

to problems in wool chemistry. With his colleagues he has developed methods for the analysis of amino-acids and amino-acid derivatives, determined the amino-acid composition of wool and of proteins isolated from wool, and examined the distribution of sulphur in wool. The last-mentioned of these topics was supported by a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture, and led to the discovery of two new sulphur-containing amino-acids. Dr. Robson will retain responsibility for the direction of a new research project on which he and his colleagues at the Wool Industries Research Association are at present engaged, and which is also sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture.

#### Medical Biochemistry in the University of Manchester : Prof. D. S. Jackson

DR. D. S. JACKSON has been appointed to be the first holder of the chair of medical biochemistry in the University of Manchester. Dr. Jackson, now aged forty-three, was educated at Farnworth Grammar School, and served from 1940 until 1946 in the Royal Air Force before entering the University of Manchester. He graduated B.Sc., with honours in chemistry, in 1949, and Ph.D. in 1954. He has been interested throughout his career in the medical applications of chemistry and biochemistry. As a research assistant in the Rheumatism Research Centre, he became concerned with the nature of collagen and reticulin, and with the response of tissues to the irritant carrageenin. In 1954-55 he was Visiting Fellow at the National Institute for Medical Research, with Prof. A. Neuberger. From 1957 until 1959 he was a research associate in biochemistry at the Harvard Medical School, and in 1959 he went to the medical school of the University of Oregon as assistant, and later associate professor. In 1962 he was appointed professor of biochemistry, and also head of the Surgical Research Laboratories in Oregon. Dr. Jackson's published work has been concerned with the proteins of connective tissue, and more recently with wound healing and tissue reaction to foreign materials and to tumours. He has also developed new approaches in the teaching of biochemistry to medical and biological students. His return to Britain, and to his own University, is welcome.

#### Experimental Psychology in the University of Sussex : Prof. N. S. Sutherland

THE progress of the behavioural sciences in Britain will be notably furthered by the establishment of a chair of experimental psychology at the University of Sussex and the appointment of Dr. N. S. Sutherland to it. A recruit to psychology from 'Greats', Dr. Sutherland followed this with the Oxford Final Honour School of Psychology, Philosophy and Physiology, and was afterwards elected to a fellowship by examination at Magdalen College. Encouraged by Prof. J. Z. Young in his interest in the visual discrimination mechanisms in *Octopus*, he and his colleagues have, in the past ten years, made a massive and penetrating investigation of stimulus-analysing mechanisms in both vertebrates and invertebrates. Dr. Sutherland is also well known for his contributions to human psychology, especially in the field of learning and memory. Appointed University lecturer in experimental psychology at Oxford in 1960, he was elected to an official fellowship at Merton College in 1962. He has played a large part in the development of the subject at Oxford, through a period of rapid and difficult evolution. His many friends and colleagues, not only in Britain, but also in the United States, will look forward with great interest to the development of the new department at Sussex.

#### 1964 Guggenheim International Astronautics Award : Prof. W. O. Fenn

THE Daniel and Florence Guggenheim International Astronautics Award for 1964 has been conferred on Prof. Wallace O. Fenn, of the Department of Physiology in the

University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry. Dr. Fenn is well known for his work in many of the biological sciences, including respiratory problems, the mechanics of running and bodily movements, heat production of muscle, potassium and other electrolytes in muscle, and oxygen requirements of stimulated nerves. Since 1959 he has been secretary-general of the International Union of Physiological Sciences. He has been an active member on numerous committees of leading American scientific institutions, such as the National Research Council, the Research and Development Board, the National Science Foundation, and he has served at times as chairman of the Physiological Training Grant Committee and of the Physiology Study Section of the National Institutes of Health. His achievements have been widely recognized and earlier this year he received the Antonio Feltrinelli Prize for experimental medicine. The presentation of the Guggenheim International Astronautics Award will be made during the fifteenth Congress of the International Astronautical Federation, which will be held in Warsaw during September 7-12. The Award, which carries a prize of 1,000 dollars, has been made annually since 1961, but this is the first time that it has been awarded to a scientist working in the field of physiological research.

#### British Aviation Research

REPLYING to a question in the House of Commons on July 8, the Minister of Aviation, Mr. J. Amery, said that the Ministry's research and development establishments, in co-operation with industry, were devoting considerable effort to problems of approach and landing guidance, long-range navigation, communications, ground data handling and processing systems, the application of automation to future air traffic control systems and the use of micro-electronics techniques for civil aviation equipment. His department would also finance most of the British share in the development of the *Concord* supersonic transport aircraft, which entails the development of advanced electronic systems. Links with industry had recently been strengthened and they were very much aware of the need for the fullest dissemination of information.

#### Research and Development for Power

IN a written answer in the House of Commons on July 29, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Power, Mr. J. Peyton, stated that the combined expenditure on research and development by the nationalized coal, gas and electricity industries had increased from about £6 million in 1958-59 to about £12 million in 1963-64. In conjunction with manufacturers, the National Coal Board had made significant progress in developing equipment for the widespread mechanization of coal winning, and more recently for applying remote control techniques to mining. Pioneer research by the Gas Council had led to the development of new processes which were bringing about a technological revolution in the production of gas. The Central Electricity Generating Board had expanded its central research laboratories and built new laboratories for nuclear and engineering research.

#### Solway Firth Barrage

IN reply to questions in the House of Commons on July 22, Mr. G. Campbell, Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, said that the proposal for a barrage in the Solway Firth was being examined jointly by the Scottish Development Group in its investigation of South-west Scotland and by the North-west England Regional Development Group. The Secretary of State for Scotland was aware of the interest of the University of Strathclyde in this problem and he was sure that it was being examined urgently. The Scottish Office was considering all representations which had been made on this subject, including the memoranda submitted by Dr. R. Drew.