

duced by neglect or abuse of scientific research, and to protect the welfare of the people and mankind in general. Generally, the proposed law embodies the common opinion in the Western world regarding the conditions of scientific work and the responsibilities now recognized by scientists themselves.

### Solway Barrage

THE proposals for the regional project for the development of the Solway Firth Area have now been issued in a report which stresses the strategic location and character of the Solway region in the British Isles. Dr. R. L. Drew argues that any international crossroads linking Scotland, Ireland and England is bound to pivot on a Solway barrage linking Annan in Dumfriesshire and Bowness in Cumberland. The region is rich in water and the potentials this confers for the location of population and industry based on science, at the increasing levels of energy conservation and utilization demanded by a society using large amounts of energy. The communications aspect, including sea-borne trade and air travel as well as motor ways and roads, is also stressed. Dr. Drew reviews the regional activities which could be based on the project, including space and district heating, market gardening, forestry, agriculture, fishing, food processing and production, and finally its bearing on water supply generally, the conservation of energy, as well as land reclamation and water and power supply. It is estimated that perhaps £250,000 over several years would be required to delineate the full plans. The report is available from Dr. R. L. Drew, Annan, Dumfriesshire.

### Planning Economic Policy

UNDER the title *Towards a Common Economic Policy for EEC*, Political and Economic Planning has issued Broadsheet No. 481 (London: July 27, 1964, 5s.), containing copies, usually translations, of the basic documents relating to the formation of a common economic policy for the European Community. It is preceded by an introduction by M. Forsyth, and seeks to show the extent to which the Community has progressed in this direction, and to assist the discussion of economic policy in Britain. There are several problems of economic policy which the Community and the United Kingdom share, not least the problem of the extent to which economic planning is now necessary and the form it should take.

### Care, Handling and Disposal of Dangerous Chemicals

CHEMISTS spend the major part of their working lives in close proximity to potentially dangerous or toxic substances. Familiarity with the properties of the chemicals they use and an appreciation of the consequences of careless experimentation have ensured that a 'safety code', born of experience and operating almost at subliminal level, protects the mature scientific worker from disastrous accident. The booklet recently published by the Institute of Science Technology, Aberdeen, will provide the inexperienced chemist with a most valuable survey of the more dangerous chemicals and of their interactions with other reagents (*The Care, Handling and Disposal of Dangerous Chemicals*. By P. J. Gaston. Pp. 103. Aberdeen: Institute of Science Technology. Obtainable from Northern Publishers (Aberdeen), Ltd., 11 Albion Terrace, 1964. 7s. 6d.). It will also provide a useful 'refresher course' for the more expert laboratory chemist and will guide those officers whose task it is to advise on safety matters. The handling and disposal of hazardous materials or toxic substances, the British Standards Institute marking of gas cylinders, the coding of gas-mask canisters, fire fighting, first-aid, etc., are some of the topics ably and succinctly dealt with in this booklet. There are a few errors. 'Phosphorus' is mis-spelled on p. 49, and on p. 30 diazonium salts are stated to be made by the action of 'sodium nitrate' on a primary amine. On

p. 9, it is pointed out that white phosphorus and potassium chlorate form the 'basis' of a powerful explosive. It is very dubious whether these two substances could be mixed without exploding spontaneously! There are some omissions. Some mention could have been made of the disastrous consequences of adding the alkali metals to chlorinated hydrocarbons, or of the interaction of finely powdered zinc, aluminium, etc., with these halogenated organic substances. Particle size has a powerful influence in determining phase interactions. The disposal of azides (p. 28) is always a hazardous business, but they can be destroyed in cooled ammonium acetate, sodium nitrite solution by cautious addition of dilute acetic acid. Similarly the fulminate of mercury is destroyed by sodium thiosulphate to form the tetrathionate. The present publication is, however, a most valuable and useful work and it is hoped that it will be extensively read and studied by the chemical staff of all industrial and university laboratories. Its small cost covers a mammoth insurance for safety.

### Polychaetes from Scotland

SEVENTEEN species of polychaete worm hitherto unknown from the Firth of Clyde and the west coast of Scotland, together with a number of others, have been described by Dr. R. B. Clark and P. G. Dawson of the Department of Zoology, University of Bristol (*Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, 6, No. 71; 13th Series, 1963). Three of these have not previously been recorded in British waters: *Harmothoe joubini*, Fauvel, *Clymenella cincta* Saint-Joseph, and an undetermined capitellid probably belonging to the genus *Mediomastus*. Both *Harmothoe joubini* and *Clymenella cincta* have been rediscovered for the first time since their original description. Only two species of *Mediomastus* are known, both from the Pacific coast of the United States. The Clyde specimen does not appear to belong to either, but its damaged condition makes precise determination impossible, and the possibility that it is an abnormal *Heteromastus*, though unlikely, is not excluded. *Pholoe synophthalmica* Claparède is another species new to British waters, but the Clyde specimens are in some respects intermediate between this species and *P. minuta* (Fabricius). In view of the known variability of the latter, it is probably preferable to regard *P. synophthalmica* as a variant of *P. minuta*. Similarly, specimens intermediate between *Aonides oxycephala* (Sars) and *A. paucibranchiata* Southern have been found, which cast doubt on the validity of the latter species. *Praxillura longissima*, previously known only from a generic record of a single fragment collected in the Clyde, has now been positively identified. It has not been reported elsewhere in British waters.

### Distinguishing the Sexes in some Scarabaeid Larvæ

AN excess of females among adults of *Costelytra zealandica* emerging from pastures that had been treated with DDT suggested that susceptibility to the insecticide might differ in the sexes, and made it desirable to have a means of recognizing them in the larval stage. The development of the sexual organs in the pre-adult stages was examined by R. Elliott (*N.Z. Science*, 7, No. 2, June 1964). An apparatus, part glandular and part chitinous, is visible through the integument of sternite 9 in living male larvæ of all three instars. The chitinous part was found to vary in shape and size, with some indication of local differences in the occurrence of different types. A similar apparatus was found in *Pyronota* sp., *Heteronychus sanctaehelenarum*, *Pericoptus* sp., and *Aphodius tasmaniae*, differing in detail, the glandular element being poorly developed in the last three. Although female larvæ of *C. zealandica* are usually heavier than the corresponding males, there is no evidence from either laboratory or field observations to suggest that susceptibility to insecticides is directly governed by sex at this stage.