

Eddington medal has been awarded to PROFESSOR R. F. CHRISTY, California Institute of Technology, for his work on the non-linear theory of pulsating stars.

THE Steacie Prize for 1966, which consists of a cash award of \$1,200, has been awarded to Professor G. H. Dixon of the University of Columbia for his important work on the synthesis of insulin and on the structure of haptoglobins.

THE Royal Society of Arts has awarded the Benjamin Franklin Medal for 1967 to Dr. Detlev Wulf Bronk, president of the Rockefeller University in New York.

DR. EDWARD M. PURCELL, professor of physics at Harvard University, has been awarded the Oersted Medal by the American Association of Physics Teachers.

THE American Microchemical Society has created a fund to commemorate the work of the late Dr. A. A. Benedetti-Pichler. The award will be made to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the practice or teaching of microtechniques. The recipient will give a lecture at a gathering of analytical chemists. Nominations must be in the hands of the committee by April 1, 1967. A letter of 300 words or fewer, giving the name and address of the nominee and citing, in general, his work, may be sent to the chairman of the 1967 Committee, Dr. Leo K. Yanowski, Department of Chemistry, Fordham University, New York, N.Y., 10458.

PROFESSOR P. M. S. BLACKETT will give the 1967 Chelsea Lecture on the subject "Continental Drift" at Chelsea College of Science and Technology on February 7. This is the first of a series of lectures established to commemorate the admission of the college as a school of the University of London.

THE fourth symposium on "African Geology" will be held in the University of Sheffield during April 19-22. Further information can be obtained from Mr. P. Wilkinson, Department of Geology, University of Sheffield, St. George's Square, Sheffield, 1.

A CONFERENCE on "Inorganic Reaction Mechanisms", sponsored by the Irish National Committee for Chemistry and Professor F. L. Scott, of University College, Cork, will be held in Kinsale, Co. Cork, during April 10-14. Further information can be obtained from Dr. N. Mulcahy, Chemistry Department, University College, Cork.

THE second United Kingdom Automation Council control convention on "Advances in Computer Control" is to be held in the University of Bristol during April 11-14. Further information can be obtained from the Convention Secretariat, The Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London, W.C.2.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Liquid-Liquid Extraction", organized by the Northern Branch of the Institution of Chemical Engineers, will be held at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne during April 20-21. Further information can be obtained from the Institution of Chemical Engineers, 16 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

A CONFERENCE on "New Developments in Optics and their Applications in Industry", organized by the British Scientific Instrument Research Association, will be held in Eastbourne during April 11-12. Further information can be obtained from Mr. P. J. Geary, Publicity and Literature Services Department, SIRA, South Hill, Chislehurst, Kent.

A SYMPOSIUM on "Mean Sea Level", organized by the International Association of Physical Oceanography with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, will be held in Washington during April 13-15. Further information can be obtained from Mr. S. D. Hicks, Coast and Geodetic Survey, U.S. ESSA, Washington Science Center, Rockville, Maryland.

A CONFERENCE on "Image Detection and Processing", organized by the Optical Group of the Institute of Physics

and the Physical Society, will be held at the Royal Radar Establishment, Great Malvern, during April 24-26. Further information can be obtained from the Meetings Officer, the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

A CONFERENCE on "The Teaching of Mathematics to Physicists", arranged by the Education Group of the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society in collaboration with the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications, will be held in the University of Exeter during April 12-14. Further information can be obtained from the Meetings Officer, the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

A SYMPOSIUM on "The Use of Isotopes and Radiation in Plant Pathology Studies", organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency, is to be held in Vienna during April 17-21. Further information can be obtained from Mr. Nils Lund, Division of Public Information, International Atomic Energy Agency, Karntrner Ring 11, A-1010 Vienna.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Doomsday 1967

SIR,—As one of the participants in the BBC programme "Challenge" broadcast on January 5, I would like to express agreement with all of the comments in your leading article of January 14. My own contribution, as recorded, consisted of three parts. The first showed what might be unpleasing effects of our elimination of all previously effective limits on world population if we fail to develop new ones. The second started with the comment that naturally I do not believe for a moment that any such catastrophe will be allowed to occur and went on to point out that there have already been developed new methods, the most important being practical means of birth control. The Japanese have already demonstrated the effectiveness of these by cutting their net reproduction rate from 2 to 1 in less than 20 years. The third part pointed out that we have now for the first time a choice as to whether we limit the population, and if we do, a wide range of choices of how to do it. The whole was consistent with my belief that the fundamental value to the world of science and technology is that it gives us greater freedom of choice both of action and in thought.

The first alone of these three parts was broadcast.

I consider it perfectly fair for the BBC to stress the disadvantages of wrong choices, and hence the danger of carelessness in making them. But to omit altogether the advantages of the choices which have been made and the huge range of alternatives which we could make seems to me, as to you, a serious distortion. I am not complaining that the producer of the programme deceived me in any way; rather my lack of experience may have misled him. I had not seen any of the other contributions when I made my recording and it did not occur to me to ask that, if reduction of my allotted time were necessary, my share should be cut down in a balanced way.

Nevertheless, if I had known that there would be time for the first aspect only of my contribution, I would have preferred not to take part at all.

Yours faithfully,

J. H. FREMLIN

Department of Physics,
University of Birmingham.