

Aberdeen, beginning in October. This course is intended to play a part in the expansion of postgraduate studies envisaged by the Robbins Report, and to help satisfy the growing demand for short postgraduate instructional courses to equip graduates with the technical and theoretical training necessary for posts demanding a broad ecological approach. In addition to the facilities available within the University, there are close links with the Macaulay Institute for Soil Research, the Rowett Research Institute, the Marine Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland, the Torry Research Station and the North Scotland College of Agriculture. Applicants should have, or expect to obtain before joining the course, a degree with first or upper second-class honours in biology, botany, forestry or zoology (or equivalent qualification). Candidates with first or upper second-class honours in other subjects, for example, geography, geology, soil science, will also be considered if they have a supporting qualification in a biological subject at a sufficiently advanced level. Further information can be obtained from the Secretary to the University of Aberdeen, Marischal College, Aberdeen.

University and College News: Birmingham

THE report of the Council of the University of Birmingham for the year ended December 31, 1964, records a full-time academic staff at the beginning of the 1964-65 session of 797, including 90 professors, 41 readers, 131 senior lecturers and 408 lecturers (Pp. 32. Birmingham: The University, 1965). It is pointed out in the report of the Vice-Chancellor and Principal that this gives a staff ratio of 1 to every 8.4 full-time students, but that the actual ratio for the Science Faculty gives a weighted ratio of 1 to 12.7 (Pp. 43. Birmingham: The University, 1965). This compares unfavourably with the ratio of 1 to 10.4 provisionally given by the University Grants Committee for all universities other than Oxford and Cambridge in 1961-62. In undergraduate admissions in October 1964, 404 places in science were filled against 374 available and in applied science 706, instead of the 675 places available. The University admitted in October 536 new graduate students, in addition to 248 graduates taking teacher training courses and, of the 5,333 full-time students, 552 came from overseas, of whom 323 were graduates. In 1963-64, 2,505 were in science, 659 in medicine and 210 were part-time; 615 full-time students were in halls of residence, 3,499 in lodgings and 868 at home. The Vice-Chancellor comments on the adverse effect on university policy of the uncertainties arising out of Government policy in regard to the Robbins Report, the rearrangements of the research councils, etc.

Liverpool

THE University of Liverpool has received a grant of £23,030 from the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, to support engineering design research under the supervision of Mr. K. Ball. The grant, which will run until December 31, 1967, is an implementation of the report of the Feilden Committee on Engineering Design, which emphasized the need to raise the status of British engineering and to improve engineering design. It will be used to form a design group which will permit the academic staff of the University to work in close association with industry and will give designers from industry an opportunity to experience the scientific and academic approach of the University.

State University of New York at Stony Brook

DR. H. BENTLEY GLASS has been appointed academic vice-president and professor of biology as from September 1. Dr. J. S. Toll, at present chairman of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Maryland, has been appointed president of the University as from September 1.

Announcements

DR. P. HERGET, professor and director of the University of Cincinnati Observatory, has been awarded the James Craig Watson Medal of the National Academy of Sciences for outstanding astronomical research, particularly for his contributions to the field of celestial mechanics, and his application of electronic-computer techniques to calculations of the orbits of comets, Earth satellites, and asteroids.

DR. OSCAR MENIS has recently been appointed chief of the Quantitative Separations Section of the Analytical Chemistry Division in the U.S. National Bureau of Standards Institute for Materials Research. Dr. Menis joins the Bureau from the Nuclear Materials and Equipment Corporation in Apollo, Pennsylvania, where he was Supervisor of Chemical Services at the Advanced Materials Center.

PROF. E. S. PEARSON will retire at the end of 1965 from the editorship of *Biometrika*, a post which he has held since 1936. He will be succeeded by Prof. D. R. Cox of Birkbeck College, University of London. *Biometrika* was founded by Francis Galton, Karl Pearson and W. F. R. Weldon in 1901. It is a general statistical journal with a bias towards papers with a practical application, which are thus connected with the usefulness of statistics in some particular field, including biometry.

THE 1965 session of the Ecole d'été de Physique Théorique, an institute of the University of Grenoble supported in part by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Advanced Study Institute Programme, on "High Energy Physics", will be held in Les Houches, Haute Savoie, during July 1-August 25. Further information can be obtained from Ecole d'été de Physique Théorique, 46 Avenue Felix Viallet, Grenoble, Isère.

THE second interdisciplinary conference on "Electromagnetic Scattering", sponsored by the University of Massachusetts and the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories, will be held at the University during June 28-30. Further information can be obtained from R. S. Stein, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Modern Techniques of Polymer Characterization" will be held in the Welsh College of Advanced Technology on June 25. Further information can be obtained from D. R. Hub, Welsh College of Advanced Technology, Cathays Park, Cardiff.

THE second micropalaeontological colloquium on "The Mesozoic-Cenozoic Sedimentary Basins of West Africa" will be held in the University of Ibadan during June 25-30. Further information can be obtained from the Department of Geology, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

A CONFERENCE on "The Physics of Quantum Electronics", sponsored by the Office of Naval Research, will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, during June 28-30. Further information can be obtained from Dr. P. L. Kelley, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lexington, Massachusetts.

THE third international Vacuum Congress will be held in Stuttgart during June 28-July 2. Further information can be obtained from Dr. H. Adam, Wissenschaftliches Komitee des Dritten Internationalen Vakuum-Kongresses, 5 Koln-Bayental, Postfach 195, West Germany.

THE third Wool Textile Research Conference, organized by the Institut Textile de France, will be held in Paris during June 28-July 9. Further information can be obtained from the Institut Textile de France, 59 rue de la Faisanderie, Paris 16.