

THE BRITISH COUNCIL

THE feature article which accompanies the general survey of the year in the British Council's annual report*, 1960-61, deals with the English language abroad. An introduction by Lord Bridges comments on three characteristics of the Council's work as a whole: the change in the nature of the duties of the Council's staff which has led to their work becoming more professionalized; the extent to which most of the Council's work depends on close co-operation with other people; and the measure to which the tasks undertaken by the Council in countries overseas depends on what the country concerned is most anxious the Council should do. The teaching of English is one of the four main tasks of the Council, and this article sets forth the nature of the problem which this presents and some of its implications, as well as the specific functions and responsibilities of the British Council.

The general survey of the year directs attention to a particular aspect of British education overseas which is not covered in the feature article—the assistance provided to overseas schools, for which additional funds were used in 1960-61. Seventy-seven posts in schools abroad, including eight headships, were filled during the year, and this recruitment work is expected to increase as the scheme for educational co-operation in the Commonwealth is carried through. Aid was also increased to schools in Latin America, and a first call on the new funds was for urgently needed increases in the emoluments of British teachers.

The Council's responsibilities for visitors and students from overseas in Britain continue to grow, and it is estimated that there are now more than 55,000 such students and trainees at universities and technical colleges in the United Kingdom or in schemes of apprenticeship and training. Some 10,660 students were met on arrival, of whom 3,082 were from Commonwealth countries and 5,922 from Colonial territories. Permanent accommodation was arranged for 343 in Council residences and for 4,634 in lodgings, while transit accommodation in Council residences on first arrival was arranged for 2,399. Accommodation in university halls of residence was arranged for 609, and 10,539 offers of hospitality made through the Council were accepted. Holiday courses of 7-15 days' duration were attended by 2,298, and week-end courses, study visits and surveys

by 11,765, while 3,282 attended on arrival short introduction courses arranged by the Council or by colleges and institutions in collaboration with the Council. With the further £3 million to be provided by the Government to increase the accommodation and welfare services available for overseas students and trainees, it is hoped to provide some 5,000 additional hostel places, while there are also plans to expand the social and cultural centres for them in London and certain other cities.

In 1960-61, 170 Commonwealth Scholars came to the United Kingdom. Awards were made for one short visit to the United Kingdom for consultation or lectures and eleven such visits to other countries; 65 awards of travel grants were made for interchange visits of university teachers between the United Kingdom and other Commonwealth countries, while there were 119 short visits by senior members of university staffs between the United Kingdom and foreign universities as well as four longer visits and 79 interchange visits of younger research workers. Of 341 specialist tours, advisory visits and delegations of British specialists overseas, 197 were to Central and Eastern Europe, 74 were in education, 68 in medicine, 56 in science and technology, and 39 in social science, while the Council also provided a full range of welfare services for the 351 teachers who secured places in university departments and institutes of education and at teacher training colleges under the Commonwealth Teacher Training Bursary Scheme. Under the United Nations specialized agency schemes, the Colombo Plan, the technical assistance schemes for Yugoslavia, Ghana, Nigeria, and the programmes of the Central Treaty Organization and the Foundation for Mutual Assistance in Africa, 1,574 fellows, scholars and trainees were administered by the Council, as well as 253 visitors from 23 countries under the United States Third Country Training Scheme. In all, 367 Council scholarships were awarded, and exchanges under the Anglo-Soviet Agreement amounted to 400 visitors each way. Reference is also made to the rapid growth of the United Nations International Atomic Energy Fellows scheme, under which some 60 have come to Britain in each of the past two years, and to the regular supply of books to 176 libraries throughout the world, of which the Council directly controls 116, supplying also 276 periodicals, and 989 specialized periodicals to 169 other institutions.

* The British Council. Annual Report, 1960-1961. Pp. vi+114+8 plates. (London: The British Council.) 2s. 6d. net.

THE HUMAN SCIENCES IN INDUSTRY

WHILE many firms call in technical experts to advise them on some new equipment they are planning to install, or on problems that arise in the operation of existing plant, comparatively few consider the possibility of seeking advice on problems concerned with the men and women who operate the machines or run the plant. Yet the importance of the human factor is being increasingly recognized. Increasing mechanization, although it has changed the nature of the human contribution, has by no means diminished its importance. When machines

become more complex to operate and maintain, it is often the capacity of the human operator rather than of the equipment that places the limit on the productivity of the man/machine team.

Why does only a small minority of firms recognize the value of research on human performance as an essential feature of industrial development? They are, perhaps, unaware of how the results of research can be applied to the solution of human problems in industry, and how, if applied early enough, they can help to prevent new problems arising. It is in the

belief that industry suffers an understandable lack of knowledge about these things that the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research has attempted to provide an information channel from the academic producer of research results to the potential user in industry*.

* Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. *Problems of Progress in Industry*, No. 12: *Human Sciences Aid to Industry*. Pp. iv+27. (London: H.M.S.O., 1961.) 2s.

Human Sciences Aid to Industry, one of the popular series *Problems of Progress in Industry*, discusses some of the main lines of research in the human sciences. Sufficient information is given from studies sponsored either wholly or partly by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research to stimulate responsible people to take a more active interest in the subject.

CHEMOTHERAPY OF MALARIA

THE importance of chemotherapy in the world-wide campaign for the eradication of malaria has been rapidly increasing. The clinician treating a limited number of malaria cases has at his disposal a complete series of effective drugs for treatment of all stages of the disease; but the malariologist dealing with a sick community, often in a region with limited public health services, may find socio-economic conditions a serious obstacle to making the fullest use of existing drugs or to using them at their full effectiveness for the purpose of malaria eradication.

A report*, prepared by the World Health Organization, considers, from the point of view of the malariologist, two broad questions: (1) What is the best use of antimalarial drugs? (2) What new drugs are needed? Some 16,000 antimalarial compounds have been studied and tested for antimalarial activity in recent years. The dozen or so which have survived this intensive screening and been found useful against human malaria are here given detailed consideration: the 4-aminoquinolines such as chloroquine, amodiaquine, and their analogues; the 8-aminoquinolines

* World Health Organization. Technical Report Series. No. 226: *Chemotherapy of Malaria—Report of a Technical Meeting*. Pp. 92. (Geneva: World Health Organization; London: H.M.S.O., 1961.) 3 Swiss francs; 5s.; 1 dollar.

(pamaquine, primaquine, etc.); the pyrimidines and biguanides (pyrimethamine, proguanil and chlorproguanil); and a few others such as the older drug mepacrine. The usually recommended dosages are reviewed together with results achieved in mass drug administration.

Drug combinations and associations with an additive to counteract the shortcomings of certain drugs used singly are discussed with other aspects of malaria chemotherapy including the various ways of increasing the duration of action of the antimalarials—of special importance because of the difficulty of persuading entire populations to take drugs regularly and frequently for long periods; the principles of planning and organizing field trials of antimalarials; the problem of drug resistance, and possible ways of preventing or overcoming it; the practical problems of mass drug administration; and the use of medicated salt, a promising method of mass drug administration with which considerable experience has now been amassed in areas as diverse as Brazil, Cambodia, Ghana, Netherlands, New Guinea and British Guiana. An annex reviews variations in the modalities of drug administration in antimalaria programmes throughout the world.

STAPHYLOCOCCAL CARRIAGE

THE carriage of staphylococci in sites such as the nose and throat, without the production of local or general disease, has become of increasing importance in recent years in relation to problems of cross-infection in hospitals and, to a lesser degree, among the population at large. The term 'carriage-rate' has never been accurately determined, however, and there is no general agreement regarding the sites to be examined, and even criteria of pathogenesis remain unsettled. An attempt at a quantitative survey of observations made from 1937 to 1959 in a number of countries—mainly in the British Commonwealth, Scandinavia and the United States—and based on material from many sites has recently been reported by E. Munch-Petersen. His findings have been summarized in a recent issue of *WHO Chronicle* (15, No. 11; November, 1961).

The carriage-rates in the general population and in hospitalized patients fluctuated very considerably from year to year and exhibited no obvious similarity in trend. A striking feature was the precipitate fall in rate among the hospital population during 1949, and possibly the outcome of the intensive use of antibiotics; but this fall left no impression on the subsequent trend, and the over-all hospital carriage-rate remained much the same. Nasal carriage-rates, taken alone, ranged widely: in the general population from 21.5 per cent (1953) to 49.2 per cent (1949); in hospital

inmates from 32 per cent (1949) to 59.2 per cent (1959), again without any obvious pattern over the whole period. It is difficult to see why there should be such marked variations in carriage-rates in the same population from year to year, or why widely differing figures should be reported from different countries. The total rates for the general population ranged from a minimum of 13.6 per cent in some southern European countries to a maximum of 58 per cent in Germany; for hospital staffs and patients national rates varied between 28.1 per cent and 55.7 per cent. It is rare for two adjacent hospitals to have the same rate and there may even be differences between wards in the same institution.

The basis for these wide discrepancies may lie as much in variations of laboratory technique as in true differences of incidence. The methods of sampling, the sites sampled (the nose and skin of the hand are most generally used), the methods of culture and of performing coagulase and haemolysin tests, all are subject to enough individual variation to cast doubt on the comparability of observations from different sources. At the moment it is only possible to reach some approximation to the true state of affairs. Not until there is a generally accepted method for determining staphylococcal carriage-rates, and generally accepted criteria of pathogenesis in staphylococci are available, will it be possible to