

expenses. With a deficit of more than £2,700 last year and costs continuing to rise, the officers have decided to go to the membership at a special general meeting on November 23 to propose an increase in the annual contribution from five guineas (£5.25) to seven pounds ten shillings (£7.5). They are confident that the fellows will feel as they do that the Society should continue to be self-supporting.

The increasing spate of publication in geology, the growth of library acquisitions and the Society's own publications, has placed an extra burden on the finances. A number of oil companies who make use of the library—the oldest and one of the finest geological libraries in the world—have made grants in the past few years for upkeep and new acquisitions, but the Society urgently needs more space; it is hoped to use some of the space vacated by the Royal Society when it moves from Burlington House some time next year, but the cost of conversion will be high. The Society would also like more capital to enable it to print symposium volumes. At present the Society holds evening meetings every three weeks (but would like to turn more of these into full-day symposia), publishes a quarterly journal, the proceedings of the Society, and memoirs, and is trying to develop specialist groups—groups in geological engineering and volcanic studies now meet regularly. To cover these costs the Society spent £25,600 in 1965, nearly double its expenditure in 1958 but still far more than its income.

On the eve of the Society's 160th birthday, the officers are hoping that an extra two pounds a year will look like a good investment to its members.

Oppenheimer on Stage

THE Hampstead Theatre Club has been flying successfully in the face of theatrical prudence by mounting a play based on the transcript of the proceedings of the review board of the U.S.A.E.C. which, in 1954, declined to renew Dr. Robert Oppenheimer's security clearance. An all-male cast is enough of a handicap, but if eight of them have to be sitting down for most of the time, it is a considerable achievement to prevent the audience dropping off to sleep. Over-anxiety on this score may explain why Bethe and Rabi both appeared more like comic turns than they would wish and their friends would think credible. In the event, of course, there is still enough drama in those bizarre proceedings to keep people on the edges of their seats.

By now, it is no great surprise that Oppenheimer emerged from the hearings less of a hero than when they began. (If it had been otherwise, would the transcript have seen the light of day?) The Hampstead production has the particular merit of raising the question why Oppenheimer did not give up his official positions when the tightening of security regulations in the early fifties put him in a false position. Through no fault of its own, the play is perhaps less successful at sharpening the question of how far a scientist (or any citizen, for that matter) should swallow his conscience in the national interest. The trouble, of course, is that the review board persisted with foolishly oversimplified questions. That was its weakness. Oppenheimer may be right to have called the proceedings a comedy, not a tragedy. It is nevertheless important that he should sometime say in public how it seemed from his side of the stage. It is a great misfortune that the principal rôle should have to be reconstructed from a dusty transcript.

University News:

Brunel
DR. M. L. V. PITTEWAY, at present director of the Cripps Computing Centre in the University of Nottingham, has been appointed professor of computer science in the School of Mathematics as from April 1, 1967.

London

SIR OWEN SAUNDERS, pro-rector and professor of mechanical engineering, has been appointed acting rector of the Imperial College of Science and Technology after the recent death of Sir Patrick Linstead. The title of professor of biology has been conferred on Dr. A. G. Hamilton, in respect of his post at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School.

Manchester

MR. T. SARPKEYA, Regent's professor in the University of Nebraska, has been appointed visiting professor in the Department of the Mechanics of Fluids.

Newcastle upon Tyne

DR. K. M. CREER, at present reader in geophysics, has been appointed professor in magnetism in the Department of Geophysics and Planetary Physics, as from October 1.

Strathclyde

DR. HUGH C. SIMPSON, manager of the Research and Development Division of G. and J. Weir, Ltd., Glasgow, and research manager for Weir Westgarth, Ltd., East Kilbride, has been appointed to the chair of thermodynamics and heat transfer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Strathclyde University from December 1, 1966. Dr. A. Coull, lecturer in civil engineering in the University of Southampton, has been appointed professor of structural engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering.

Appointments

PROF. ANDREW WILSON, professor of pharmacology at the University of Liverpool, has succeeded Sir James Cook as chairman of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides and other Toxic Chemicals to the British Government through the Secretary of State for Education and Science. Sir James, who is vice-chancellor of the University of Exeter, has been appointed vice-chancellor of the University of East Africa.

THE National Coal Board has appointed Dr. A. M. Roberts, development manager of Imperial Chemical Industries' Mond Division, as director-general of research and development for coal processing and combustion.

DR. WILLOUGHBY LATHAM, formerly Acting Chief of the European Office of the National Institutes of Health, has been appointed Deputy Director for the Medical and Natural Sciences for the Rockefeller Foundation. Dr. Latham has taught medicine at the Universities of Pittsburgh, Columbia and Yale.

DR. G. L. RIDDELL, at present chief scientist with the Reed Paper Group, has been appointed director of the Printing, Packaging and Allied Trades Research Association (PATRA).

Announcements

THE Institute of Metals has elected as president from March 7, 1967, Dr. H. M. Finnieston, managing director of the International Research and Development Co.

THE Ramsay Memorial Fellowships Trustees will consider in April 1967 applications for two Ramsay Memorial Fellowships, one British (general) fellowship and one fellowship limited to candidates educated at a Glasgow University. The value of the former fellowship will be within the range of £1,500 to £2,000 per annum and the award will be for research at post-doctoral level. The