Europe are not necessarily the best way to counteract this competition. The selection of the major research priorities is a political choice, and if the main priority is economic growth, the United States advantage can probably be offset by much more ambitious civil research and development projects in such fields as industrial automation, a computer 'grid', and electronic teaching aids.

Biochemistry and Microbiology of Reproduction

World Health Organization Technical Report Series No. 313 embodies the report of a World Health Organization scientific group on the *Biochemistry and Microbiology of the Male and Female Genital Tracts* (World Health Organization. Technical Report Series, No. 313. Pp. 15. Geneva: World Health Organization; London: H.M.S.O., 1965. 3*s*. 6*d*.; 0.60 dollars; 2 Sw. francs). The report summarizes our knowledge of the chemistry and enzymology of the uterus; sperm transport, capacitation and the acrosome reaction; nidation; placentation and the chemistry and enzymology of semen. It also discusses the effects of compounds of cadmium, zinc and selenium on reproduction, and the effects of infection on reproductive activity. Research needs are indicated, with emphasis on determination of the time of ovulation in the primates and the reaction of the uterine tissues during the reproductive cycle and pregnancy. Emphasis is also laid on the importance of viewing the male and female components in reproduction as an integrated whole and on the need to extend investigations to a wider range of species.

The Royal Society and Nuffield Commonwealth Bursaries Scheme

Awards under the Royal Society and Nuffield Foundation Commonwealth Bursaries Scheme have been made as follows: Dr. A. T. Casey, senior lecturer in organic chemistry, University of Melbourne, to enable him to use new techniques in the study of metal–metal bonding in inorganic compounds, particularly those of the transition metals, at University College, London, for a year from December 1965; Dr. A. R. H. Cole, reader in physical chemistry, University of Western Australia, to enable him to gain experience in high-resolution electronic spectroscopy, in Ottawa between April and September 1966; Prof. E. O. Hall, professor of metallurgy, University of Newcastle, New South Wales, to enable him to gain experience in the use of thin-film electron microscopy, at Cambridge for a year from February 1966; Dr. F. T. Last, of the Glasshouse Crops Research Institute, Littlehampton, to enable him to examine, in New Zealand, from April to September 1966, methods for elucidating the part played by different fungi in the brown root rot complex of tomatoes; Prof. E. R. Love, professor of mathematics, University of Melbourne, to assist him to continue work on integral equations and integral transforms, at Cambridge for three months during 1966; Dr. C. R. K. Murty, reader in physics, Andhra University, to enable him to learn experimental techniques for measuring relaxation time, at Nottingham for 4 months from April 1966; Mr. B. S. Newell, of the C.S.I.R.O. Division of Fisheries and Oceanography, Cronulla, New South Wales, to enable him to study the development and improvement of analytical methods for nitrogen compounds in the sea, at Plymouth from January to December 1966; Dr. N. Okafor, lecturer in microbiology, University of Nigeria, to enable him to learn techniques of food irradiation, at Cambridge for 4 months from June 1966; Dr. J. G. Ramsay, reader in geology, Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, to enable him to study the structural and metamorphic history of part of the Himalayan mountain chain, working at the University of Baroda, with field work in the Gujarat region and in the Kumaon Himalayas, between March and June 1966; Dr. B. P. Setchell, senior research scientist, C.S.I.R.O. Division of Animal Physiology, Parramatta, New South Wales, to enable him to work on the development of a technique for perfusing a mammalian testis isolated from the body, at Cambridge for a year from November 1966; Mr. M. D. Sutherland, reader in organic chemistry, University of Queensland, to assist him to become familiar with the techniques of tracer work as applied to biogenesis, at Manchester, and also to work at Cambridge, between February and August 1966.

European Molecular Biology Organization Grants

The European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) has received a grant of £240,000 from the Volkswagen Foundation in support of European co-operation in molecular biology. The grant is intended for both short- and long-term fellowships, for a small number of visiting professorships and for advanced courses and study sessions. The most novel feature will be the award of short-term, quickly available fellowships to allow investigators to collaborate with colleagues in other laboratories. For example, when a problem urgently requires a specialized technique available in only one particular laboratory, which may be in another country, the Organization will award a fellowship allowing the investigator to go and work there for a period of a few weeks. Post-doctoral fellowships will generally be awarded for a year. They will be given to young and promising research workers to allow them to work under the guidance of leaders in the field of molecular biology. Senior fellowships may be awarded at anything up to professorial level; for example, in order to help universities to stimulate the development of molecular biology. According to the rules of the Organization, applications will be evaluated solely from the point of view of the scientific excellence of the project, regardless of the nationality of the applicant or of his membership of the Organization, but exchanges between scientists working in different European countries will generally be preferred to projects involving a single country only. This is because the aim of the Organization is to promote molecular biology at a European, rather than a national, level. Further information can be obtained from the executive secretary of the Organization, Dr. R. K. Appleyard, University of Brussels, 67, Paardestraat, St.-Genesius-Rode, Belgium.

International Clearing House for Medical Terminology and Medical Lexicography

An International Clearing House for medical terminology and medical lexicography has been established, following a meeting of the Bureau of the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences. The establishment of such a House was recommended on November 18, 1965, by an international group of experts, convened in Paris by the Council, under the chairmanship of Prof. John E. Gordon. The World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization were represented at the meeting. This group strongly emphasized in its report that medical terminology is in a confused state; in certain branches of medicine the situation is approaching chaos. Certain diseases have been discussed by medical scientists under no less than thirty different names, and many diseases are known, in the same language, under as many as ten or more entirely different names. Under such conditions, scientists cannot be certain whether or not they are talking about the same thing, and communication becomes more and more difficult. Research that costs time, effort and money may be largely in vain if the necessary information cannot readily be located in the scientific literature. Misunderstandings, potentially dangerous to the public, also arise from the confusion prevailing in medical terminology. The main task of the International Clearing House will be to stimulate learned medical societies to examine the problems of medical language, prune from