Association of Headmistresses showed that about 100 grammar, including maintained, independent and direct grant, schools had unfilled vacancies for teachers of mathematics. In addition, about 370 schools had posts which were not filled with teachers having satisfactory qualifications. About 225 graduates with at least a pass-level degree standard in mathematics out of nearly 3,100 students were at present taking the teacher's diploma in university departments of education. Of the 62 general training colleges for women, only 45 had full-time lecturers in mathematics and 14 had part-time lecturers. Five such colleges and 8 mixed colleges provided specialist courses in chemistry and physics; 6 colleges and 11 mixed colleges provided main courses with full-time lecturers in chemistry or physics; 51 women's colleges and 21 mixed colleges had no full-time lecturers in chemistry or physics.

Replying to further questions in the House of Commons on June 29 about the supply of teachers of science and mathematics, the Minister of Education, Sir David Eccles, said he believed that the universities now realized the importance of the problem. He had asked local education authorities last November to take the initiative in providing local courses for serving teachers in those subjects, such as mathematics, in which there was a shortage of well-qualified teachers. Institutes of education had been asked to collaborate closely and he would ask university extra-mural departments to consider if they could help. Industry was already lending many teachers of science and mathematics to the technical colleges. Research into methods of teaching mathematics in primary schools was being undertaken by the National Foundation for Educational Research, and close attention to this was also being given by the inspectorate, training colleges and university departments of education, teachers and local education authorities. Many local short courses for teachers being arranged resulted in setting up of study groups for informal research. Much experimental work was being carried out, and Sir David agreed to take a special interest in seeing that the results of these experiments were diffused throughout the teaching service.

Trade in European Birds for Caging

In the autumn of 1960 information was received from the chairman of the Belgian National Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation, Monsieur E. Kesteloot, of the considerable export of live wild birds to England, particularly goldfinches and serins. As outlined in the British Section's annual report for 1960 (Pp. 38+4 plates. London: International Council for Bird Preservation, British Section, c/o British Museum (Natural History), 1961. 3*s*.), these birds are exported both direct and also through Belgium from other countries. Though in Great Britain goldfinches and other birds may not be sold alive unless they are close-ringed specimens bred in captivity, there is reason to believe that this law is being evaded. In 1956–57 the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds successfully prosecuted three different dealers who had imported hawfinches and other birds from Belgium and forced close-rings on their legs. The British Section has set up a subcommittee, consisting of Guy Mountfort (chairman), Miss P. Barclay-Smith, P. J. Conder, R. H. Spencer and R. S. R. Fitter as honorary secretary, to make recommendations which will control this unfortunate practice. A request has also been made for the subject to be discussed by the Conference of the European Section of the International Council for Bird Preservation which is being held in Norway.

Science in Space

The publication of a report by the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, entitled *Science in Space* (Washington, D.C.: National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, 1961), which consists of nine chapters (each published as a separate volume), has now been completed with the issue of the four remaining chapters (Chapters 1, 6, 8, 9). The report is divided as follows: Chapter 1, Dimensions and Problems: a general review; Chapter 2, The Nature of Gravitation; Chapter 3, The Earth; Chapter 4, The Moon; Chapter 5, The Planets; Chapter 6, The Sun; Chapter 7, Physics of Fields and Energetic Particles in Space; Chapter 8, Galactic and Extragalactic Astronomy, and Chapter 9, The Biological Sciences and Space Research. The aim of this report is to interest scientists working in the fields covered by the nine chapters of the report in the possibilities offered by space research. As such the report is of value since the major problems in each of the above fields are concisely discussed with reference to the relevance of research in space for their solution. In this connexion each chapter contains a short factual section relating these problems with our present knowledge of the respective field of study and a short bibliography of some of the more important recent references. However, since the background is surveyed so concisely and the outstanding problems are presented with such clarity and with the minimum of technicalities, the report could well serve as an introduction to some of the problems confronting astronomy and physics at the present time. In particular it could influence the young research worker in the choice of a fruitful field study. Each chapter (costing one dollar) can be obtained from the Publications Office of the National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue N.W., Washington 25, D.C., but it is hoped to produce the report, revised and expanded, in book form published by the McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York.

British Museum (Natural History) : Recent Acquisitions

Among the more important recent acquisitions of the British Museum (Natural History) is the unique collection of British Microlepidoptera belonging to the late Mr. L. T. Ford. This collection, of upwards of 40,000 specimens, is stated to be the best of its kind in existence, its unique merit being the high proportion of material which was reared by Mr. Ford himself. Most species are represented by long series such as are indispensable for modern systematic research, and all are provided with full and accurate data. It forms the basis of Ford's published work.

Museum of Applied Science of Victoria

The report of activities of the Museum of Applied Science of Victoria for the year ended June 30, 1960, records progress in the construction of a new wing adjoining the Museum and also in the establishment of the Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory. (Pp. 23. Melbourne: Museum of Applied Science of Victoria, 1961.) The persistent difficulties with the latter work have now been overcome and the complicated equipment has functioned satisfactorily and age determinations of check specimens have been made. Several new major displays, including those illus-