Excavations have also been conducted at a site known as *F.L.K.* II, which is stratigraphically well above the main *F.L.K.* I site, and this, as was expected, has yielded a fauna comparable to that of Olduvai sites *B.K.* II and *S.H.K.* II. The fauna is in direct association with an assemblage of artefacts of Stage 3 of the East African Chellean sequence.

The discovery of parts of hand and foot are of very special importance, for hitherto we have had no knowledge of these parts of the skeleton in early hominids.

This year's work has very strongly confirmed the statement which I made last year that Bed I is very distinct (both from the point of view of its fossil fauna and its culture) from Beds II, III, IV. Bed I is of Lower Pleistocene, or Villafranchian age; whereas Beds II, III and IV belong to the Middle Pleistocene.

As a result of the work carried out so far this year, the National Geographic Society has kindly made available a further grant to continue work for four or five more months.

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Sept. 16.

[1] *Nature*, **184**, 491 (1959).

MISCELLANY

"Education of Scientists"

In his account of the British Association meeting on the education of scientists in *Nature*, October 22, p. 270, Prof. M. W. Thring reports that students who have obtained a General Certificate of Education examination in six subjects, of which three are at the Advanced Level, have reached the minimum requirements for entry to a university. These attainments are, in fact, much higher than are specified by the majority of British universities for entrance purposes.

In my own lecture, I was commenting on the high calibre of students joining the Diploma in Technology courses and expressing my satisfaction that, of the 700 students already accepted for these courses at the Northampton College of Advanced Technology, London, more than 300 had passed in three subjects at the Advanced Level in addition to the Ordinary Level requirements.

One other matter in the report needs clarification. In setting up the diploma in technology, the National Council for Technological Awards had clearly in mind that students who obtained first-class honours should be every bit as good as the first-class honours university graduate, and there is every reason to believe that these aims are being attained. The recommendation of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals to the Universities, that holders of the diploma in technology should be considered on the same footing as university graduates for registration for higher degrees, was an acceptance of this belief, and it is good to know that the recommendations have already been put into effect. In fact, one young man whose qualification is a diploma in technology has joined the academic staff of a provincial university.

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Cost of Scientific Periodical Publications

I refer to the figures showing the cost of scientific journals which have been given and discussed in recent issues of *Nature*. The figures quoted by Mr. K. W. Humphreys and Mr. H. D. Barry[1] give the comparable costs per page to libraries for various journals. (Incidentally, the cost of the *Biochemical Journal* is £4 per volume of approximately 620 pages, that is, 1·5*d*. per page, not 0·75*d*. as quoted.)

Captain Maxwell's table[2], however, compares the price charged to libraries for the *Journal of the Chemical Society* and some other journals with the price charged to individuals for the publications of Pergamon Press. Since fellowship of the Chemical Society is open to all approved persons throughout the world interested in the science, and one of the Society's main purposes is to disseminate chemical knowledge as widely and as cheaply as possible among scientists, it is proper to compare the price to Fellows with that of Pergamon journals to individuals. For the *Journal of the Chemical Society* the Fellows' price is approximately 0·5*d*. per page against a price to libraries of 1·0*d*. per page.

Captain Maxwell also states that a journal which has the backing of a scientific society has the advantage of a guaranteed circulation to its members, and, in most cases, a subsidy. These statements are incorrect if intended to apply to the Chemical Society, the only British publishing society mentioned in his table. The *Journal* is available only to those Fellows who choose to pay for it, and at the present time only some 16 per cent of Fellows exercise this option. Moreover, the Society does not receive any subsidy or outside grant for its publications, which are currently produced at a modest profit. I submit, however, that the prices quoted by your contributors show that this profit is not achieved by means of an unduly high price to libraries.

M. W. Perrin

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[1] *Nature*, **186**, 124 (1960).
[2] *Nature*, **187**, 1052 (1960).

Capt. Maxwell's reply[1] to the paragraph concerning publication costs[2] is disingenuous; to show how cheap his publications are he compares his reduced price to private individuals with the top price of others to corporate subscribers. It is necessary in a fair comparison to compare 'like things with like'. Thus if, for example, *Tetrahedron* to the private individual costs 0·7*d*. per page, *Chemical Abstracts* to the private member subscriber costs 0·15*d*. per page, which brings our journal to the top of the list at a price and value which is second to none.

To say that journals backed by scientific societies have guaranteed circulation is unrealistic in most cases; it certainly is not true with *Chemical Abstracts*. Member subscribers to *Chemical Abstracts* are subsidized in an effort "to ensure maximum dissemination", but *Chemical Abstracts* has been on a self-supporting basis since 1956.

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[1] *Nature*, **187**, 1052 (1960).
[2] *Nature*, **186**, 124 (1960).