

successful in the Natural Sciences Tripos (Physics) in 1949. From 1949 until 1953 he was engaged in research at the Mathematical Laboratory at Cambridge. He was awarded the Ph.D. degree in 1952 and was elected a Fellow of St. John's College. He spent the greater part of the following two years in the United States where he became visiting assistant professor at the University of Illinois and visiting lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. During 1955 he worked at Cambridge on the design of *EDSAC II*. In 1955 he joined Ferranti Ltd., as assistant head of the Advanced Applications Group in the Computer Department, and was promoted to the headship of this group a year later. Following a reorganization within the firm his group became part of the Sales organization. His team was specially interested in the *ATLAS* computer from an early stage and has played a large part in the establishment of the programming system for *ATLAS*. He is a member of the Council of the British Computer Society, and British Representative on the Council of the International Federation for Information Processing. Dr. Gill will maintain his position as head of Advanced Applications Group in the Ferranti Computer Department.

The University of Leeds

THE annual report of the University of Leeds for the session 1961-62, which records an increase of full-time students to 5,561 in October 1962, compared with 4,655 in 1959 and 5,175 in 1961, of whom 2,061 were new, is more than usually concerned with financial matters. In particular, the Council expresses its concern that the authorized salary scales will prove insufficient to ensure the recruitment and maintenance of the necessary academic staff. An Advisory Committee in Food Science has been appointed and work is progressing on the fitting and equipment of the new food science laboratory. Another new development was the establishment in May 1962 of the Astbury Department of Biophysics in commemoration of Prof. Astbury's pioneering work in this subject. The committee appointed under the chairmanship of Prof. E. Grebenik to investigate the conditions under which students live in hall, lodgings, flats and at home found that 38 per cent of men students in lodgings did have adequate conditions for study. The report of the Grebenik Committee emphasized the importance of the University itself providing more accommodation for students and also stimulated discussions on existing regulations regarding residence of women students. An Academic Planning Committee considered the means and extent of academic participation in University government and another committee the question of research facilities for members of staff. With the brief reports from departments is one from the Appointments Board which suggests that although the overall demand for graduates showed little change from 1960-61, there were more candidates available for employment and competition for posts was generally keener, particularly in the chemical industry. In the Civil Service competitions Leeds graduates made a much better showing than at any time in the past decade.

Symbol for the International Quiet Sun Years

IDENTIFICATION of information relating to the International Geophysical Year (IGY) was greatly facilitated by the adoption of a distinctive symbol (*Nature*, 177, 559; 1956) by all participating nations. Now that a similar venture is being planned to span the period of minimum solar activity—International Years of the Quiet Sun (January 1, 1964–December 31, 1965), the CIG (Comité International de Géophysique)–IQSY Committee has approved the symbol reproduced here (Fig. 1), which it is hoped will confer equivalent recognition to this forthcoming international enterprise. The symbol comprises the IGY symbol, with the orbital satellite denoting the nations' activities in probing the upper atmosphere and

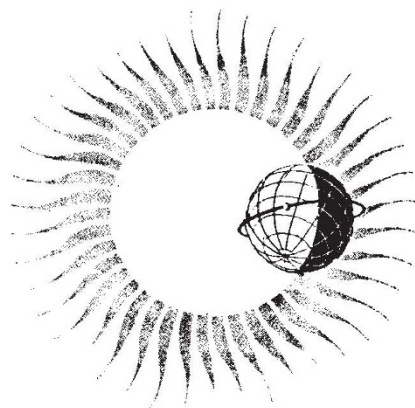


Fig. 1

the interplanetary medium, superposed on a circle with regular spikes radiating from the perimeter to represent the Sun. By this juxtaposition, it is hoped to convey the importance of solar terrestrial relationships, and by retaining the IGY symbol to emphasize that information obtained during the IQSY will be essentially complementary to the data recorded during the IGY. The design for the symbol is based on ideas contained in sketches submitted by Dr. N. V. Pushkov, of the U.S.S.R., vice-president of the CIG–IQSY Committee, and Dr. Hugh Odishaw, of the United States, who is also a member of the Committee.

The Organization for European Co-operation and Development

THE *O.E.C.D. Observer*, No. 2, January 15, 1963, includes a Statement by the Ministerial Council outlining directives for 1963, in which the importance attached to efforts in all member countries in development is reaffirmed, with particular reference to the work to be done by consortia established to support the development policies of Greece and Turkey. Aid programmes, it is affirmed, should be a well-established part of the policy of every developed member country, and the Ministers recommended that, in the framework of the Organization, member countries should work towards policies which take full account of the interdependence of trade and aid. Substantial adaptations will be necessary in the fields of agriculture, industry and manpower to facilitate economic growth and the expansion of trade. Recognizing the increasing importance of science and technology in their many relations with economic life, the Ministers have instructed the Organization to prepare a Ministerial-level meeting on co-operation with regard to scientific policy and research, to be called within the next year. A note by Thorkil Kristensen, the secretary-general of the Organization, explains that the Ministers considered that a policy and strategy for science and scientific research as an instrument of economic activity were needed. At this conference, Ministers will plan the rational distribution of scientific research and the possibilities of setting up joint research undertakings such as those at present operated by the European Nuclear Energy Agency. A further article by Dr. A. King, the Organization's director for scientific affairs, discusses the implications in this context of a policy for science, suggesting that this does not mean interference with research but rather deals with the use of resources as a whole, the balance and effectiveness of their deployment, and their relevance to national needs, whether economic, social or military.

Industrial Decentralization in France

THE extent of industrial decentralization in France under the Government's policy of regional development is outlined in a pamphlet issued by the Press and Informa-