-histological changes in skin infected with leprosy, being carried out in the Department of Human Anatomy under the direction of A. G. M. Weddell, reader in human anatomy; from the Smith, Kline and French Research Institute a grant not exceeding £1,500 for research on the electrophysiology and pharmacology of smooth muscle to be carried out in the Department of Pharmacology by E. Bülbiring; from the United States Public Health Service a grant not exceeding 30,600 dollars for the year beginning September 1, 1959, for research in the Department of Biochemistry under the direction of Sir Hans Krebs.

#### Announcements

PROF. C. F. CARTER, Stanley Jevons professor of political economy and Cobden lecturer in the University of Manchester, has been appointed a member of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, in succession to Prof. E. A. G. Robinson, who retires on completion of his period of service. Prof. Carter's interests are in the field of applied economics. He is the author of "Industry and Technical Progress" (with Prof. R. B. Williams), published in 1957, and "Investment in Innovation", 1958; he is chairman of the Science and Industry Committee of the Royal Society of Arts, the British Association for the Advancement of Science and the Nuffield Foundation.

THE Metallurgical Society of the American Institute of Mining, Metallurgical, and Petroleum Engineers, in association with Interscience Publishers, Inc., has announced the publication of a new series of books entitled "Metallurgical Society Conferences", each volume being the proceedings of a technical conference sponsored by the Society through one of its technical committees. It is hoped by these means to provide for co-ordinated and comparatively rapid publication of scientific and engineering papers of interest to metallurgists. The first volume in the series, "Flat Rolled Products, Rolling and Treatment", can be ordered from Interscience Publishers, Inc., 250 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, New York (price 3.75 dollars).

THE Population Council Incorporated of New York is making grants totalling 89,348 dollars over three years to the National Institute for Research in Dairying. The award is in support of researches on cervical mucus, with particular reference to the control of fertility, to be carried out in the Physiology Department under the direction of Dr. S. J. Folley.

INDUSTRIAL AND TRADE FAIRS, LTD., announce that a conference on New Engineering Materials and Design will be held in conjunction with the first Engineering Materials and Design Exhibition at Earls Court, London, during February 22-26, 1960. Among the subjects selected for discussion at the conference will be safety factors and the appearance in design. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary for the Conference on Engineering Materials and Design, Drury House, Russell Street, Drury Lane, London, W.C.2.

At the annual general meeting of the Photobiology Group, held at the National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, on November 6, Dr. D. Vince, of the Department of Horticulture, University of Reading, was elected honorary secretary in succession to Dr. E. M. F. Roe.

THE sixth National Symposium on Reliability and Quality Control in Electronics will be held at the Statler Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C., during January 11-13, 1960. Further information can be obtained from Mr. R. Brewer, The Research Laboratories, The General Electric Co., Ltd., Wembley, Middlesex.

ERRATA. In the communication entitled "Effect of Sorbitol on the Urinary Excretion of some B Vitamins in Man" in *Nature* of September 19, p. 911, the numerical values of the ordinates have been inverted; thus, reading from below upwards, the values for riboflavin should be 150, 200, 250  $\mu\text{gm.}$ ; those for thiamine, 10, 20, 30  $\mu\text{gm.}$ ; those for N-methylnicotinide, 2, 3 mgm.