

salaries following the report of the National Incomes Commission would be the subject of a special earmarked grant. On the capital side, the Government was authorizing an increase in the value of building-starts in 1964 from £33.5 million to £48.5 million and this would be devoted to an accelerated programme to accommodate the larger numbers coming into the universities up to 1967-68. The total capital commitment in respect of building-starts in 1964 was about £70 million. An identical statement was made in the House of Lords when replies to questions elicited that the figure of 197,000 students included the colleges of advanced technology but not the teachers' training colleges.

European Molecular Biology Organization

MANY of the original advances in molecular biology were made in Europe, but shortage of funds together with the rigid division of science into established disciplines at many European universities have retarded further growth. There are only few well-equipped centres, and most work is done by isolated groups with inadequate means. In the United States, on the other hand, the implications of molecular biology have been quickly grasped, and academic institutions are setting up numerous excellently staffed and equipped laboratories for investigating it. In consequence, many Europeans who have started work here have been led to accept attractive offers to continue their research in American laboratories. On February 2 a group of scientists working in the field of molecular biology held a meeting in Geneva to consider the possibilities of setting up an Organization of Molecular Biology. The group, under the chairmanship of Dr. M. F. Perutz (Cambridge), consisted of Prof. A. Butenandt (Munich), Prof. A. A. Buzzati-Traverso (Naples), Prof. J. Brachet (Brussels), Prof. A. Engström (Stockholm), Prof. H. Friedrich-Freksa (Tübingen), Dr. F. Jacob (Paris), Prof. E. Katchalski (Rehovoth), Prof. E. Kellenberger (Geneva), Dr. J. C. Kendrew (Cambridge), Prof. A. M. Liquori (Naples), Prof. O. Maaløe (Copenhagen), Prof. C. Sadron (Strasbourg), Prof. A. Tiselius (Uppsala) and Dr. J. Wyman (Rome). The main objective of the Organization will be to foster the development of molecular biology in Europe. The group aims at raising funds for the support of molecular biology in existing institutions and for the advanced training of young scientists. It also intends to sponsor proposals for co-operation between European scientists, such as joint research projects which may ultimately lead to the foundation of a European Research Institute of Molecular Biology. Further information can be obtained from Dr. M. F. Perutz, Laboratory of Molecular Biology, Hill Road, Cambridge.

The Royal Society of London

THE report of the Council of the Royal Society for the year ended September 30, 1963, refers to the appointment of four of the new Royal Society Research Professors (Pp. 60. London: The Royal Society, 1963). The Society already supports 27 research appointments, including professorships, and brief reports on their work from the holders are appended to the Council's report. In co-operation with the Leverhulme Trust, two Royal Society Leverhulme Visiting Professors were appointed, one to visit India and the other Poland. A further expedition to North Borneo during January-May 1964, with the view of investigating the Pinosuk Plateau, is being planned, and also one to the Solomon Islands, while in August 1963 a Vulcanological Expeditions Committee was set up, with Prof. W. Q. Kennedy as chairman "to encourage, promote and co-ordinate a comprehensive study of volcanicity, particularly in its relationship to oceanic regions". The Committee on Taxonomy reported in March 1963, and this report has now been published. Additional support is needed to enable Britain's national institutions and university departments concerned with taxonomy to

respond to the increasing demands on them, and means are under consideration for implementing the Committee's recommendations. Consideration of ways of improving the presentation of science in all broadcasting services continues, and in May 1963 an *ad hoc* committee, with Lord Fleck as chairman, was appointed to consider what action the Royal Society might take to heighten the esteem of the technologist as a scientific contributor to the national welfare. Space research in the United Kingdom continued to expand steadily under the guidance of the British National Committee on Space Research, and the Space Research Management Unit of the Office of the Minister for Science has been enlarged. Projects being undertaken in schools under the aegis of the Scientific Research in Schools Committee showed encouraging growth and now number 86; about £4,500 was awarded during the year as well as £3,000 to supply research equipment. Principal officers of 54 scientific societies were invited to a meeting in June 1963 to discuss scientific publications. Parliamentary grants administered by the Society totalled £220,000 in the fiscal year 1963-64, compared with £160,000 in 1962-63; of the total, £105,500 was for scientific investigations, £80,000 for international research and scientific congresses and £25,000 for research professorships.

The Association of Commonwealth Universities

THE final annual report of the Association of Universities of the British Commonwealth—succeeded now by the Association of Commonwealth Universities—covers the year ended July 31, 1963 (Pp. 38. London: The Association of Commonwealth Universities, 1963). During the year, there were 127 university members, including 9 South African universities, 11 associate members (university colleges) and 4 additional members (other approved institutions of higher education). The Royal Charter now limits membership of the Association to university institutions within the Commonwealth. During the year, the Appointments Section was asked to help in filling 1,146 vacancies and dealt with 5,669 enquiries. The Association also handled 362 nominations for Commonwealth scholarships and selected 273 candidates, as well as handling Marshall scholarships, the competition for Frank Knox Memorial fellowships, attestations for French universities, and assisting the Commonwealth University Interchange and the Drapers' Company Scholarship Schemes. Appended to the report is a brief account of the work of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom.

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation

THE report for 1961-62 of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation—the first biennial report to be issued since Mr. E. Case succeeded Mr. A. P. Sloan, jun., as president on July 1, 1962—records authorized grants during the period totalling 19.3 million dollars, of which 1.03 million dollars was to the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research and almost 280,000 dollars to Stanford University (Pp. xi+137. New York: Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, 1963). The total commitments exceeded income for the biennium by some 4 million dollars. Other major grants during the period were for fellowships for basic research in the physical sciences, fellowships in engineering and industrial management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a few other leading institutions, and to the A. P. Sloan national scholarships. New ventures receiving major support include 2.75 million dollars for the Courant Institute of Mathematics at New York University and grants of £1 million each to six institutions with strong faculties of arts and sciences for the development of their engineering resources. The report includes lists of recipients of the A. P. Sloan Fellowships in Basic Science, of the first four awards for cancer research, details of projects supported in ophthalmology, of the National Scholarship Programme, and the staff grants made to