

## NEW DEVELOPMENT IN UNIVERSITY EXTRAMURAL WORK

THE report of the Universities Council for Adult Education, 1961-62, entitled *New Development in University Extramural Work*\*, prepared by Mr. A. Parker, director of Extramural Studies, University of Birmingham, is based on the reports of the extramural departments of the universities of the United Kingdom for 1961-62 and on additional information supplied by them. It raises again, at the outset, the question whether the new variety and extent of extramural work was entirely mere opportunism, but Mr. Parker suggests that the past seven years have been formative and that a new pattern is emerging. He considers that diversity between the different forms of course that have become established parts of extramural programmes—the day-release classes, the post-graduate courses, the provision for vocational groups, and work with industry—is less apparent than some years ago. Moreover, he feels that the underlying unity is to be sought in the distinctive kind of teaching that extramural departments should provide.

Several departments have directed attention to an increasing tendency for extramural work to mirror the range of intramural work of universities, and this might provide a simple answer to the question as to the distinctive characteristics of extramural teaching. While Mr. Parker suggests that extramural departments may sometimes be able to make a special contribution to courses arranged in co-operation with university departments of technology, he suggests further that the traditional concern of extramural departments with liberal studies has not diminished in importance. However, it would seem that liberal studies are not necessarily promoted by the traditional means nor necessarily differentiated sharply from professional studies.

If it is accepted that extramural teaching should be of a distinctive kind, it should also follow that this teaching should be open to all adults who are capable of profiting from such teaching. The three-year tutorial class was designed to meet a particular need, and, despite the decline in the number of such classes, in many places it

\* *New Development in University Extramural Work*. Report of the Universities Council for Adult Education: 1961-1962. Pp. 28. (Liverpool: Hon. Secretary, Universities Council for Adult Education, The University, 1963.)

still exemplifies the best extramural teaching. It should be asked, however, whether the spirit of the tutorial class may be preserved in new forms of course designed to meet contemporary needs, and Mr. Parker comments on the remarkable response at times in recent years from industrial workers, both in terms of quality and quantity.

Beyond this, Mr. Parker directs attention to the needs of a new group—the applicants with two or more Advanced-level General Certificate of Education subjects—for whom university places cannot be found, and asks whether traditional policies towards providing extramural courses leading to examination should be revised. He recognizes that extramural courses could not provide a substitute for intramural courses, but points out that, if considered as an adjunct to some of the many proposals for meeting unsatisfied demand for university places, they could provide at least occasional contact between students and good university teachers. Curiously enough, even in this context, the possible contribution or participation of the colleges of technology does not appear to be visualized. Moreover, while Mr. Parker recognizes that some extension of the principle of external degrees may be implied, he does not consider what might be implied in the suggestion of a new kind of external degree examination, specially designed to test the particular abilities of mature students who have the advantages, as well as the disadvantages, of alternating study with employment.

The report also includes a section by Mr. M. Bruce on the work of the Council's Sub-Committee on Broadcasting, set up in 1960, including its comments on the Government's White Paper on the Pilkington Report. The general expansion of programmes is welcomed, and educational programmes for adults are defined as programmes (other than school broadcasts) arranged in series and planned in consultation with appropriate educational bodies to help viewers towards the progressive mastery or understanding of some skill or body of knowledge. This definition is held to include programmes primarily designed for class use, for example, in technical colleges or centres for adult education, as well as those primarily designed for the viewer at home.

## THE C.S.I.R.O. ANIMAL RESEARCH LABORATORIES

THE annual report of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization Animal Research Laboratories for 1961-62\* continues the accounts of much important research work covering a wide variety of conditions and of great importance to other countries. It outlines the work of three divisions dealing with animal genetics, animal health and animal physiology.

Apart from original work relating primarily to Australian conditions there are outstanding examples of the complementary value of work in Australia in the elucidation of important disease problems in many countries. Examples are the 'race', run off in 'heats' nearly half a century ago, on botulism research; the production of infective and toxic mixed culture after years of research from cases of 'lamsiekte' in cattle in South Africa; the discovery that a similar disease of animals in Australia was actually botulism; the triumph of technique in South

Africa that enabled pure cultures of the organism to be made; the finding that the basic cause of the condition in that country was deficiency of phosphorus in the soil that led to depraved appetite with bone-chewing. The growth from this work of the importance of other mineral deficiencies that lead to ill-health in farm animals, Australia taking a share in these developments, was a striking development of the decades prior to the Second World War.

The importance of studies in general animal physiology was realized in certain of the newer countries earlier than in Britain, and, possibly with the less-entrenched and organized seats of learning, such work began to receive recognition in these countries at least a decade earlier. With the incentive of utilizing the great areas of potential animal country that is often of less obvious quality than the animal production areas of the old world, plus an open-minded outlook towards such developments, the enthusiasm and enterprise shown has paid large dividends. Work from Australia under the influence of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization

\* *C.S.I.R.O. Animal Research Laboratories*. Annual Report 1961-1962. Pp. 177 (mimeographed). (Melbourne: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, 1962.)

has consistently proved the value of its policies. The range of genetics research reported runs from purely scientific work on *Drosophila* to studies of the myxomatosis virus, physiology of the coat in cattle concerning sweat glands and hair, to hybrid vigour.

