

Physiology in the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland : Dr. J. D. Nelms

DR. J. D. NELMS, at present research medical officer in the Climatic Research Laboratory of the Institute of Aviation Medicine attached to the University of Birmingham, has been appointed head of the Department of Physiology in the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland from a date to be arranged. Dr. Nelms gained an honours B.Sc. degree in physiology at University College, London, in 1953, and qualified with the degrees of M.B., B.S., in 1955. He joined the Royal Air Force in 1957 and has since that time worked in the Institute of Aviation Medicine, during the past four years as a research medical officer. His research work has been mainly concerned with the effects of climatic environment on man. He was largely responsible for the development of new and modern methods of heating the body by electrically warmed underclothing. He has collaborated in two international expeditions to investigate the physiological basis of acclimatization to cold—one among Arctic Indians in the Yukon Territory.

Pharmacy in the Hebrew University, Jerusalem: Prof. M. Donbrow

DR. MAX DONBROW, principal lecturer in the School of Pharmacy of Chelsea College of Science and Technology, has been appointed professor, and head of the Department of Pharmacy in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as from January 1965. His published research is concerned with the application of physical methods to the analysis of drugs, the properties of surface-active agents and the uptake of drugs by non-ionic surfactants. He is at present working on complex-formation between drugs. Dr. Donbrow spent several months in Israel in 1963 advising on the development of the Pharmacy School in the Hebrew University, and modifying the curriculum. The foundation stone for the new Pharmacy School was laid in August this year at the Medical Centre in Ein Kerem, and the existing Pharmacy School is expanding at once into premises vacated by the Medical School in the Russian Compound in Jerusalem.

Nuclear Physics in the Weizmann Institute of Science: Dr. Peter Hillman

DR. PETER HILLMAN has been appointed head of the Department of Nuclear Physics at the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovoth, in succession to Prof. Amos de-Shalit, who has held the post since 1954. Prof. de-Shalit remains in the service of the Institute but has assumed a wider range of duties. Dr. Hillman has been on the staff of the Institute since 1960 and has acted as head of the Department on several occasions. Born in Durban, he was educated in South Africa and at Harvard University, where he received the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees. He later worked in Britain and in Sweden, and was for a time lecturer in the University of Witwatersrand.

Marsa el Brega : an International Oil Port

SOME remarkable records of discovery, development, exploitation and marketing of crude petroleum from a new oilfield are disclosed in an article in the summer issue of *Esso Magazine* (13, No. 3, 1964; Esso Petroleum Co., Ltd., London), judged even by modern oil-company standards. It was in 1954 that geological search for oil in the then wilderness of northern Libya started in earnest, resulting in the discovery in 1959 of what is now known as the Zelten field, some 100 miles or so inland from the Mediterranean coastline. The problem of getting the oil away to the tankers came next. The intervening territory was barren and desolate, save for some half a million land mines strewn around, left over from World War II. Aerial surveys of the Gulf of Sirte coastline pointed to a place called Marsa el Brega, some 114 miles S.W. of Benghazi, as a potential harbour, with reasonable shelter

and off-shore depth of water to accommodate the largest tankers afloat. In 1960, 110 miles of road between Marsa el Brega and Zelten were completed and soon afterwards some 115 miles of 30-in. pipeline were emplaced alongside the road. In September 1961, the first shipment of oil left the port of Marsa el Brega for the Esso refinery at Fawley. In the meantime, another commercial-size oilfield was discovered at Raguba, 45 miles N.W. of Zelten, and a spur pipeline from this area was completed early in 1963. "As a measure of what had been achieved in a very short span of time, over 6 million tons of oil were exported from Marsa el Brega in 1962, the first full year of operation. . . . As a result of . . . continued activity, over 14 million tons of oil were exported during the 12 months of 1963." Marsa el Brega, which so short a time ago was nothing more than rock, sand and water, is to-day an international oil port in every sense of the word; it is used by tankers of many different countries, including Britain, West Germany, Italy, France, Holland, Belgium, Spain and Egypt; it has helped to establish Libya as a major oil-producing country, a timely addition to the diverse and ever-growing oil resources available to the world.

The Museums Journal

THE September issue of *The Museums Journal* (64, No. 2; September 1964) includes an article on the extensive modernization which has been carried out at the Whitworth Gallery, Manchester. The collections include early and contemporary water-colours and textiles with some sculpture and oil paintings. The main objects of the work were to raise existing facilities in the Gallery to advanced modern standards in respect of conservation, display, circulation and supervising, and storage facilities. Dr. M. Eager describes an excellent and modern display concerning the Moon which has been set up in the University Museum at Manchester, and Mr. W. A. Seaby details the proposed extensions to the Ulster Museum in Belfast. A report of the annual conference in Nottingham in July completes the issue.

Caspian Sea and Siberian Rivers

UNTIL 1929 the level of the Caspian Sea was more or less constant, but since then its level has fallen by 2.5 m, corresponding to a loss of 960 cubic kilometres of water—four times the volume of the Volga's annual discharge. According to B. A. Apollov and S. N. Bobrov (*Priroda*, 2, 68; 1963) such an enormous fall in level is seriously threatening navigation, fisheries and other industries. Several projects aimed at raising the level of the Sea have been proposed. One of them was to dam the Rivers Yenisey and Ob and discharge them into the Aral Sea and then let the waters flow into the Caspian along the old drainage channel of Uzboy. Another project was to increase the Volga's volume of water by diverting into it the Rivers Pechora and Vychegda. Apollov and Bobrov are of the opinion that both these projects are impracticable, and instead suggest the construction of an earth dam across the northern part of the Caspian Sea so as to form a separate North Caspian reservoir. Another project is that of I. I. Stas' (*Priroda*, 2, 75; 1963), who proposed to link up by canals the Azov, Caspian and Black Seas. Projects of damming the Siberian Rivers Ob, Yenisey and Lena are discussed by V. S. Antonov (*Priroda*, 6, 25; 1963), Yu. I. Gordeev (*Priroda*, 6, 51; 1963), M. A. Shargaev (*Priroda*, 6, 54; 1963) and V. I. Orlov (*Priroda*, 6, 59; 1963).

Glued Formwork for Concrete

IN a recent note on modern gluing techniques as applied to laminated wood in timber structures for buildings (*Nature*, 204, 129; 1964), attention was directed to the versatility of this form of construction under certain conditions where its entry had proved architecturally admissible. It was but a step to adapt the principle