

duration of this 'epidemic' activity? (3) What is the intensity of the 'epidemic'? (4) What are the classic papers of a certain discipline, that is, the initial infectives of an outbreak?

Information retrieval systems must be dynamic and should reflect the interactions between the researcher and the literature. It seems that the 'epidemic' approach is a workable method for describing and predicting certain fundamental aspects of this interaction.

Since the process of transmitting ideas, as in the case of an infectious disease, is not a single process within a population but a collection of interacting processes within

sub-populations, it would seem that the notion of an all-encompassing information retrieval system spanning the totality of knowledge should be replaced by the notion of small dynamic interrelated systems that appear when needed and disappear when not needed.

'Epidemic' theory could have a wide range of applications other than to the transmission of ideas, for example, to the study of certain chronic diseases, divorces, accidents, etc., but these will not be elaborated on in this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Bailey, N. T. J., *The Mathematical Theory of Epidemics* (Griffin, 1960).

## NEWS and VIEWS

Director of the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen:  
Dr. D. P. Cuthbertson, C.B.E.

DR. D. P. CUTHBERTSON, who will be retiring from the directorship of the Rowett Research Institute, Bucksburn, Aberdeen, on September 30, 1965, obtained his medical qualification in Glasgow and was for nearly twenty years lecturer in pathological chemistry and physiological chemistry in the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, and in the University of Glasgow. He became an authority on the biochemical effects of injury, and particularly on the acute depletion of protein following injury. His work on the prevention and treatment of these changes became of especial importance during the Second World War. Cuthbertson worked for two years on the headquarters staff of the Medical Research Council before he was appointed director of the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen, in 1945. Under his influence the Institute grew rapidly in size and importance, and it is remarkable how Cuthbertson was able to direct so much work and produce an interesting report each year, summarizing work that had been published in 100 papers or more. He managed, however, to keep his own laboratory going and to give a number of lectures, which were published. He is an accomplished artist in water colours and a keen golfer, and will clearly be able to find something to do when he retires.

Dr. K. L. Blaxter

DR. K. L. BLAXTER, at present head of the Nutrition Department, Hannah Dairy Research Institute, has been appointed to succeed Dr. Cuthbertson as director of the Rowett Research Institute. Dr. Blaxter, who is forty-five, is a graduate of the University of Reading. He has been with the Hannah Dairy Research Institute since 1948. Before that he was a research officer at the Veterinary Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, Weybridge. During 1946-47 he was a Commonwealth Fund Fellow at the University of Illinois, Division of Nutrition, under Prof. H. H. Mitchell. With the exception of a period of war service with the Royal Artillery, he was a research assistant at the National Institute for Research in Dairying from his first graduation until going to Weybridge. Dr. Blaxter was Clive Behrens Lecturer in the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Leeds, during 1958-61; 1960 Thomas Baxter Prizeman and Gold Medallist (for research on the nutrition of dairy cattle); National Research Council of Canada visiting lecturer to the Universities of British Columbia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta in 1964; 1964 Royal Agricultural Society Gold Medallist (for research on the nutrition of farm livestock). He also gave the Fernhurst Lecture to the Royal Society of Arts in 1962, lectures to the Professors Council of the University, Uppsala, and to the Berlin Academy of Sciences, D.D.R., in 1962, and the third Samuel Brody Memorial Lecturer in the University of Missouri in 1964. Dr. Blaxter's work has been concerned with the nutritive value of home-grown foods for

dairy cattle, food intake and food utilization, protein requirements and protein metabolism of dairy cattle and calves, hyperthyroidism in the ruminant and the use of iodinated protein, hypomagnesaemic tetany, vitamin E metabolism and muscular dystrophy, energy metabolism and the energy requirements of cattle, and their relation to the environment. In 1962 his monograph entitled *The Energy Metabolism of Ruminants* was published. Dr. Blaxter is a member of numerous learned societies and is a member of the joint Agricultural Research Council-Medical Research Council Development Commission sub-committee on the monitoring of radioactive fall-out and of the Working Party on Ruminants of the Agricultural Research Council's Technical Committee on Nutrient Requirements of Farm Livestock.

Ministry of Aviation:

Director of Engine Research and Development (1):  
Mr. Dennis H. Mallinson

MR. D. H. MALLINSON has been appointed director of engine research and development (1), Ministry of Aviation, in succession to Dr. J. Remfry, who has retired from the Public Service. Born in 1921, Mr. Mallinson was educated at Prince Henry's Grammar School, Otley, before going to the University of Leeds in 1939. He graduated with honours in applied mathematics in 1942 and was posted as a junior scientific officer to the Engine Department of the Royal Aircraft Establishment. As a member of the small but growing turbine division under Hayne Constant and W. R. Hawthorne, he was employed on engine performance investigations and particularly on the analysis of results from the flight tests of the pioneer jet aircraft. Transferring with the Royal Aircraft Establishment's Turbine Division to Power Jets, Research and Development, Ltd., he remained on engine performance work and was in charge of the Performance Section when the National Gas Turbine Establishment came into being. In 1949, following a period of about a year in which he acted as technical and administrative assistant to the deputy director (Mr. Peter Lloyd, the present director-general of engine research and development), Mr. Mallinson became a member of the National Gas Turbine Establishment's ramjet research team under Mr. R. P. Probert, concentrating first on thermodynamics but later encompassing fuel control systems and combustion development and finally assuming responsibility for the full-scale ramjet test vehicle programme. This programme was successfully completed in 1957 and from then until early 1963 he was superintendent of the Engine Research Division at the National Gas Turbine Establishment in charge of work on propelling nozzles, control systems and high-speed ramjets. He transferred to Ministry of Aviation Headquarters, London, in February 1963 as assistant director responsible for engine project assessment and continued in this post until receiving his present appointment. Dennis Mallinson is a district commissioner of the