

costings. Since it became operational in May 1964, the Library had received 299 computer programmes, of which 32 were from the United Kingdom. The Library was now nearing the end of its first three-year term and proposals relating to the Centre were being considered by the Government which would then decide on its policy towards the Centre.

Patent Office

In a written answer in the House of Commons on February 10, the Minister of State, Board of Trade, Mr. G. Darling, stated that six organizations had made representations to the President against moving the Patent Office from London. The President intended to arrange to move the Patent Office to a suitable site in Croydon, but the Library would remain in Central London and the Printing and Sales Branch at St. Mary Cray.

Committee on the Civil Service

In a statement in the House of Commons on February 8, the Prime Minister said that the Government accepted the recommendation of the Estimates Committee that a committee should be appointed to examine the structure, recruitment and management, including training, of the Home Civil Service. Lord Fulton had agreed to be chairman of this committee. The other members would be Sir Philip Allen, Sir Edward Boyle, Sir William Cook, Sir James Dunnett, Sir Norman Kipping, Prof. Lord Simey, Mr. W. C. Anderson, Mr. N. Hunt, Mr. R. Niels, Mr. J. Wall and Mr. S. Williams. The very broad terms of reference would require a fundamental and wide-ranging enquiry in the tradition of the great enquiries of the past, such as Northcote-Trevelyan in 1853 and the Tomlin Commission in 1931, and he hoped that its recommendations would enable the Civil Service to meet Britain's needs for many years to come. Mr. Wilson emphasized that the decision to set up this committee did not mean that the Civil Service had in any way been found lacking by the Government in its present operations. On the contrary, it was the experience of Ministers that the Service met the demands put on it with flexibility and enterprise. Nor did the willingness to consider changes in the Civil Service imply any intention of the Government to alter the basic relation between Ministers and civil servants. Civil servants remained the confidential advisers of Ministers, who alone were answerable to Parliament for policy: no change was envisaged in this fundamental feature of the parliamentary system. In reply to Mr. Heath, who welcomed the statement, Mr. Wilson said that it would be within the terms of reference and competence of the committee to enquire into all aspects of the functioning of and recruitment to the Civil Service. An important working party was already considering training, and the result of that enquiry would be made available to the new committee. While welcoming the report of the Estimates Committee on recruitment to the Civil Service as an extremely valuable contribution to the investigation of this subject, Mr. Wilson added that he did not necessarily accept all the conclusions of its report. He also added that it would be right for the committee to enquire into the question of exchanges between the Civil Service and the universities, business and local government. As regards wider recruitment, in the past 18 months there had been considerable success in attracting from universities and industry highly suitable persons to help with planning and with scientific and technological work, and there had been the greatest possible effort to widen the field of recruitment. The committee would also consider the possibilities of secondment and part-time service. A similar statement was made in the House of Lords, also on February 8, by the Earl of Longford, who, in reply to Viscount Dilhorne's question, assured him that the Legal Civil Service fell within the terms of reference of the committee.

British Government Aid Overseas

In the article appearing under the above heading on p. 1153 of the December 18, 1965, issue of *Nature*, the figures given as "British Government contributions in 1964-65" are, in fact, the contributions over the period 1946-47 to 1964-65. The figures for the year 1964-65 are, in fact, £9 million to the International Development Association, £3.6 million to the United Nations Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and Special Fund, £1.9 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, £0.3 million to the United Nations Children's Fund, £0.2 million to the United Nations Assistance to the Congo, £0.6 million to the World Food Programme and £3.2 million to the Indus Basin Development Scheme.

Medical Education in the United States

A CONFERENCE to consider curriculum, programming and planning in medical schools and teaching hospitals was held by the New York Academy of Sciences during March 1965, and supported in part by grants from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Commonwealth Fund, the Russell Sage Foundation and the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. A record of the conference has been published and includes papers on medical schools and teaching hospitals; curriculum, programming and planning; the mainstream of American medical education, 1765-1965; development of a new medical school; past experiences and considerations for the future; research in medical education participation of faculty and students; experimentation in medical education; the student, the patient and the university; biophysics and medical engineering; the relationship between medical education and medical practitioners; teaching and research; behavioural science in the medical curriculum; the science of nutrition in the medical curriculum; the humanities in the medical curriculum; budgeting the operation of the medical school; introduction to physical programming and planning; criteria for planning; long-range planning of the medical centre; and architectural programming and planning for the medical centre (*Ann. N.Y. Acad. Sci.*, 128, Article 2: *Medical Schools and Teaching Hospitals: Curriculum, Programming and Planning*. By Walter H. Blucher and 33 other authors. Pp. 457-720. New York: New York Academy of Sciences, 1965. 5 dollars).

Supply of Anti-serum in India

AN indication of the problems in public health which confront an over-populated sub-continent such as India is shown in the annual report of the King Institute of Preventive Medicine, Guindy, for 1962-63 (By Dr. S. Govindarajan. Pp. 8+2. Guindy, Madras: King Institute of Preventive Medicine, 1965). The stock of anti-serum at the Institute was not satisfactory during the year under review, since no foreign exchange was released during the previous two years towards the purchase of foreign sera. Sera from indigenous sources were several times costlier and were not available in adequate quantities whenever they were required. The manufacture of anti-serum at the King Institute covers only a small part of the requirements, and thus purchases have to be made from abroad or from indigenous sources to supplement local manufacture. There are few institutions and firms in India which actually manufacture anti-sera. The majority of the firms which supply anti-sera are merely representatives of foreign firms, arranging the supply from other countries through the State Trading Corporation. The price of sera fluctuated widely and the sera were not available in adequate quantities. The time of supply was uncertain and could not be relied on. Such a situation created a heavy burden on the Department of Anti-toxins at the Institute.