

and then joined the research staff of the Institute of Plant Physiology at that College under the directorship of the late Prof. F. G. Gregory. Working on the mineral nutrition of plants in the group stationed at Rothamsted, and headed by Dr. F. J. Richards, he was awarded a Ph.D. in 1949. Later, his research was centred mainly on the physiology of flowering and the analysis of growth and morphogenesis in plants, and included a period of work at the Arctic research station of the Swedish Royal Academy. These researches have elucidated the action of environmental factors controlling flowering in the chrysanthemum and other plants, and have also revealed the dual control of flowering by internal inhibition and promotion. For these investigations he designed a new type of plant growth cabinet with natural illumination which has since been used extensively in other phytotrons. For this work Dr. Schwabe was awarded the D.Sc. degree in 1957 and the Huxley Medal of Imperial College in 1958. On the dissolution of the Institute of Plant Physiology at Imperial College he remained with Dr. Richards's research group, which was later transferred to Wye College as the Agricultural Research Council Unit of Plant Morphogenesis and Nutrition.

New Research Building for Pfizer, Ltd.

PFIZER, LTD., is increasing its research facilities at Sandwich, Kent. The new building, costing £370,000, is planned to be completed by the end of next year, but this is only the first stage of a three-stage programme which when completed will house most of the pharmaceutical research departments. This will enable the research work being conducted in various locations at Sandwich to be centralized and, at the same time, allow the Group to move into new areas of research such as tropical medicine. The major fields in which the group is already heavily engaged and which will be given even greater emphasis are those of the cardio-vascular diseases and virology. The first stage, of 30,000 ft.², will house the chemical and clinical research departments plus a lecture theatre with a seating capacity of 75, a library and research headquarters. The library, on the ground floor, will contain a fire-proof vault for storing research data and other irreplaceable documents. Four chemical research laboratories will be situated on the first story together with the research headquarters and micro-analytical and chromatography laboratories, and space for nuclear magnetic resonance investigations. On the second story will be six chemical research laboratories, a conference room, wash-up area and workshop. Special features will be a 'safe' laboratory where overnight and long-term experiments can be conducted in isolation and a large-scale laboratory for producing intermediates and compounds required in more than normal bench quantities. On the roof will be hydrogenation and isotope laboratories. The isotope laboratory will be used for 'tagging' certain new therapeutic compounds with radio isotopes so that their activity in the body can be accurately measured.

Representational Services Overseas

In opening a debate in the House of Commons on July 29 on the Plowden Report on *Representational Services Overseas* (*Nature*, 202, 1039; 1964), Mr. H. Berkeley challenged the retention of the Commonwealth Relations Office and the Foreign Office as separate Ministries and argued cogently for a Department of External Affairs, covering both Commonwealth and non-Commonwealth countries, with a ministerial structure based on geographical areas. He also suggested a Cabinet Minister for Overseas Development, with much wider responsibilities than the Secretary for Technical Co-operation. Mr. C. P. Mayhew, who followed, questioned the wisdom of any such fusion and was inclined to support the recommendation of the Plowden Committee, and in this he was also supported by Sir Charles Mott-Radcliffe.

The Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations and for the Colonies, Mr. N. Fisher, who replied on the debate, admitted that there might be disadvantages in having two departments, but thought that these disadvantages were exaggerated and that the balance of argument in practice was in favour of two departments. He did not deal with the point about development aid and the Department of Technical Co-operation, but discussed the question of recruitment at some length, particularly with regard to widening the basis of recruitment. He agreed that it was important to encourage university graduates to compete for entry into the executive branch as well as the administrative branch, but was silent as to the desirability of a larger recruitment of those with a scientific background urged by Mr. Mayhew. No speaker referred to the point at issue between the Estimates Committee and the Plowden Committee on the margin of staffing the Service (see *Nature*, 203, 797; 1964).

Industrial Training Boards

In a short debate on the industrial training boards in the House of Commons on July 22, opened by Mr. R. E. Prentice, the Minister of Labour, Mr. J. B. Godber, said that the first four training boards established under the Act, for the construction, the wool, the engineering and the iron and steel industries, had all met at least once. In the light of the advice of the Central Training Council, he had selected shipbuilding, cotton, construction materials and public utilities (gas, water and electricity) as the next four industries for which training boards should be established. At its meeting on July 23, the Central Training Council would consider its own committee structure, with the view of dealing effectively with its varied tasks on a regional and functional basis. The Ministry now had two branches, each under an Assistant Secretary, dealing with the implementation of the Act: one was concerned with preparations for establishing further boards, and the other with relations with those already established. There was also at present a technical staff, under the chief technical adviser, with two assistant technical advisers, to advise on technical aspects of training; a deputy was shortly to be appointed. Grants of up to £10,000 had been made to assist the boards until they could raise their own funds from a levy, and they were also being assisted in compiling a register of firms in each industry. The Construction Board and the Wool Industry Board each had a deputy chairman, as well as a chairman, but the other two boards, which had chairmen from within the industries concerned, had not.

Public Libraries and Museums

In moving the second reading of the Public Libraries and Museums Bill in the House of Lords on June 30, the Minister of State for Education and Science, Lord Newton, explained that museums and art galleries had recently been surveyed by the Standing Commission under the chairmanship of Lord Rosse, and when the Bill was introduced into the House of Commons in February it was the Government's intention to make no substantial change until the Survey had been further studied. It had been represented, however, that certain changes would command a wide measure of support and should be made without waiting for further legislation on museums. It also appeared that the existing law regarding charges for admission to museums and art galleries was full of anomalies and could not be re-enacted. For these two reasons, Clauses 12-15 dealing with museums and art galleries had been extensively revised.

Under the revised Clause 12 all library authorities would continue to have powers to provide and maintain museums, and any other authority which now maintained a museum would be able to do so. In addition, any local authority would be able to provide a museum or art gallery if it obtained the consent of the Secretary of State. The