Infective and non-infective diseases important to Australia and disease related to worm and arthropod infestation receive great attention. The geographical position of Australia has provided a great freedom from some of the devastating diseases of other countries with comparable climatic conditions and wise policy has enabled

the position, all round, to be maintained. There are great risks of diseases introduced in the processes of commerce. The important work on bovine contagious pleuro-pneumonia, solidly entrenched in northern parts of the continent for a very long time, is continued. The special climatic conditions of the continent have great influence on animal husbandry, and physiological investigations into the means of obtaining the best possible results by attention to the production and management of animals that can thrive and be suitably exploited have been extensively carried out.

## PRIORITIES OF HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY

THE following statement of policy concerning "Priorities of Human Responsibility" was issued after the fourth meeting of the International Trustees of the World Wildlife Fund which was held in Switzerland recently:

"The World Wildlife Fund believes that man has responsibilities of trusteeship for the natural world over which we now exercise such sweeping power. How do these responsibilities equate with other human responsibilities? The ending of all forms of human suffering is clearly of paramount importance. We must never waver in the fight against disease, hunger, the threat of war and every other kind of disaster and human misery. We must strive to make a world worth living in for everyone; but is a world without wildlife and wild places worth living in? Even when mankind is free from want and fear, will our children's grandchildren thank us if we have sealed off great wild areas of the earth from the Sun with bricks and mortar, concrete and plastics? Will they have to ask 'What was a wild animal?' or 'What was a wild place?'

"When there is an unavoidable collision between the survival of man and the survival of wildlife, human interests must clearly prevail. It is our thesis, however, that

such collisions are rare—that in most cases a little thought, ingenuity and good will can permit the co-existence of man and wildlife without which man himself is so much the poorer. Most of the species exterminated by man in historical times need not have become extinct and would not have done so if anyone had bothered about it. The survival of the dodo and the great auk would not have impeded human progress in the slightest degree.

"Thus the Fund's campaign is not a case of animals versus man. Conservation is for man, for the long-term benefit of humanity, and to ignore it is short-sighted and improvident. There is a close link between medical science and natural science, and an even closer link between the achievement of freedom from hunger and the conservation of wildlife, because both have to do with the proper use of the land and its priceless treasures.

"But there are also responsibilities for adding something constructive and uplifting to human lives as well as for saving them—responsibilities which in the field of conservation, grow daily more urgent, for the wild creatures cannot protest, and once a species becomes extinct nothing can re-create it. Ultimately, therefore, the concern of the World Wildlife Fund is with the future benefit of man and the spiritual enrichment of his life."

## THE INTERNATIONAL EPIZOOTICS BUREAU, PARIS

THE report\* for 1961-62 by the director, Dr. R. Vittoz, of the International Epizootics Bureau, Paris, made at the thirtieth annual conference, covers incidence of world-wide disease.

The Bureau functions through officials of the countries represented on its council and has a permanent staff in its Paris Office. Reports of its conferences are published in considerable detail and bulletins are issued giving statistical information supplied to that office. From time to time special conferences are called, in addition to the regular seasonal meetings, when particular internationally important problems arise, such as, for example, the break-out of African horse-sickness from the endemic regions in Africa in quite recent years, with great extension from the Middle East into Pakistan, India, and beyond. There is close association for relevant purposes with other international bodies such as the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Collectively, these bodies are able to take most satisfactory action in emergency and, according to circumstances, also in the preparation of short- or long-term plans.

The functions and organizations of these bodies each strengthen the value of the others. Their knowledge of local conditions and circumstances everywhere is very good and detailed, and, with the help of the several

countries, rapid and efficient action can be taken when required, experts and materials being mobilized and concentrated to the best advantage.

Many examples could be given of the manner in which the functions of the Bureau and of the other organizations with which it works have been utilized. During their existence there have been dangerous extensions of animal disease into countries previously free and, if early and effective action had not been available, losses from devastating disease would undoubtedly have been carried even further than was the case, with very serious results to countries with valuable livestock industries.

With the rapid extension of air transport within the memory of serving officials of all countries, and the risks of the possibilities that may arise from space travel in the future, the dangers of infective disease are far greater than in the past. Diseases that the veterinarian had considered to be comfortably tucked away in Africa and limited to that continent have caused very serious losses within the experience of the present working generation of experts. While known to be of the utmost importance, to their endemic areas there had been little fear that their interest would be more than academic to workers elsewhere. Blue-tongue of sheep has invaded the United States and at great cost; African swine fever—quite a different virus to the unfortunately well-known scourge of most countries—has invaded the Iberian Peninsula and Mediterranean countries.

\* Report for 1961-62 of the International Epizootics Bureau. Pp. 94. (Paris: Office International des Epizooties, 1962.)