

assurance that any additional rates falling on the universities in consequence would be taken into account in determining the amount of their recurrent Exchequer grants. He said also that this arrangement would not apply to the Oxford and Cambridge colleges, which as charitable foundations would receive the 50 per cent mandatory relief.

In the debate, Mr. C. M. Woodhouse challenged this discrimination between the universities and the Oxford and Cambridge colleges as contrary to the recommendation of the Pritchard Committee, although that Committee had explicitly recognized that these colleges stood in a different relation to the Exchequer from university institutions in general in that they received no financial aid directly from the University Grants Committee. Mr. Woodhouse doubted whether the distinction was valid or should be perpetuated, and pointing out that the finances of university and colleges were interlocked, observed that in its memorandum to the Pritchard Committee the Treasury had been disinclined to accept the obligation that Mr. Brooke now said the Exchequer would accept for the universities. He thought it perfectly reasonable that an increased burden on the universities should be met from the national Exchequer rather than from local funds, but that the same argument should apply to the colleges, and pointed out that in view of the decision in a test case brought last year to the Lands Tribunal by three of the colleges the effect of the present Bill would be to give the colleges double relief. A Government contribution, suggested by the colleges in their memorandum to the Pritchard Committee as the proper remedy, would avoid these rating anomalies, and Mr. Woodhouse urged the Minister to exercise his power of addition to the First Schedule and include at least the Oxford colleges.

In replying on behalf of the Government, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry, Sir Keith Joseph, said that in representations before the Pritchard Committee the colleges had made it clear that they regarded the question of value as an entirely separate issue from that of rate relief. In general, the Government viewed the Oxford and Cambridge colleges as closer to educational establishments than grant-aided universities, but promised to study the point raised before the committee stage of the Bill. The question of scientific societies, and particularly the point raised by Lord Adrian in the House of Lords, was not mentioned in this debate.

The Medical Research Council of Canada

THE National Research Council of Canada has established a Medical Research Council with responsibility for all activities formerly conducted by the National Research Council's Division of Medical Research. The new Council will have virtually complete autonomy in its operations and full responsibility for policy concerning the support of medical research, but will function under the general administration of the National Research Council. The Medical Research Council has been set up as an interim measure pending the Government's future consideration of appropriate legislation. The eventual establishment of a completely independent Medical Research Council was implied in a statement in the Canadian Parliament last summer by the Hon. Gordon Churchill, chairman of the Canadian Privy Council Committee on Scientific and Industrial Research.

Officers and members of the new Medical Research Council are: *Chairman*, Prof. R. F. Farquharson, professor emeritus of medicine, University of Toronto, vice-president (medical), National Research Council; *Secretary*, Prof. J. Auer, professor of anatomy and associate dean, University of Ottawa; *Members*, Prof. L. B. Jaques, professor and head of the Department of Physiology and Pharmacology, University of Saskatchewan; Prof. R. W. Reed, professor and head of the Department of Bacteriology, McGill University; Prof. C. B. Stewart, dean of the Faculty of Medicine and head of the Department of Preventive Medicine, Dalhousie University; Prof. M. Brown, professor of medicine, Queen's University; Prof. M. Darrach, professor and head of the Department of Biochemistry, University of British Columbia; Prof. R. Rossiter, professor and head of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Western Ontario; Prof. J. Doupe, professor and head of the Departments of Physiology and Medical Research, University of Manitoba; Prof. A. L. Chute, professor and head of the Department of Paediatrics, University of Toronto; Prof. R. Gingras, assistant dean of medicine and head of the Department of Biochemistry, Laval University; Prof. W. C. MacKenzie, dean of the Faculty of Medicine and professor of surgery, University of Alberta; Prof. F. C. MacIntosh, professor and head of the Department of Physiology, McGill University; Prof. L. P. Bouthillier, professor and head of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Montreal; Prof. H. E. Taylor, professor and head of the Department of Pathology, University of British Columbia.

Jubilee Celebrations in Berlin

THE Humboldt University of Berlin celebrated its 150th Anniversary together with the Charité Hospital, the 250th Anniversary of which ran concurrently. Symposia, conferences, discussions and exhibitions were offered to participants by the various faculties, including those of Medicine, Philosophy, Mathematics, Physics, Politics, Economics, Pedagogy, and Jurisprudence. The Institute of Anglo-American Literature organized lectures and discussions simultaneously. The proceedings took place during November 6-20 and enabled each faculty to give its guests noteworthy entertainment from the operatic, theatrical and musical riches which the city possesses. University dignitaries, ministerial houses and student bodies opened their doors in a succession of receptions and discussions which encouraged the informal interchange of ideas and ideals. The Faculties of Philosophy and Medicine took three days to discuss together their understanding of humanism and medicine, representational thinking, cybernetics and its role in medicine, the concept of illness and, finally, the theory and practice of medicine. The physiology symposium, spread over three days, was devoted to an exhaustive, many-sided analysis of the red-blood cell structure and function. Energetics, cell stability, and biochemical interrelations received outstanding treatment by workers drawn from many countries.

Wildfowl Conservation Committee

SINCE 1954 the Nature Conservancy has held a regular series of informal meetings with leading wildfowls and wildfowl conservationists, including representatives of the Wildfowls' Association of Great Britain and Ireland, the Wildfowl Trust and the