

University News:

DR C. KAPLAN, at present head of the Virus Vaccine Department in the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine, has been appointed professor of microbiology and will succeed Professor B. C. J. G. Knight as head of the Department on his retirement in September 1969. Professor V. H. Heywood, at present professor of botany in the University of Liverpool, has been appointed to the chair of botany in succession to Professor T. M. Harris.

Appointments

DR E. V. D. GLAZIER has been appointed director of the Royal Radar Establishment at Malvern. Dr Glazier took his BSc in 1935 and his PhD, also in engineering, in 1942. He has worked in the GPO and the Signals Research and Development Establishment. Since 1959 Dr Glazier has been at RRE and his appointment as director took effect from September 1. His predecessor Dr Macfarlane now holds the post of controller of research in the Ministry of Technology.

DR BORIS GRINBERG has been appointed director of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Division of Research and Laboratories, in succession to Dr Garman Harbottle, who is returning to Brookhaven National Laboratory.

DR JAMES R. HEITZLER, at present senior research associate at Columbia University's Lamont Geological Observatory, has been appointed director of the university's Hudson Laboratories in succession to Dr Alan Berman, who has been appointed director of research at the US Navy's Naval Research Laboratory.

Announcements

PROFESSOR J. BLAMONT, scientific and technical director of the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales and director of the Laboratoire d'Aeronomie du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, has been awarded the Guggenheim international astronautical prize.

THE second Jansky Lectureship has been awarded to Professor Jan H. Oort, director of the Leiden Observatory, The Netherlands, and he will deliver a lecture entitled "Large-scale Distribution and Motion of Hydrogen in the Galaxy" on November 29 at Gilmer Hall Auditorium, Charlottesville, Virginia.

PROFESSOR A. CORRADETTI, director of the Department of Parasitology and Entomology, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Rome, and Dr Clay G. Huff, chief parasitologist at the Naval Research Institute in Washington, have been elected honorary fellows of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

APPLICATIONS for a Meres senior studentship for medical research are invited by the Council of St. John's College, Cambridge. The candidate must be a university graduate, and will be elected for a period of not less than one year or more than three years. Further information can be obtained from the Master, St. John's College, Cambridge.

A MEDAL and award of one hundred guineas is being offered by the Royal Agricultural Society of England for research work carried out in the United Kingdom which has proved of benefit to agriculture. Recommendations for this award can be made by heads of university departments, research stations and institutes and other research organizations, and further information can be obtained from the Secretary, Royal Agricultural Society of England, 35 Belgrave Square, London, SW1.

A NUCLEOTIDE Chemistry Group of the Chemical Society is being formed in order to encourage the discussion of the chemistry of nucleosides, nucleotides and nucleic acids. Membership of the group is not confined to fellows of the society and further information can be obtained from

Reading

Dr A. S. Jones, The Chemistry Department, The University of Birmingham, P.O. Box 363, Birmingham, 15.

THE inaugural meeting of the Fisheries Society of the British Isles is to be held at the Meeting Rooms of the Zoological Society of London on Saturday, October 21, at 2.30 p.m. Further information can be obtained from Mr. Lionel E. Mawdesley-Thomas, Fisheries Society of the British Isles, Huntingdon Research Centre, Huntingdon.

Meetings

HIGH Pressure Engineering, September 11-15, Imperial College of Science and Technology (Mr R. Glynn, Head of the Conference Department, The Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, Westminster, London, SW1).

MOLECULAR Model Building, September 18-29, State University of New York at Buffalo (Mrs W. J. Browne, Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford, Oxford).

CONCRETE Roads for the Future, September 20, London (The Operations Department, The Concrete Society, Terminal House, Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1).

AMORPHOUS and Liquid Semiconductors, September 28-October 3, Bucharest (Professor R. Grigorovici, Institute of Physics of the Academy, Calea Victoriei 114, Bucharest).

ENERGY Sources for Space Power, October 2-6, Brussels (Office of the Director Plans and Programmes, AGARD, 64 Rue de Varenne, Paris).

CROP LOSSES: Evaluation of Field Losses caused by Pests and Diseases and of Factors affecting Epidemics and Outbreaks, October 2-6, Food and Agriculture Organization, Rome (Dr L. Chiarappa, Crop Protection Branch, FAO, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, Rome).

DIELECTRIC Properties of Biological Macromolecules, October 3, Queen Elizabeth College (Dr E. H. Grant, Queen Elizabeth College, Campden Hill Road, London).

CORRESPONDENCE

Unfair to Aristotle

SIR,—If a dead man's reputation is wrongly and needlessly attacked, it is up to the man's friends to defend him, and if the man has been dead for more than two thousand years, the friends must be posthumous ones. In view of this, may I comment on the statement in the review of a translation of Albertus Magnus's *Book of Minerals* (*Nature*, 215, 443; 1967), that Aristotle's doctrine prevented true scientific advance based on observation for a thousand years?

In the first place, surely the writer does not really believe that Albertus was influenced by Aristotle; if his book was no advance—of no value—why translate it, or review it once translated?

In the second place, Aristotle's doctrines were not well known through most of the Christian era until the tenth or twelfth century. Until then, Greek influences were more neo-Platonic than Aristotelian; indeed, only the logical treatises were known until about the tenth century. People could not be under the influence of doctrines which they did not know.

Yours faithfully,

H. L. ARMSTRONG

Department of Physics,
Queen's University,
Ontario.