

The Price of Education

In reply to questions in the House of Lords on July 7, the Earl of Bessborough said that, for the present year, capital and recurrent Exchequer grants to the universities were estimated at £133 million compared with £58 million in 1959, when there were 24 university institutions, compared with the present 33. Over the same period the number of full-time students had risen from 104,000 to 125,000, and of full-time teachers from 12,000 to 15,000. Those figures did not include the colleges of advanced technology and certain Scottish institutions which were achieving university status. The proportion of women students had risen from about 24 to 27 per cent. In the House of Commons on July 6, in reply to a question, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mr. Q. Hogg, stated that the total educational expenditure of public authorities in Great Britain, including expenditure on school meals and milk, rose from £479 million in 1952-53 to £1,277 million in 1962-63, or from 3.4 per cent to 5.1 per cent of the gross national product. In terms of constant prices the increase was estimated at about 75 per cent over the period, about half being attributable to an increase in the number of pupils and students.

British Aid to Development

In a written answer in the House of Commons on July 30, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, Mr. J. Boyd-Carpenter, stated that the Government had announced to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Britain's intention of increasing her contribution to the United Nations Special Fund and to the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance, to contribute to the African Development Bank, and to examine sympathetically the possibility of assisting other regional development banks. Britain was contributing in one form or another £7.1 million to the resources of the Inter-American Development Bank and her annual contribution to the International Development Association had been increased. At the recent meeting of Commonwealth Prime Ministers proposals were announced for a scheme of Commonwealth Development Projects, increased capital aid for higher education and an expansion of training facilities for senior administrators from developing countries in the Commonwealth. On this the Prime Minister had said in the House of Commons on July 23 that the proposals for a Commonwealth Foundation to encourage professional exchanges had been remitted to Commonwealth officials for study. He stated that he would not exclude the idea of a Foundation extending its activities to include training and exchanges of technical personnel. Much would depend on the funds available and the Foundation was devised essentially to promote professional links. Mr. Boyd-Carpenter continued that Britain would, at the third Commonwealth Education Conference at Ottawa in August, make proposals to expand and improve the Commonwealth Educational Co-operation Scheme. Recent specific bilateral commitments included provision of £52 million of economic aid for Kenya over the next three years, £51 million for Malta over the next ten years subject to satisfactory continuation of the defence arrangements, and increased aid for the Sudan. Expenditure on non-military aid in 1963-64 was £175 million and on military aid £30 million.

Japanese Aid

In the past decade Japan's gross national product has risen by about 10 per cent per annum, and in the non-Communist world only the United States, West Germany, the United Kingdom and France have a higher gross national product. With a programme of aid to developing countries of £60 million a year, she is also the fifth largest of the non-Communist donors, but a survey, *Japanese Aid*, by J. White, issued by the Overseas Development Institute, concludes that most of this is designed to help

Japan's economic expansion rather than developing countries (Pp. 78. London: Overseas Development Institute, Ltd., 1964. 6s.). The survey reviews first the motives and objectives of Japanese aid, and then the mechanisms used and the flow of resources. It is pointed out that Japanese aid should not be judged by Western standards and attention is directed to some defects in the present system. This appears to be based on principles of selection which have little to do with the requirements of the recipients and neither enhances the programmes of other donors nor is enhanced by them. The booklet should contribute to a better understanding between Japan and the West, and Mr. White suggests that in practice Japan should be encouraged to participate to a greater extent in programmes which require detailed consultation and co-operation with other donors, and to administer a higher proportion of its aid on the basis of Government-to-Government agreements.

Infant and Neo-natal Mortality

THE Office of Health Economics set up in 1962 by the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry has recently published a pamphlet entitled *Infants at Risk*, which gives an account of infant and neo-natal mortality, and makes a number of historical comparisons (Pp. 36. London: Office of Health Economics, 1964. 2s.). As is well known, infant mortality in Britain has been declining since the beginning of the twentieth century, but the rate of decline has slackened since the mid-nineteen-fifties. However, the social pattern of infant mortality has persisted almost unchanged since Edwardian days: in other words, different social groups in the community have benefited uniformly. The recent slowing down in the rate of decline means that Britain now lags behind countries such as Sweden, and a reduction of the British infant mortality rate to the Swedish level would mean a reduction of 4,000 infant deaths per annum. The report suggests that a more extensive use of ante-natal services on the part of expectant mothers might be instrumental in highlighting their present inadequacies and help in reducing the wastage immediately after birth.

Scientific Research in British Universities and Colleges, 1963-64

THE 1964 edition of *Scientific Research in British Universities and Colleges* contains brief notes on scientific research in progress in British universities and colleges (including colleges of technology), and describes the nature of the projects in sufficient detail to indicate the scope of the research carried out by the various science departments and individual teams of investigators (Pp. xxv + 727. London: H.M.S.O., 1964. 35s. net). The social sciences and industrial administration are not included except where work in these fields normally occurs within the science faculty or technology department. Universities and colleges are listed alphabetically and under each are entered departments, and in many cases sub-departments and affiliated institutions, etc. The staff of each department are listed along with their qualifications and present fields of research. Indication is made where members of staff are affiliates of the Agricultural Research Council or Medical Research Council. The three indexes, "List of Subject Headings", "Name Index" and "Subject Index", make this publication one of the most useful guides to scientific research in British universities and colleges. The publication is issued jointly by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the British Council.

Soviet Technical Literature

Tematicheskii Plan—1964 is a complete listing in English by subject-matter of all books scheduled for publication by the Soviet Academy of Sciences in 1964 (Pp. iv + 132. London: Scientific Information Consultants, Ltd., 1964. 70s.; 10 dollars). Each entry gives