

Towards the Organization of Science by Scientists

Those concerned with the organization and teaching of science in Britain could well consider the possibility of introducing a compulsory one-year course on the administration and organization of science for all undergraduate students of science. How many undergraduates are sufficiently well informed to understand the insouciant of the science effort, the workings of the Research Councils, the research associations, or science in industry or university? Such a course could include an appreciation of the interactions of science and the State—and where better could the student start than Prof. R. V. Jones's address, on September 3, to Section X (General) of the British Association for the Advancement of Science meeting, in Aberdeen, on the life of Lyon Playfair (see *Nature*, 200, 105, 197; 1963)? Few students (and many qualified scientists) really appreciate the interrelationships of science and Government, the workings of the University Grants Committee, or even what D.S.I.R. stands for, let alone have heard of Lyon Playfair, Colonel Strange, H. E. Armstrong, Sir Richard Gregory, etc., to mention a few. The approach to the subject would best be historical and possibly subdivided as Playfair did his presidential address to the British Association in 1885, and which Prof. Jones developed. If such a course could be introduced by one compulsory lecture a week, all potential scientists would gain a better appreciation of the inherent difficulties of organizing the national science effort. It would, in the long run, lead to the organization of science by scientists.

Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy

THE third International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy will be held in Geneva during August 31–September 9, 1964. A provisional topical agenda constituting the general programme of the Conference has been prepared by the United Nations with the advice of the Scientific Advisory Committee and in co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The main theme of the Conference will be new developments in power reactor technology, including descriptions of, experience with and prospects for reactor systems, economic aspects of nuclear power, nuclear fuel and other reactor materials, reactor physics and performance studies, safety implications and radioactive waste management. Sessions are also proposed on new developments in controlled thermonuclear reactions, application of radioisotopes, research reactors and isotope separation and other new applications of atomic energy. A scientific exhibition in connexion with the conference will be organized and participation will be limited to States taking part in the conference.

Sir William Penney, deputy chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, has been appointed chairman of a National Executive Committee with members representing the interests of the Atomic Energy Authority, Electricity Boards, the nuclear industry, Government Departments, universities and research organizations. A committee has also been set up under the chairmanship of Sir William Penney to prepare papers for submission by the United Kingdom to the United Nations. The Atomic Energy Authority is to provide the Secretariat, which will be responsible for all executive and administrative arrangements on behalf of the United Kingdom relating to papers, the exhibition and attendance at the conference, under the general guidance of the National Executive and Papers Committees. For this purpose the Authority has established a Geneva Conference Secretariat at its London Office, 11 Charles II Street, London, S.W.1, under the direction of Dr. J. Gaunt.

Scientific Research in France

THE *Rapport National de Conjoncture* for 1962–63 of the National Centre for Scientific Research, Paris, also entitled

the "Report of the National Committee for Scientific Research", covers all the research proceeding under the Committee during the year, in which the number of research workers increased from 650 to 720 (Pp. 264. Paris: Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, 1963). The information on current projects is arranged according to divisions of science and not institutions and the report is in two parts, the first dealing with the exact and natural sciences, and the second with the human sciences, including philosophy. There is no index, but fairly full contents pages facilitate reference. The whole volume is itself too condensed to permit further condensation without distortion.

The Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine

THE report of the Governing Body of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine for the year 1962 includes a summary of the investigations made in 1962 (Pp. 33. London: Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, 1963). In microbiology, the Guinness–Lister Unit continued to explore bacterial genetics, mainly of the *Salmonella* bacilli. The Trachoma Research Unit continued its epidemiological field study in the Gambia of trachoma in terms of virus and of bacilli of the *Haemophilus* group and is preparing to test the prophylactic value of a virus in the Gambia. The immunological study of bacterial infections included an analysis of the action of two types of protective antibody in mice infected with the whooping cough bacillus; the laboratory assay of typhoid vaccines and the nature of the protective antigen in typhoid vaccines for human use; the immuno-pathology of actinomycetic dermatitis of sheep; and the process of refinement of antitoxin by proteolysis. Work continued on the relation of serum permeability factors to plasma kininogenases and their respective roles in vascular reactions to injury. Biochemical research work again concerns the blood group substances, including definition of the chemical heterogeneity of preparations of mucopolysaccharides and of the terminal sugar groups determining serological specificity, the cellular phospholipids and starches. A list of publications is appended.

The Sarawak Museum

VOLUME 10 of *The Sarawak Museum Journal* (Nos. 19–20. N.S. July–December 1962) maintains the high standard of previous issues and, as before, owes much to the energy and enthusiasm of its editor, Mr. Tom Harrison, who is also Government ethnologist and curator of the Sarawak Museum. The theme for the volume is given as "Sarawak in a Wider Context", and though the editor himself is the main contributor, he has inspired many others to write a total of thirty papers. The first section deals chiefly with the classification and typology of local archaeological material, and this is followed by articles concerned with neighbouring areas. Investigations in the development of various resources comprise the third section, and the volume of nearly 300 pages closes with a few notes on natural history.

The Institute of Applied Science of Victoria

THE report of activities for the year ended June 30, 1962, of the Institute of Applied Science of Victoria stresses the value to-day of the science museum and records substantial progress towards building a high-performance planetarium (Pp. 16. Melbourne: Institute of Applied Science of Victoria, 1963). Much concentrated work was carried out in the Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory, and the erection of a neutron reactor was completed. The public demand for telescope demonstrations continued to increase. Besides the opening of a new north-west wing in which the setting up of displays was a major pre-occupation, considerable display reorganization was made in other galleries.