

He is president of the Association for the Study of Animal Behaviour and vice-president of the Royal Entomological Society. The establishment of the Nature Conservancy's new Experimental Station at Monks' Wood (adjoining the National Nature Reserve) will provide Dr. Mellanby with a challenge and an opportunity for which his broad experience is especially relevant. When building is completed in 1962, the Station will house three teams studying the effects of toxic chemicals on wild life, ecological management of native woodlands and scientific problems of conservation. The Station will also form a base for field studies of the diploma course on conservation of University College, London, and for other university and related activities. The Station is already functioning in embryo in temporary premises, and it is hoped that it will be fully operative by 1963.

The James Craig Watson Medal :

Prof. O. H. L. Heckmann

THE James Craig Watson Medal of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences has been awarded to Prof. Otto Hermann Leopold Heckmann in recognition of his noteworthy contributions to astronomy. The Medal, established in 1874 by the bequest of Dr. Watson to recognize astronomical discoveries or work "worthy of special reward", was presented to Dr. Heckmann at the annual meeting of the Academy on April 24. As professor of astronomy in the University of Hamburg and director of the Hamburg Observatory at Bergedorf, West Germany's leading observatory, Dr. Heckmann is widely known for his work in astrometrics. Under the direction of his predecessor, R. Schorr, the Hamburg Observatory undertook about 1930 the enormous task of photographing and measuring the positions of the stars of the northern hemisphere. This work, known as the *AGK2*, was published in fifteen volumes. Dr. Heckmann initiated a repetition of it, enlisting the co-operation of a group of observatories in Canada, England, France, West Germany, East Germany, the U.S.S.R., and the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, to join in a concerted effort to derive, by new observations, the proper motions of 180,000 stars. Completion of the new catalogue, *AGK3*, is expected in about three years. Dr. Heckmann is internationally regarded as an expert in the field of relativity and cosmology. His work in this field includes not only contributions to the theory of cosmology but also critical assessments of the observational and experimental basis of cosmological theories.

The CIBA Fellowship Trust :

Awards

THE following were recently awarded CIBA fellowships: Mr. R. F. C. Claridge (University of Auckland and University of Cambridge), for post-doctoral work at the University of Cologne (radio-chemistry); Dr. J. S. Littler (University of Oxford), for post-doctoral work at the Federal Technical Institute, Zurich (chemistry); Mr. H. Stern (University of Oxford), for post-doctoral study at the University of Brussels (theoretical physics); Mr. F. I. B. Williams (McGill University and University of Oxford), for post-doctoral work at the University of Liège (solid-state physics). Fellowships previously awarded to the following were renewed for a further year: Dr. V. P. Arya, at present working at the University of Stockholm (natural-products chemistry); Dr. W. D. Hamilton, at present working at the

University of Uppsala (nuclear physics); Dr. R. Grinter, at present working at the Federal Technical Institute, Zurich (physical organic chemistry); Dr. B. L. Mordike, at present working at the University of Göttingen (physical metallurgy).

Scientific Development and the Budget

IN his Budget speech on April 17, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, expressed the view that productivity in Britain is being held down by shortages of skilled labour and that he is not satisfied that both sides of industry are invariably tackling this problem with sufficient energy. There are too few scientists and technologists. There are features in the tax system which make for inadequate rewards for initiative and enterprise. Some industries are insufficiently accustomed to competition and insufficiently aware of the need for technical improvement if they are to hold their own with their overseas competitors. Labour relations, standards of management and techniques of selling are sometimes below what is needed to-day, and certain industries are still, in his view, handicapped by restrictive practices which are completely out of date.

These comments were welcomed by Mr. H. Wilson, who wished to see them matched by action in scientific education and also measures to encourage scientific research in industry. He attributed the loss of young scientists and technologists to America to the poor prospects of promotion and inadequate salaries offered by many industries in Britain, and wished to see taxation on the middle ranges of scientists and executives reduced. The over-riding priority is to encourage science and technology. The total expenditure on scientific research, Mr. Wilson remarked, is £478 million a year, of which £370 million comes from public funds, while 52 per cent of the national expenditure on research and development goes on defence. Calling for a crash programme to train more scientists and engineers and a new policy for deploying them, Mr. Wilson urged even more a new and determined drive to apply science in industry. He suggested a wider use of the National Research Development Corporation and an expansion by 20 per cent of the 15,000 scientists at present employed on civil research and development.

The President of the Board of Trade, Mr. R. Maudling, agreed that we need much more research and development in British industry and also a rapidly expanding programme, as we now have, of scientific and technical education. Defence requirements, however, still limit the transfer of scientists and technologists from defence research to civil research. Mr. H. Nicholls thought that the Chancellor's surtax proposals would play some part in keeping in Britain the 2,000 scientists now leaving the country every year to work in competitor countries; the net loss, he pointed out, is about £1,000. Mr. D. Ginsberg, however, complained that the Budget did nothing to assist scientific research.

The Colonial Development Corporation

IN a statement in the House of Commons on April 27, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Mr. Iain Macleod, said that to ease the financial position of the Colonial Development Corporation, the Government had decided to release the Corporation from the obligation to meet the liability of accumulated unpaid interest on long-term Exchequer advances, now amounting to about £11 million, when they