

## Parliament in Britain

IN a written answer to a question from Mr. Boston on June 20, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Public Building and Works, Mr. J. Boyden, stated that on the basis of a special enquiry made in 1964 it was estimated that in that year the construction industry spent about £2.5 millions on research. This is the equivalent of 0.3 per cent of its gross output, compared with a national average for all industries of almost 2.7 per cent.

In opening an adjournment debate on building methods and bad-weather precautions on June 21, Mr. Boston returned to the question of the attitude of the building industry to research, and Mr. Boyden, replying for the Government, said that the Minister, Mr. R. Prentice, had that day held a conference with those concerned with setting up a new organization for research and information in the construction industry. The discussions had gone well, and many sections of the industry were sharing a keen interest in raising the necessary funds. The question of continuous working during bad weather and the winter would be an important part of both research and information work. He hoped that the new body would follow up the steps already taken by the Ministry and that in future it would be customary for the industry to work a normal week, except perhaps during cataclysmic weather. The need of research was fairly well known and, while agreeing that the construction industry as a whole spent less on research than many manufacturing industries, Mr. Boyden hoped that the new organization would give just the impetus needed.

In reply to a question in the House of Lords on June 21, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations and for the Colonies, Lord Beswick, said that a National Reports Centre had been set up at the National Lending Library for Science and Technology as a British counterpart to the United States Clearing House which produced a fortnightly list entitled *United States Government Research Reports*. The British Centre published a monthly bulletin entitled *British Research and Development Reports* in which accessions to the stock of reports were announced. The service started only this year, and Lord Beswick agreed with the Earl of Bessborough about the importance of distributing the bulletin widely. Any organization could be put on the mailing list if it applied to the National Lending Library.

IN a written answer in the House of Commons on June 20, the Minister for Land and Natural Resources, Mr. F. Willey, said that a hydrographic survey of the Wash area, with gravity coring of the sea-bed, current gauging and seismic investigations with tests of samples, would form an integral part of a feasibility study of a Wash barrage. It would be wrong, Mr. Willey said, to embark on such a scheme except as part of a comprehensive investigation. The report on the Water Resources of the Great Ouse Basin suggested a five-year programme of investigations which, with the preparations of designs and estimates, would cost about £1.5 million. The hydrographic survey and related soil investigations, including boreholes, would account for almost £1 million and would take two to three years.

## University News:

### Aberdeen

MR. D. F. KERRIDGE has been appointed to the chair of statistics as from August 1.

### Aston

MR. A. J. EDE has been appointed professor of mechanical engineering as from August 1.

### Leeds

DR. D. DOWSON has been appointed to the chair of fluid mechanics and tribology in the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

### London

DR. G. S. NELSON, reader in medical parasitology in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, has been appointed to the William Julien Courtauld chair of helminthology tenable at that school.

### Manchester

MR. C. R. ILLINGWORTH has been appointed to a newly established additional chair of mathematics; Dr. F. D. Kahn has been appointed to a newly established second chair of astronomy; Dr. D. B. G. Edwards has been appointed to a newly established chair of computer engineering.

## Announcements

MR. NIGEL CALDER, editor of the *New Scientist* since 1963, will be leaving his present post on October 1 this year. He will be succeeded by Mr. Donald Gould, who has won a considerable reputation in recent years, chiefly as a free-lance writer on medical subjects. Mr. Calder intends to devote himself to free-lance writing.

OVER 300 British scientists have signed an appeal to the French Government to cancel the new series of nuclear tests about to be made in the Pacific. The protest was published this week as a full-page advertisement in the Paris weekly *Le Nouvel Observateur*. Over 30 of the signatories are Fellows of the Royal Society or heads of departments at British universities.

DR. COLUMBUS O'DONNELL ISELIN has been awarded the fourth Henry Bryant Bigelow Medal for Oceanography by the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Dr. Iselin is a former director of the Institution and has held the Henry Bryant Bigelow chair there since 1958; he is also professor of oceanography at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Bigelow was the first director of Woods Hole, holding the post from 1930 until 1940, and was also the first recipient of the Medal, which was awarded him in 1961.

PROF. T. BERGERON has been awarded the International Meteorological Organization Prize by the Executive Committee of the World Meteorological Organization. This Prize is awarded annually for outstanding work in meteorology and international collaboration.

DR. PAUL-A. GIGUÈRE, director of the Department of Chemistry in the Université Laval in Quebec, has been elected president of the Chemical Institute of Canada during 1966-67.

THE following have been elected honorary fellows of the Institute of Biology: Sir Macfarlane Burnet, Prof. E. B. Chain, Dr. J. C. Kendrew, Sir Peter Medawar.

DR. E. A. WALKER, president of the Pennsylvania State University and chairman of the National Science Board, has been elected president of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, in succession to Dr. A. B. Kinzel.

At its annual general meeting, the Association of Applied Biologists elected the following honorary officers for 1966-67: *President*, Sir Vincent Wigglesworth; *Vice-President*, F. Raw; *President-Elect*, D. J. Watson; *General Secretary*, F. T. Last.

