

Department of Technical Co-operation

THE Department of Technical Co-operation came into being on July 24. The Minister in charge is Mr. Dennis Vosper, who will be known as the Secretary for Technical Co-operation. The director-general—the permanent head of the Department—is Sir Andrew Cohen. The Department's headquarters are at Carlton House Terrace, London, S.W.1. The new Department is taking over present work on technical assistance performed by the three overseas departments (the Foreign Office, the Commonwealth Relations Office and the Colonial Office) and the Ministry of Labour, together with their present staffs engaged on this work. The object is to enable the United Kingdom to meet more effectively requests for technical assistance received from the Governments of developing countries inside and outside the Commonwealth. Among the main activities of the Department of Technical Co-operation will be the following: (i) Recruitment of staff for service with overseas Governments and international organizations. (ii) Arrangements for the training of such staff, including staff already in the service of overseas Governments. (iii) Administration of the Overseas Service Aid Scheme which was set out in the White Paper, *Service with Overseas Governments* (Cmd. 1193). (iv) Responsibility for the work of the Directorate of Overseas (Geodetic and Topographic) Surveys and the Directorate of Overseas Geological Surveys. (v) Aspects of Commonwealth educational co-operation affecting the United Kingdom. (vi) Special technical assistance projects overseas undertaken at the request of the Governments concerned. (vii) The handling of requests from United Kingdom dependent territories for technical assistance (including the financing of such assistance) under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, and from Commonwealth and foreign countries and international agencies. (viii) Making arrangements for assistance in the field of research, principally on subjects of importance to United Kingdom dependent territories, or where the United Kingdom has a special contribution to make overseas. (ix) Supplementing the work of other organizations in assistance to overseas Governments in placing students in the United Kingdom. (x) Providing assistance in certain instances to overseas Governments on technical matters relating to air and surface transport, telecommunications and postal services. (xi) Provision to overseas Governments of specialist advice at their request on a wide variety of subjects, such as agriculture, education, fisheries and medicine. Apart from certain educational projects, the new Department will not be responsible for the provision of capital aid, which will remain the responsibility of the overseas Departments.

Research and Development in Scotland

THE Parliamentary Secretary for Science, Mr. D. Freeth, replying to questions in the House of Commons on July 11, said that of 77 applications for grants for special researches received in 1960 from Scotland by the four Research Councils, 61 were accepted. Receipts from Scottish industry during 1960–61 amounted to about 4 per cent of the total receipts from industry by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in respect of work done at its establishments. Of 105 postgraduate awards for training in science and technology tenable at universities and colleges in Scotland made by the Department

in 1960, 17 were in biology and biochemistry, 6 in chemical engineering and metallurgy, 40 in chemistry, 5 each in electrical engineering and engineering, 3 in geology, 6 in mathematics, 22 in physics and 1 in the human sciences.

Effects of Insecticides on Birds

THE Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr. C. Soames, stated in reply to a question in the House of Commons on July 3 that the report of the survey of the effects of insecticides on animal life in Britain had been discussed at a meeting on June 29 with all the organizations interested. The report showed that the widespread occurrence of deaths of birds was confined to springtime, and that the main trouble could be obviated by not using dressings containing dieldrin, aldrin and heptachlor for spring sowings. Accordingly, it had been agreed that, as from January 1 next, these dressings will not be used at all for spring-sown grain, and they will only be used for dressing autumn and winter wheat where there is real danger of attack from wheat bulb fly. These arrangements will operate under the terms of the Notification of Pesticides Scheme. It has also been agreed that the Ministry should continue its survey, and that the arrangements should be reviewed at a meeting in June 1962. Pressed on various points, Mr. Soames promised to consider carefully the recommendations of the Estimates Committee regarding the voluntary schemes, but his information was that they had worked.

Farm Buildings in Britain

IN reply to a question in the House of Lords on July 6, the Minister for Science, Lord Hailsham, said that the Government does not think that a case has been established for a Government farm buildings research centre, but the Agricultural Research Council is undertaking a survey of farm buildings in Great Britain and is issuing a bibliography of research publications on the subject. The Council, in co-operation with the farmers concerned, is also organizing experiments with buildings on farms and contributing towards their capital cost. Lord Hailsham said further that with the experimental scheme started last year, by which landowners interested in scientific experiment could receive a 50 per cent grant for genuinely experimental buildings, the owners had to work in co-operation with the Agricultural Research Council. This method, covering the whole of Britain, with its different types of farming, circumstances and climate, appears to offer much better value than a research centre and the scheme has given very promising results. Of 177 applications received, 27 had been accepted as suitable for grants, 8 withdrawn and 90 rejected; 52 are under consideration.

Bibliography of Farm Buildings Research 1945–58

THE Agricultural Research Council is compiling a general bibliography of research publications on farm buildings. This is the first bibliography of the subject to be compiled, and *Buildings for the Drying and Storage of Grain* is the fifth section of the bibliography to appear. It will be followed by a section dealing with buildings for the processing and storage of fodder and a general section which will deal with miscellaneous types of building and with the construction and maintenance of farm buildings. The bibliography regards farm buildings as part of farm equipment