technical assistance effort. It was his intention, subject to the approval of Parliament, to provide separately in the Estimates of his Department for the support of research in and for overseas countries, who may welcome this form of aid, and such assistance would be available to any countries with which Britain had technical assistance arrangements. It would not be restricted to dependent territories, as under the terms of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts. Funds previously available under the present Act for this proposal would be merged in the new provision, and an advance of £950,000 would be made from the Civil Contingencies Fund to cover expenditure between now and the approval of a Supplementary Estimate shortly to be presented to Parliament.

Dragon High-Temperature Reactor Agreement Extended

THE agreement extending the Organization for European Co-operation and Development's *Dragon* high-temperature reactor project to March 31, 1967, has now been approved and signed by all the participants in the project. Under the agreement, the total duration of the project is extended from five to eight years and the original £13·6 million budget is increased to £25 million. The main objective of the extended programme is "to provide the Signatories with information leading to the design of an economic land-based, gas-cooled, carbon-moderated, high-temperature power reactor". The original *Dragon* agreement, concluded between the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority, the Austrian and Swiss Governments, the national atomic energy authorities of Denmark, Norway and Sweden, and the Euratom Commission (representing Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands), covered a period of five years from April 1, 1959. The project is carrying out a programme of research and development in the field of high-temperature gas-cooled reactors, and is designing and constructing a reactor experiment to obtain practical experience of this type of installation. The *Dragon* reactor experiment is now at an advanced state of construction at the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority's Atomic Energy Establishment at Winfrith, Dorset, where the team has its own technical building and has already carried out extensive research and development. Fuel loading in the reactor is expected at the end of 1963.

Dust-explosion Hazards in Factories

THE danger of dust explosions in industry in general appears to be less widely appreciated than the danger of gas or vapour explosions, although the number of industries in which a dust-explosion hazard may exist has increased rapidly during the present century. This is of some concern to the Committee on Industrial Fires and Explosions of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and Fire Offices Committee Fire Research Board, who asked for a review of the literature of dust explosions in factories to be prepared. This has been carried out at the Safety in Mines Research Establishment as part of the programme of the Joint Fire Research Organization (Research Report No. 201: *Dust Explosions in Factories—a Review of the Literature*. By K. C. Brown and Dr. G. J. James. Pp. 67. Sheffield: Ministry of Power, Safety in Mines Research Establishment, 1962. 6*s*. 6*d*.). The review covers methods and conclusions of many investigations of dust explosions, especially in connexion with the hazard in factories, up to June 1959. The subjects considered in the review include: combustion of single particles; forming dust clouds for experimental purposes; possible sources of ignition of dust clouds; studies of the propagation of flame through dust clouds; large-scale experimental work on the venting of explosions and of preventing the spread of flame. There is an excellent summary of precautions that can be taken against dust explosions in factories, suggestions of a number of aspects of the subject that merit early investigation and a list of more than 230 references. This critical review is far from the dry report it might have been. It is an important contribution to the subject of dust-explosion hazards and deserves wide circulation and publicity among those interested in the scientific and the practical industrial aspects of the problem.

Preventing Accidents in the Factory

EVERY year nearly 200,000 serious accidents occur in industry. Employers have legal and moral obligations to prevent accidents, but effective action towards accident prevention also needs co-operation from the man on the shop floor. To help employers in securing such co-operation from their workers, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents has published a new booklet entitled *This is Your Life*, which states in simple, direct language how workers can help to prevent accidents to themselves and their fellow workers (Pp. 16. London: Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, 1962). Designed for distribution by employers to their workers, the booklet is written with a light touch and is illustrated with cartoons. It contains much sound advice on such highly practical matters as dressing for the job, safe operation of machines and tools, fire precautions, electrical hazards, personal hygiene, good house-keeping in the factory, first aid, and the avoidance of practical joking. In connexion with the last-named, there is a timely warning about the dangers of playing about with compressed air lines. Falls are a frequent cause of accident, and this danger is stressed in the booklet with appropriate illustrations.

Supplementary Letters of Sir Joseph Banks

IN December 1958 the Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History) published *The Banks Letters*, in which more than 7,000 letters were calendared of Sir Joseph Banks, the English naturalist (1743–1820). A number of further letters have now become available, and of the 139 letters summarized in a recent publication there are four important series, namely: (1) 38 letters from Banks to the antiquary, Francis Douce, in the Bodleian Library; (2) 28 letters from Banks to the second Earl Spencer, which are preserved in the Muniment Room at Althorp, Northamptonshire; (3) 26 letters from Banks to Dawson Turner in the Library of Trinity College, Cambridge; and (4) 16 letters from Banks to Matthew Flinders and his wife, now in the possession of Miss A. Flinders Petrie (*Bulletin of the British Museum (Natural History)*. Historical Series. Vol. 3, No. 2: *Supplementary Letters of Sir Joseph Banks*. Edited by Warren R. Dawson. Pp. 41–70. London: British Museum (Natural History), 1962. 8*s*.). Several letters are included from copies of which the originals are in American libraries; there is also a small series relating to the appointment of a chaplain to Banks while holding the office of High Sheriff of Lincolnshire in 1794, which were originally in the Evidence Room at Revesby Abbey. The remainder are miscellaneous in character, and among them are ten letters which were inadvertently passed over when *The Banks Letters* was in preparation. The publication contains a summary of each of the various groups of letters.

Comparative Efficiency of Indexing Systems

THE *Report on the Testing and Analysis of an Investigation into the Comparative Efficiency of Indexing Systems*—an investigation supported by a grant to Aslib by the National Science Foundation—is essentially for the specialist (Pp. 305. Cranfield: Aslib Cranfield Research Project, College of Aeronautics Library, 1962). After outlining the main test programme of this Aslib Cranfield Research Project, Mr. C. W. Cleverdon gives the results of the main test, the statistical analysis and analysis of