

Commonwealth Universities Yearbook 1961

A Directory of the Universities of the British Commonwealth and the Handbook of their Association. Pp. xxxi+1590. (London: Association of Universities of the British Commonwealth, 1961.) 84s.; 13 dollars.

THIS edition of the *Commonwealth Universities Yearbook* is the thirty-eighth since it was first published in 1914. The Association of Universities of the British Commonwealth, which is responsible for the compilation of this directory, feels that "it should not only cover the principal features of each university but should also give accurate and up-to-date lists of members of the university teaching profession in each country of the Commonwealth". In 1,590 pages, including an index of more than 40,000 names, it does that and more, since it includes the universities in the Republic of Ireland, which are not actually in legal membership of the Association.

The continued expansion of systems for higher education has necessitated an 80-page increase in the length of this book as compared with its predecessor, and three new University Colleges (Fourah Bay College, the University College of Sierra Leone; the University of Nigeria at Nsukka; and the University College of Sussex) have been introduced this year.

In the preface, the editors state that due to a great deal of staff movement among local universities, and from one country of the Commonwealth to another, it is only by constant and complete revision that these lists can be made to serve the purpose of identifying particular teachers and research workers. However, the introduction in this issue of some notes on academic salaries, giving salary scales for different grades of staff at the various universities, may only serve to make the editors' task even more onerous in the future.

Journal of Helminthology

Supplement in Honour of R. T. Leiper on the occasion of his 80th Birthday, 1961. Pp. xxii+229. (London: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, 1961.) 30s.

THE eightieth birthday of Prof. R. T. Leiper, Emeritus professor of helminthology in the University of London, has been celebrated by the issue of the *Journal of Helminthology* of this special supplement. The knowledge that Prof. Leiper is still actively at work will bring pleasure not only to the many biologists and medical men who have worked with him or have otherwise benefited from his kindly interest and help but also to many others who know or have admired his outstanding contributions to biology and medicine. These are discussed in this volume by Sir Philip Manson-Bahr, the late Sir Ian Clunies-Ross, Prof. B. G. Peters and Prof. T. W. M. Cameron. These contributions are so well known to parasitologists all over the world that they need no further comment here. Prof. J. J. C. Buckley and Dr. L. M. Russell write of Prof. Leiper's other activities, epitomized by his membership, or honorary membership, of many scientific societies and Government bodies, and of his long association with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the part he played in its development. A feature of this volume which will interest many is the record, covering eight pages, of the signatures of many of Prof. Leiper's pupils and associates. It will, one

hopes, be a major source of satisfaction to Prof. Leiper that he has, as this record shows, taken, in one way or another, so many distinguished scientists under his wing; and the student of what is called graphology will no doubt find in these eight pages much to interest him and perhaps to refute the confident pronouncements in those engaging books which profess to deduce our characters from our battles with such pens as modern industry provides.

The rest of this interesting volume is occupied by 29 original papers contributed by leading parasitologists of many countries, so that the volume is, in addition to being a tribute to Prof. Leiper, an important issue of the *Journal of Helminthology*.

Prof. Leiper's appointment, on his eightieth birthday, as active consultant helminthologist to the Commonwealth Bureau of Helminthology, which he directed so efficiently for thirty years until his retirement in 1958, will ensure, all parasitologists will hope, that the highly experienced staff of this organization will be able to continue the invaluable work on which parasitology all over the world has for so long relied. No other Commonwealth organization could do this essential work so well. G. LAPAGE

Stochastic Population Models in Ecology and Epidemiology

By Prof. M. S. Bartlett. (Methuen's Monographs on Applied Probability and Statistics.) Pp. x+90. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd.; New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 1960.) 12s. 6d. net.

THIS small book by Prof. Bartlett is the fourth in the series of Methuen Monographs on Applied Probability and Statistics (edited by Prof. Bartlett), the series as a whole being intended to provide inexpensive introductions to the rapidly expanding field of applied probability and statistics. The book concerns itself with probabilistic models as they may be encountered in ecology and epidemiology, and does not attempt to deal with the extensive applications of probability in genetics. A sound basic knowledge of probability is certainly a necessity to appreciate the ideas discussed.

There is an introductory chapter dealing with the role of statistical theory in biology and the relevance and prognostic value of stochastic models. The next chapter deals with some of the well-known statistical distributions (Poisson, negative binomial, logarithmic) which are set up through probabilistic continuity arguments, and introduces basic ideas to encompass spatial distributions. The middle chapters are concerned with deterministic and stochastic models for the period to extinction (or equilibrium state) in populations subject to 'birth-and-death' processes and in which there may be competition, consideration being given to continuous and discrete mechanisms. The closing chapters give an account of models for recurrent epidemics, including the case where the spatial aspect is important and relevant. The basic stochastic models are in general complicated; nevertheless some assessments of the average association between weekly notifications and time to extinction are given in the case of measles epidemics.

The printing is good, the format is attractive and the price is reasonable.

A good deal of the monograph impinges on research which has been carried out in the past few years, a large share of this being due to Bartlett. It should be of considerable interest to ecologists and biologists, and there can be little doubt that every serious student of statistics should possess a copy.