

on April 1. In October 1960, 10,280 students were enrolled in full-time and 2,943 in sandwich courses, and of these, 4,270 and 2,767 were in advanced courses. There were also 33,077 part-time day and 43,527 evening students, and of these, 7,415 and 7,029, respectively, were in advanced courses.

Approach to a National Library in England

R. IRWIN, director, School of Librarianship and Archives, University College, London, contributes to the *Library Association Record* (March 1962) an article, "The Approach to a National Library in England", which is of some general interest. Mr. Irwin describes briefly, but lucidly, the various steps by which something of a national library system was built up and the early background to such efforts, notably in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. Due attention is given to the relation of such developments to the advance of science itself. The scientist should find Mr. Irwin's article of special interest, though he takes the record no further than the founding of the Science Museum in 1857.

Library Services in Manchester

THE one hundred and ninth annual report of the Libraries Committee of the City of Manchester, covering the year ended March 31, 1961, records a stock of 1,162,952 volumes at the end of the year, 162,387 volumes being added and 164,169 withdrawn (Pp. 38 + 4 plates. Manchester: The Public Libraries, 1962). Issues decreased by 316,502 to 6,985,430, but reference library issues again increased, by 95,467, to 1,829,225. Concern is again expressed over the dilution and turn-over of staff; of 276 full-time staff, 54 resigned during the year, bringing the total of resignations in the past five years to 256. In his report, the City Librarian notes the concentration of photographic services in a single unit and the steadily increasing demand for photocopies. Consolidation continued in the Technical Library, in which items issued for reference increased by 51,312 to 873,772, although issues from stock decreased by 30 per cent. In its first full year of operation the Patents and Microtexts Library served 15,010 readers, consulting 119,436 patent specifications, 3,179 microfilms and 717 microcards, while the Technical Information Service issued 1,940 items and handled 14,004 telephone and 598 telex inquiries. Accounts of the numerous other aspects of the work of the Manchester Public Libraries are included in the report.

The Smithsonian Institution

THE annual report of the Smithsonian Institution, the United States National Museum, for 1961 adheres in general format to previous years and records extensive building operations (Pp. viii + 188. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1961). An extension to the east wing and air conditioning of the existing Natural History Department is in progress and the corner-stone of the Museum of History and Technology was laid in May 1961. It is anticipated that this Museum will be completed in July 1962, and that it will commemorate the national heritage and illustrate the historical development of the basic elements in the life of the country. Original objects associated with famous Americans and historical events include the original Star-Spangled Banner and the desk at which Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence. The history of science and technology will be traced in exhibits of the original apparatus of the scientists, relating their

great discoveries to the machines in which the inventors and engineers applied new scientific knowledge for the benefit of the community. It is satisfactory to record that ample provision is being made for the conservation of the objects in the Museum.

Protection of Nature:

South Downs

THE National Parks Commission has issued designation orders to make the South Downs in Sussex and Hampshire, from Beachy Head to Winchester, an area of outstanding natural beauty (*Intelligence Unit. Council for Nature Press Bull.* 25). The orders are subject to confirmation by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. The Forestry Commission has leased to the Yorkshire Naturalists Trust twelve acres of the famous Grass Wood near Grassington in Wharfedale. This wood, once famous as a site for the rare lady's slipper orchid, is an ash-wood on limestone, and has been visited by generations of Yorkshire naturalists.

Hayley Wood

THE Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Naturalists' Trust has taken an option to buy the 122-acre Hayley Wood, the largest unspoilt boulder-clay wood remaining in the country, ten miles west of Cambridge. This type of woodland is famous for its displays of spring flowers, including wood anemones, dog violets, early purple orchids, bluebells, and instead of the more usual primroses, oxlips, for which this part of the eastern counties is famous. The Trust is appealing for £7,500 to buy the wood and establish a fund to enable the traditional system of management to be maintained.

Downe

CHARLES DARWIN'S Orchid Bank at Downe in Kent has recently been acquired as a nature reserve by the Kent Naturalists' Trust. It is a site of great scientific interest which shows a wide range of vegetation types including ancient chalk grassland with a very rich flora; and, as it is only sixteen miles from the centre of London, the need for conservation is urgent and considerable. It is also of unique historical importance, for Darwin is known to have carried out field studies there from his nearby home, Down House, where he lived for forty years. The reserve is eleven acres in extent, and in addition to chalk grassland, it includes chalk scrub with juniper (now rare in Kent) and beechwood on chalk; and where clay-with-flints overlies the chalk is a strip of woodland with oak, beech and hornbeam. Eleven of the thirteen species of orchid mentioned by Darwin as occurring within a mile of his house can still be found in the reserve; and in addition *Aceras anthropophorum*, not included in his list, has recently been found there. The bryophyte flora is also of interest. The Trust has set up a management committee to organize necessary conservation measures; these include fencing (a form of chestnut paling traditional in Kent is being used) and the cutting back of scrub which is invading the grassland. This committee is also preparing a long-term scientific programme of ecological observation.

Steel Foundry Year

THE British Steel Founders' Association has announced that open days will be held to mark Steel Foundry Year by the following members of the Association: Catton and Co., Ltd., Leeds (May 23); Head Wrightson Steel Foundries, Ltd., Thornaby-on Tees (May 24); F. H. Lloyd and Co., Ltd. (May