

## Parliament in Britain

THE Minister of Technology, Mr. Wedgwood Benn, announced in the House of Commons on August 9 that the first Institute for Advanced Studies of Design will soon be established on the site of the National Engineering Laboratory at East Kilbride, Scotland. Mr. Benn was replying to a question on plans for implementing the recommendation of the Fielden Committee to establish such institutes. He said that the first institute would be devoted to advanced machine and control technology and that a director will soon be appointed who will also be a full member of the University of Strathclyde. The Establishment will be under the Ministry of Technology, but the Steering Committee will represent industries, trade unions and the university.

ROUGHLY 55 per cent of the domestic computer business is conducted on rental, according to Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn in a written reply to a question about the renting of industrial machinery on August 12. He said that the ministry has no information about the extent of renting for other types of machinery, but that he is hoping that the new arrangements for investment grants will lead to "more flexible leasing terms" for new types of machinery.

RECRUITMENT of staff for the National Reference Library for Science and Invention was said by Mr. Goronwy Roberts, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science, to be well under way. His written reply to a question on August 11 was that thirty-eight librarians and others had been recruited since the beginning of the year, although only sixteen of these would fill new posts. As yet it appears that the part of the National Lending Library housed at the British Museum is not open to the public, but that what remains in the old Patent Office Library is still accessible.

THE National Foundry College is no longer receiving government assistance because it is "a small mono-technic". The subject was raised in the House of Commons on August 12, and in a written reply Mr. Goronwy Roberts stated that the decision was based on the extensive development of the provision by local education authorities for higher technological education since the college was set up in 1948. In the future a more broadly based institution within the local authority sector will be better able to meet the needs of the foundry and other industries.

FOLLOWING the recommendations of the Geddes Report on the shipbuilding industry, a Shipbuilding Industry Board will be set up under the chairmanship of Mr. William Swallow, until recently chairman and managing director of Vauxhall Motors, Ltd. The board's task is to promote the reorganization of the industry, principally by holding discussions with firms and unions in advance of legislation. This announcement was made by Mr. Douglas Jay, President of the Board of Trade, in a statement to the House of Commons on August 9. He added that implementation of the productivity bargains will be deferred for six months, in accordance with the White Paper, but that both the Government and the Industrial Re-organization Corporation were prepared to give financial assistance if required.

## University News:

London

PROF. J. BROWN, at present professor of electrical engineering at University College, has been appointed to the chair of light electrical engineering tenable at the Imperial College of Science and Technology. Mr. L. Castillejo, at present lecturer in theoretical physics and fellow of Wadham College, has been appointed to the second chair of physics tenable at University College. The title of professor has been conferred on the following: Dr. R. A. Kekwick (biophysics, in respect of his post at the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine); Dr. S. J. Pirt (microbiology, in respect of his post at Queen Elizabeth College); Dr. J. C. Sloper (experimental pathology, in respect of his post at Charing Cross Hospital Medical School); Dr. R. E. B. Hudson (pathology, in respect of his post at the Institute of Cardiology).

Southampton

MR. H. CHARNOCK, at present principal scientific officer in the National Institute of Oceanography, has been appointed to the chair of physical oceanography.

## Appointments

DR. R. S. F. HENNESSEY, at present head of the Therapeutic Research Division of the Wellcome Foundation Ltd., has been appointed assistant research director with responsibility for scientific administration. Prof. M. Weatherall, at present professor of pharmacology at the London Hospital Medical College, has been appointed head of the Therapeutic Research Division of the Wellcome Research Laboratories.

DR. B. R. NIJHAWAN, director of the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, has been appointed to the United Nations Organization as senior adviser (Inter-Regional), Centre for Industrial Development (Technological Division) in New York.

## Announcements

THE American Society of Plant Physiologists has chosen Prof. Daniel I. Arnon, of the University of California (Berkeley), as the recipient of its Stephen Hales Award; Prof. Kenneth Thimann, of the University of California (Santa Cruz), for the Barnes Life Membership Award; and Prof. C. B. van Niel, of California, for the Kettering Award. At the annual meeting of the Society held at the University of Maryland recently, Prof. R. S. Bandurski, of Michigan State University, was elected president.

A NATIONAL Medal of Science has been established in the United States to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the physical, biological, mathematical and engineering sciences, and the first awards have been made to: PROF. R. H. BING, professor of mathematics in the University of Wisconsin; PROF. M. CALVIN, professor of chemistry in the University of California; PROF. H. E. CARTER, professor and head of the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering in the University of Illinois; DR. P. CHENEA, vice president for academic affairs in Purdue University; PROF. B. L. CRAWFORD, JUN., professor and chairman of the Department of Chemistry in the University of Minnesota; DR. J. C. FLETCHER, president, University of Utah; DR. H. J. HOLLOMON, assistant secretary of commerce for science and technology; PROF. P. J. KRAMER, professor of botany in Duke University; PROF. G. LINDZEY, professor and chairman of the Department of Psychology in the University of Texas; PROF. W. MCDERMOTT, professor of medicine in Cornell University; DR. R. REVELLE, director of the Harvard Center for Population Studies in Harvard University; DR. A. M. WEINBERG, director of Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

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