

University News:

Glasgow

PROFESSOR G. M. WILSON, of the Department of Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Sheffield, has been appointed Regius professor of the practice of medicine in succession to Sir Edward Wayne, who retires on September 30.

Appointments

ERNST R. PARISER has been appointed chief scientist and director of engineering for the marine sciences programme of Avco Corporation.

Announcements

THE closing dates for the receipt of applications for travel grants from the Royal Society's parliamentary grant-in-aid have been changed to March 1, June 1 and December 1.

THE British Empire Cancer Campaign for Research and the recently founded College of Pathologists have been given £500,000 to acquire suitable premises in London as a permanent headquarters. The gift was made by Mr Michael Sobell. As well as encouraging the study by pathology of malignant disease, it is hoped that the gift will strengthen and facilitate collaboration between the two bodies. A committee will be appointed within the next few weeks to discuss how a suitable building can be acquired.

THE Lalor Foundation, Wilmington, Delaware, invites applications for its 1968 awards for postdoctorate research in the field of reproductive physiology. The awards are open to all nationalities and preference will be given to younger members of university or college faculty and staff, with an upper age limit of 41 years. The work may be carried on at the applicant's own institution or elsewhere. The awards may be for a few months or up to one year and may range from \$1,300 to \$8,500, depending on the scope and duration of projects approved. Forms of application and further information can be obtained from the Lalor Foundation, 4400 Lancaster Pike, Wilmington, Delaware 19805.

Meetings

SEVENTEENTH Chemical Engineering Conference, October 16-18, Ontario (Programme Chairman, Dr D. R. Woods, Department of Chemical Engineering, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario).

CONTINENTAL Drift emphasizing the History of the South Atlantic Area, October 16-19, Montevideo, Uruguay (Dr J. T. Wilson, Director, Institute of Earth Sciences, University of Toronto, Toronto).

CLEAN Air Conference and Exhibition, October 17-20, Blackpool (National Society for Clean Air, Field House, Breams Buildings, London, EC4).

BATH Conference 1967, October 18-20, Limpley Stoke Hotel, Bath (J. Hoskin Lambie, Bath University of Technology, Upper Borough Walls, Bath, Somerset).

EXPLODING Wire Phenomenon, October 18-20, Boston (W. G. Chace, Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories, Laurence G. Hanscom Field, Bedford, Massachusetts).

TECHNOLOGIST in the Ceramics Industry, October 20, Stoke-on-Trent (G. H. Stewart, Institute of Ceramics, Shelton House, Stoke Road, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent).

X-RAY Techniques in Materials Science: Recent Developments, October 26-27, Institution of Electrical Engineers, London (Meetings Officer, Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London, SW1).

GLOBAL Impacts of Applied Microbiology, November 6-11, Addis Ababa (Dr Akililu Lemma, Faculty of Science, Hailo Sellassie I University, PO Box 1176, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia).

ERRATUM. In the article "Calculation of Crystal Packing: A Novel Approach to the Phase Problem" by A. Damiani, E. Giglio, A. M. Liquori and L. Mazzarella (*Nature*, 215, 1161; 1967) the following corrections should be made on p. 1161: line 29 of the left hand column should read "... $b = 6.186 \dots$ " and line 50 of the right hand column should read "... coefficient of 3.5 \AA^2 ", and not 3.5 \AA (ref. 2). On p. 1162 the volume number in reference 1 should read IV, and not 5; the second author's name in reference 11 should read Kraut and not Krant; and the name of the last author of the article should read L. Mazzarella and not L. Mazzarell.

CORRESPONDENCE

Vegetative Propagation

SIR,—We have in English the phrase "vegetative propagule", which is awkward. Every plant part so used and the plant that establishes from it is necessarily a member of a clone—one of its RAMETS. But this word, already established, tends to throw its emphasis on common origin.

If RAM-ET can be so formed from *ramus*, may we have the slightly more irregular PROPET, which is easy to say and to spell, and use it on those occasions where the whole catalogue: bud, bulb, corm, cutting, offset, rhizome, runner, scion, tuber, etc., is to be understood? Does anyone object?

Yours faithfully,

E. R. WALLACE

88 Hills Road,
Cambridge.

Head on the Block

SIR,—Whose 'Head on the Block' (*Nature*, 215, 1215; 1967)? You quote the figures of 1,947 and 1,831 for SRC Research Studentships for 1965 and 1966 as if they were significant. The footnote to Table 1 of Appendix III points out that due to the transfer of awards to NERC and SSRC "the figures for 1966 are therefore not comparable with those for 1964 and 1965". The true comparison is mentioned on p. 23 of the Report—4 per cent up in Research Studentships and 12 per cent in Advanced Course Studentships—about 7 per cent overall.

What better evidence that we are alive to the needs of the newer universities and some of the budding polytechnics could there be than the figures in Appendix III, Table 3 (105 research studentships at Sussex) and Appendix IV, Table 3. (Aston, Bath, Bradford, Brunel, City, East Anglia, Essex, Kent, Lancaster, Loughborough, Surrey, Sussex, Warwick and York—with a total value of £1.7 m out of our total of £21 m.)

I am sorry you do not like our 'Co-operative awards in pure science'—we do try. Some of us feel that to arrange for a substantial number of university research students to spend up to 3 months working on their research project in industrial laboratories is far from being an artificial link with industry.

Yours faithfully,

E. R. H. JONES

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