THE first volume of the newly launched *British Film Guide* lists some 1,700 films directly or indirectly related to medicine. The intention is that the completed *Guide* will list by subject all non-fiction films available in Great Britain. It will appear in twelve volumes, the first of which can be had from Film Centre (International), Ltd., 24 Conduit Street, London, W.1, price 39s. 6d.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made for the Russian journal *Genetika*, first published in Russia in 1965, to be translated into English on a continuing basis. Further information concerning this journal can be obtained from Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information, Joint Publications Research Service, Tempo E., 6th and Adams Drive, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20442.

THE next joint meeting of the Challenger Society and representatives from the Marine Laboratories will be held in the University of Southampton during July 21-22. Further information can be obtained from N. J. Holmes, Department of Oceanography, University of Southampton, Southampton.

THE third annual meeting of the Society for Cryobiology will be held in Boston during August 8-10. Further information can be obtained from Dr. C. Huggins, Department of Surgery, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston.

THE second international congress of food science and technology will be held in Warsaw during August 22-27. Further information can be obtained from Dr. A. Borys, Instytut Przemysłu Mięsnego, Warsaw 12, Rakowiecka 36.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Solar-Terrestrial Physics" will be held in Belgrade during August 29-September 2. Further information can be obtained from Dr. D. Bajic, URSI Belgrade Symposium Committee, P.O. Box 356, Belgrade.

THE eleventh international symposium on "Combustion" will be held in the University of California, Berkeley, during August 14-20. Further information can be obtained from the Combustion Institute, 986 Union Trust Building, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

THE sixth international congress for electron microscopy will be held in Kyoto during August 28-September 4. Further information can be obtained from the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Congress, Institute for Virus Research, Kyoto University, Kyoto.

THE tenth international conference on "Low Temperature Physics" will be held in Moscow during August 31-September 6. Further information can be obtained from the Organizing Committee of the Conference, Institute for Physical Problems of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., Vorobyevskoye Shosse 2, Moscow B-334.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Neutron Monitoring for Radiological Protection", under the auspices of the International Atomic Energy Agency, will be held in Vienna during August 29-September 2. Further information can be obtained from S. Somasundaram, Division of Health, Safety and Waste Disposal, International Atomic Energy Agency, Vienna.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Collection and Processing of Field Data", under the auspices of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, will be held in Canberra during August 30-September 2. Further information can be obtained from Dr. E. F. Bradley, Division of Plant Industry, P.O. Box 109, Canberra City, A.C.T.

THE fourth international Biometeorological Congress will be held at Rutgers University during August 26-September 2. There will be two plenary sessions on "Biometeorological Properties of the Atmospheric Environment" and "Impact of the Atmospheric Environment on the Integument of the Organism". Further information can be obtained from F. Sargent, 524 Burrill Hall, University of Illinois, Urbana.

A MEDICAL congress on the theme "Clinical Physiology and Internal Medicine", organized by the Czechoslovak Society of Internal Medicine, will be held in Prague during August 29-September 2. The congress will include a symposium on "Conception and Methods of Clinical Physiology". Further information can be obtained from the Congress Office, Fourth Medical Clinic Faculty of General Medicine, Charles University, U nemocnice 2, Prague 2.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Origin and Distribution of the Elements", organized by the International Association of Geochemistry and Cosmochemistry and co-sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Union of Geological Sciences, will be held at the headquarters of the Organization in Paris during September 21-23. The symposium will be divided into five sections: theories of origin; solar, stellar and interstellar abundances; meteorites; planets, asteroids, comets and tektites; terrestrial abundances. Further information can be obtained from Prof. E. Ingerson, Department of Geology, University of Texas, Austin.

### Appointments

THE Minister of Health, Mr. Kenneth Robinson, has appointed Dr. D. Dooley to be H.M. Inspector of Anatomy in England and Wales in succession to Dr. C. G. Nicol, who has retired. The post was established by an Act of Parliament in 1832; the duties involve issuing licences to teachers of anatomy and operative surgery and supervising the curriculum and teaching of these subjects in the medical schools and schools of anatomy in England and Wales.

WHEN Dr. L. Harrison Matthews retires from the Zoological Society of London this week, his work as scientific director will be divided into two new posts. Mr. L. G. Goodwin, director of the Nuffield Institute of Comparative Medicine, will be in charge of research as the director of science. Mr. C. G. C. Rawlins will be director of zoos with responsibility for managing both Regent's Park and Whipsnade zoos. Mr. Rawlins retired this year from the Overseas Civil Service after serving as a district commissioner and gaining considerable experience in administering fauna conservation and game areas. Dr. H. G. Vevers, now curator of the aquarium and invertebrates and assistant to Dr. Matthews, will be the assistant director of science.

MR. I. L. BAUMGART has been appointed assistant director-general of the New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research on the retirement of Mr. L. W. Tiller. Dr. A. T. Johns has been appointed assistant director-general of the Department of Agriculture, and Dr. G. Butler will replace Dr. Johns as director of the Plant Chemistry Division of the D.S.I.R.

DR. M. KENT WILSON, professor and chairman of the Department of Chemistry in Tufts University, has been appointed head of the Chemistry Section, Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, in the National Science Foundation as from July 1.

DR. J. F. CLARK has been appointed director of the Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Maryland, where he has been acting director for a year.