

stimulating teacher and has enabled many students to achieve success in this subject. He has published many papers and has given communications and demonstrations to societies both in Britain and in the United States. He has become an international authority on this work. Dr. Bowman will take up his post at the University of Strathclyde on September 1.

American Association for the Advancement of Science

DEAN DON K. PRICE, JUN., assumed office as president-elect of the American Association for the Advancement of Science on January 15. He is one of the few social scientists to hold this office, the most recent being the economist, W. C. Mitchell, in 1938. Since 1958 Don Price has been Dean of the Graduate School of Public Administration of Harvard University, and has the broad background necessary to guide the association, the wide objects of which are "to further the work of scientists, to facilitate co-operation among them, to improve the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare . . .". Don Price was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford from 1932 to 1935.

Aid to India

IN reply to a question in the House of Commons on February 17, the Prime Minister, Mr. H. Wilson, said that the Governments of the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and of some non-Commonwealth countries, were already in close touch with each other and with the Government of India regarding the threatened famine in India. Britain had made an immediate and interim contribution in the form of an interest-free loan to India of £7.5 million. The Australian Government on February 17 announced a very large shipment of food to India, and the problem was, above all, one of port capacity and internal distribution; some very massive shipments of food were being organized. Replying for the Prime Minister on February 24, Mr. G. Brown added that the Government was in touch with the Indian Government about supplies of food which could be made available if they were needed. Discussions about further aid were still in progress.

Anglo-French Co-operation in Oceanography

IN reply to a question in the House of Commons on March 3, the Minister of State for the Department of Education and Science, Mr. R. E. Prentice, said that details of the French Government's intentions for under-sea research had not been made known to the British Government, but there had been unofficial exchanges between scientific organizations in the two countries, and the Secretary of State was prepared to consider any proposals that might be made. British oceanographers and geographers at research establishments of the Natural Environment Research Council and at universities had co-operated with French scientists in such research and would continue to do so. The Natural Environment Research Council was at present reviewing the future orientation of oceanographic research in Britain. Both Britain and France, along with other countries, were represented on the Inter-Governmental Oceanographic Commission.

Research in Mental Health

THE debate in the House of Commons on February 18 on Mr. W. Hamling's motion to transfer responsibility for the education and training of all mentally handicapped children from the Ministry of Health to the Department of Education and Science was noteworthy for the repeated reference to the need for more research in this field. Sir David Renton, commenting on the unevenness of scientific and social advance, pointed out that the great progress in antibiotic therapy had intensified the problem of

dealing with the mentally handicapped. Progress in detecting, preventing, and curing mental defects did not match the advances in antibiotics and obstetrics and there was immense scope for further research. Dr. E. Summerskill also referred to the growing magnitude of the problem and advocated the establishment of an Educational Research Council. At present, only about twelve people in Britain were investigating the learning processes of severely sub-normal children, though Dame Joan Vickers paid tribute to the quality of some of this work. She herself suggested that the Ministries of Education, Health and Labour should set up an interdepartmental committee to review the scale of the problem. Mr. J. Snow was concerned at the disparity between the scale of mental health research and the administrative action of the Ministry of Health in this field. He urged that more attention be paid to the problem of the autistic child. Lord Balniel strongly urged more support of research into the learning processes of backward children and referred to the work now in progress at the University of Manchester. Mr. L. Pavitt fully supported those who urged more research into the problems of the mentally handicapped, as did Mr. A. Mackenzie and Sir Edward Boyle, who added that the limiting factor to-day was the supply of trained workers for such research. On the proposed transfer of responsibility from the Ministry of Health to the Department of Education and Science, Sir Edward, like numerous other speakers, had reservations, while welcoming the motion generally. The Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Health, Mr. C. Loughlin, replying on the debate, warmly welcomed the pleas for more research into mental health generally and promised to see that research was as far as possible extended, but he had reservations on the proposed transfer of responsibility, and the resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

Durban Museum and Art Gallery

THE director of the Durban Museum and Art Gallery reports that during 1964-65 the Department of Local History was moved from the Old House to the refurbished Old Court House (*Annual Report of the Durban Museum and Art Gallery for the Municipal Year 1964-1965*. Pp. 18. Durban: Durban Museum and Art Gallery, 1965). The Old House was later altered and redecorated and will shortly be opened as a period house. Work on the displays in the Museum was devoted to the installation of the new geological exhibits and much time was spent in planning the rearrangement of the Hall of South African Birds. Collecting trips included one to Northern Natal and another to the eastern area of Cape Province.

Oil and Gas Pipelines in Europe

THE network of large pipeline systems established in Europe for the transportation of crude petroleum, refined products, and gas, has now reached an advanced stage in development, which has so far taken only about 12 years to realize. During this comparatively short period, some 1,700 miles of large diameter crude oil pipelines have been built in various systems, delivering more than 70 million tons of crude oil per annum to European refineries. Such are the projects now planned, some well under way, that within the next 2 years more than 500 miles of pipeline, capable of delivering a further 50 million tons of crude oil to Central Europe each year, will, it is anticipated, be completed. Implicit in this vast network are a number of 'products pipelines' designed for the speedy transference of a full range of refined petroleum products, including fuel oil, from strategically placed refineries to the major centres of consumption, and many more such lines are already being planned. In addition, the gas industry has already completed many hundreds of miles of high-pressure gas distribution pipelines; one result of this is to make obsolete the many small individual gas-producing plants that previously existed.