

for Education and Science would be responsible for the Research Councils and for the support of research in the universities. The Research Councils would be financed by the Ministry, which would be advised on finance by the Council on Scientific Policy. The Natural Environment Research Council, which would be created, would support research in the earth sciences and ecology, taking over the Nature Conservancy, the Geological Survey and Museum, the Hydrology Research Unit, the National Institute of Oceanography, and the functions of the Development Commission in relation to marine and freshwater biology and fishery research. Recognizing that the Minister of Land and Natural Resources would be closely interested in some of the work of this Research Council, Mr. Stewart undertook to consult him and other Ministers interested on certain appointments in this organization.

A new Science Research Council would also be created, taking over the functions of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in respect of research grants and postgraduate training awards not within the fields of the other Councils. It would also take over the activities of the National Institute for Research in Nuclear Science and would also be responsible for the Radio Research Station, the Royal Observatories, and the scientific space research programme, and for advising on relations with the Centre for European Nuclear Research and with the European Space Research Organization. Except for the Road Research Laboratory, which would become a responsibility of the Minister of Transport, and the Tropical Products Institute, which would be the responsibility of the Minister of Overseas Development, the remaining stations of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research would become a responsibility of the Minister of Technology. The other functions of the Department would be divided between the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Technology, which would take over information functions concerned with disseminating technical information in industry. The National Lending Library for Science and Technology, and the more general information work and the control of the Scientific Attachés, would come under the Ministry of Education and Science.

#### National Physical Laboratory and the National Chemical Laboratory

MR. STEWART stated that the decision to place the National Physical Laboratory under the Ministry of Technology was reached after careful consideration and discussion with the President of the Royal Society. It is intended to combine the National Chemical Laboratory with the National Physical Laboratory under one director, and arrangements have been concluded with the Royal Society which will continue the long-standing close association between the Laboratory and the Royal Society.

#### Post-doctoral Research at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington

THE U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the Smithsonian Institution have announced a joint programme to extend postdoctoral research opportunities to visiting investigators from other institutions in the United States and abroad. Under the programme, which begins in 1965, 12 visiting research appointments tenable at the Institution have been established in the following departments: *History of Science and Engineering*, including research in the history of science and technology within the new Museum of History and Technology; *Biological Sciences*, including research in anthropology, systematic biology, mineral sciences, and ecology within the Division of Radiation and Organisms, Museum of Natural History, National Zoological Park, and the Canal Zone Biological Area; *Physical Sciences*, including research in the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

at Cambridge, Mass. Applications for the programme at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, with tenure beginning in January 1965, are immediately available. Brochures describing the 12 separate associateships in detail and applications for the programme at the Smithsonian can be obtained from the Fellowship Office of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

#### The Indian Brain Research Association

THE Indian Brain Research Association, an organization of scientists actively associated with research and professions relating to the brain, has recently been formed. This Association, it is hoped, will meet the long-felt need for an organization aimed at unifying research and professional activities within their diverse fields. The Association is a non-profit, scientific and educational organization, and will serve as a platform for the interchange of ideas and results concerning brain research by means of discussions, symposia, meetings, publications, etc. All branches of neurosciences are open to membership of the Association. The headquarters is located at the Department of Applied Chemistry, University College of Science and Technology, Calcutta-9. At present a steering committee, headed by Dr. B. Mukerji, director, Chittaranjan National Cancer Research Centre, Calcutta, performs the executive functions. A bi-monthly bulletin of the Association, *Brain News*, will help to keep members abreast of recent discoveries and techniques in neurological fields, with emphasis on the latest developments in brain research, teaching and profession. Articles of special interest and papers presented in the Association's meetings and seminars will also be featured.

#### Wellcome Trust Grant for the Royal Society of Medicine Library

A GRANT of £50,000 has been made by the Wellcome Trust to the Royal Society of Medicine in order to enable the Society to provide new storage space for its Library—probably the most comprehensive medical collection in Europe. Space will be made available in the basement of Chandos House, an Adam mansion in Queen Anne Street, London, W.1, of which the Society has purchased a 99-year lease. The Society's Library is noted for its collection of medical journals, built up in the nineteenth century and now totalling more than 2,000 titles. The growth of the Library is such that about 150 yards of shelving are filled every year. About 50,000 volumes each year go out on loan from the Library, which is open 12 hours a day for reference by Fellows of the Society. During 1952–53 a grant of £125,000 from the Wellcome Trust enabled the Society to extend its present building and to provide an extra floor for library use.

#### Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

A REVIEW of national and co-operative international space activities has been issued by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space of the United Nations General Assembly (*Review of National and Co-operative International Space Activities*. Pp. 114. New York: United Nations, 1964). Such activities are listed for 37 countries, 17 of which are represented on the Committee itself, while 4 others have other international commitments in this field. Detailed information on outer-space research activities is not included, but fairly full information is given, particularly for the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom and the United States.

#### Tropical Medicine

FOR many centuries the term 'tropical medicine' suggested something exotic: strange diseases caused by strange parasites producing strange clinical manifestations. During the past two decades this outlook has been entirely revolutionized, and it has now come to be realized