curials and to seed disinfection with organo-mercury and thiram-based chemicals. The value of thiram as a satisfactory dressing for flax seed was first shown in 1939 and was a most timely discovery, as it was used on all flax seed saved in the United Kingdom during the Second World War. Following his work on the epidemiology and control of the *Helminthosporium* disease of oats, Prof. Muskett led research in the development of techniques for the examination of seeds for the presence of seed-borne fungi, work which formed a basis for the investigation of biological techniques for the evaluation of fungicides. He also devoted much time to the health of the seed potato crop of Northern Ireland, special facilities being available for work on virus diseases at the Plant Pathology Field Station, erected in 1954. In 1947 he published, with Prof. J. Colhoun, *The Diseases of the Flax Plant*, and in 1964 Dr. J. P. Malone and he published *Seed-borne Fungi*, two books which quickly found a wide circulation. Prof. Muskett was not only an enthusiastic and inspiring lecturer, an energetic administrator during his term as Dean in 1950–57, a useful member of the Academic Council and University Committees and an apt adviser on plant pathology problems, but also a friend and counsellor to many students and members of staff who sought his advice and now wish him a happy retirement.

University Grants

In a written answer in the House of Commons on December 20, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, Mr. A. Crosland, stated that the Government was reviewing the quinquennial system of recurrent grants to the universities. In view of the difficulties which arose because of the fact that under the present system the universities did not know their recurrent grants for the new quinquennium until near the end of the last year of the old quinquennium, the Government, after consulting the University Grants Committee, had decided to make a provisional allocation of recurrent grant for the first year of the next quinquennium (1967–68) well in advance of the final settlement for the quinquennium as a whole. He hoped to be able to announce this allocation towards the end of 1966 and the University Grants Committee had assured him that this change in procedure would be acceptable to the universities. In a written answer on December 22, Mr. Crosland announced that he was authorizing, for starting in 1966–67, a university building programme (in terms of existing cost figures) of £40 million; for 1967–68, £30 million; for 1968–69, £25 million; and for 1969–70, £25 million. He hoped that in future this could be made a rolling programme. The programme allowed a higher level of building starts in 1966–67 and 1967–68 than that at present sanctioned, and it took account of deferment from the present year of some £15 million starts following the Government's measures of July 1965.

Welsh College of Advanced Technology

Mr. Crosland also announced in the House of Commons on December 20 that, after considering the advice of the University Grants Committee, the Government had concluded that it could not support the establishment of the Welsh College of Advanced Technology as a separate degree-giving university. The invitation which the College had received from the University of Wales to become a full constituent member of the University offered an alternative road to university status and the Government was confident that such an arrangement would contribute to the development of the College as a centre of higher technological education. It also believed that the idea of an association between the College, University College, Cardiff, and the Welsh National School of Medicine could well be worked out within the framework of the University of Wales. He understood that the University would shortly be petitioning for the amendments to its Charter necessary to deal with problems arising from its federal constitution.

South-east England : Water Resources

In reply to questions in the House of Commons on December 20, the Minister of Land and Natural Resources, Mr. Willey, said that he hoped to have the advice of the Water Resources Board on the consultant's report on the water resources of the Great Ouse Basin fairly early in 1966, and would then consider the next steps. He would certainly consult the East Anglian Regional Economic Planning Council before putting a feasibility study on the Wash barrage in hand. The Minister of Housing and Local Government had received the report of the consulting engineers, Messrs. Binnie and Partners, on the water resources of the Great Ouse Basin. This report recommended further study of a number of possible conservation schemes, including the use of the Wash as a reservoir. The Water Resources Board had been asked to consider the report in the context of their studies of the South-East as a whole and to advise in due course what action should be taken. The situation was being considered as expeditiously as possible but the advice of the Water Resources Board had first to be awaited.

University of Birmingham—Royal Radar Establishment, Malvern: Working Association

The University of Birmingham has recently concluded an agreement for a working association with the Royal Radar Establishment, Malvern. The agreement, which comes into effect early this year, provides for the co-option of up to six senior scientists from the Royal Radar Establishment on to the University staff; they will have honorary University titles and will spend an average of 1 day a week in the University, taking part in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, research, departmental policy discussions, and the general life of the University. In the opposite direction, a corresponding number of members of the University staff will be co-opted on to the staff of the Royal Radar Establishment to spend an average of 1 day a week at Malvern, taking part in research and in research policy decisions. The arrangement will not extend to the whole of the Radar Research Establishment, part of which is engaged on work of military importance. On the University side, it will involve the following Departments: Electronic and Electrical Engineering, Electron Physics, Physics (especially solid-state physics), Mathematical Physics, Physical Metallurgy. On the Malvern side the corresponding divisions of the Royal Radar Establishment will be involved.

The Barwell Meteorite

A large meteorite fell at about 16.20 G.M.T. on December 24, 1965, at the village of Barwell in Leicestershire. It is possible that a wider area was involved, as material has now been reported from farther afield, but as yet this has not been examined. The Barwell meteorite has been identified as an olivine bronzite chondrite. So far, 35–40 lb. of this material has been collected, and this is being collated at the British Museum (Natural History). *Bona fide* scientists wishing to investigate material from this meteorite should apply, in the first instance, to Prof. P. C. Silvester Bradley, Department of Geology, University of Leicester.

In-service Training for Science Teachers

Increasing awareness of the need for teachers of science and mathematics to be kept in touch through in-service training (or refresher courses) with modern advances in science moved the Royal Society to hold a conference of representatives of the interests concerned, on September 16, 1965. A report of that conference is now available (The Royal Society. *In-Service Training for School Teachers of Science and Mathematics in England*. Report of