University News :

Australian National

PROFESSOR F. FENNER, at present professor of microbiology in the John Curtin School of Medical Research, has been appointed head of the school in succession to Sir Hugh Ennor, who was appointed secretary to the Department of Science and Education of the Commonwealth of Australia earlier this year.

Loughborough

PROFESSOR E. J. RICHARDS, professor of applied acoustics and director of the Institute of Sound and Vibration Research in the University of Southampton, has been appointed vice-chancellor of the university in succession to Dr H. L. Haslegrave, who retires on September 30.

Memorial

DR K. B. ROBERTS, at present reader in physiology in the London Hospital Medical College, has been appointed associate dean of medicine and head of the Department of Physiology in the Memorial University of Newfoundland, and will take up his appointment in September 1968.

Nottingham

PROFESSOR E. MAURICE BACKETT, at present professor of social medicine and head of the Department of Public Health and Social Medicine in the University of Aberdeen, has been appointed to the chair of community health in the medical school.

Appointments

DR S. FAWCETT, at present director of Battelle-Northwest, has been appointed executive vice-president of Battelle Memorial Institute, and Dr F. Albaugh has been appointed director of the Pacific Northwest Laboratory of the Battelle Memorial Institute.

DR E. E. FERGUSON has been appointed director of the Aeronomy Laboratory of the US Environmental Science Services Administration's research laboratories in Boulder, in succession to Dr E. K. Smith.

Announcements

THE following awards have been announced by the Gairdner Foundation: DR C. R. DEDUVE, professor of chemistry in the Rockefeller University, a $20,000 special award of merit for the discovery of minute structures inside cells called lysosomes; DR G. E. PALADE, professor and head of the Laboratory of Cell Biology in the Rockefeller University, a $20,000 special award of merit for his contribution to the understanding of the synthesis and movement of protein destined for export in cells; DR M. NIRENBERG, chief of the Laboratory of Biochemical Genetics, US National Institutes of Health, a $20,000 special award of merit for demonstrating the method of manufacture of protein within cells, and some of the ways in which the rate of production and the composition of various proteins are controlled inside the cell; DR D. H. COPP, professor and head of physiology in the University of British Columbia, and DR I. MACINTYRE, professor of endocrine chemistry and joint director of the Endocrine Unit, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, London, share equally a $5,000 annual award, Dr Copp for his discovery of a new hormone called thyrocalcitonin and Dr MacIntyre for demonstrating that this hormone is produced by cells present in the thyroid gland; DR P. J. MOLONEY, a consultant at Connaught Medical Research Laboratories, Toronto, a $5,000 annual award for his study of the structure of insulin; DR J. AXELROD, chief of the section on pharmacology, Laboratory of Clinical Science, US National Institutes of Health, and DR S. UDENFRIEND, chief of the Laboratory of Clinical Biochemistry, US National Institutes of Health, share equally a $5,000 annual award for their study of chemical reactions in the body which lead to the detoxication of drugs and the handling of certain active chemicals which may be concerned with the control of blood pressure and the activity of the cardiovascular system; DR J. FRASER MUSTARD, professor of pathology in McMaster University, a $5,000 annual award for his work in arteriosclerosis.

THE exhibition "The History and Development of Geological Cartography", which opened on July 28, is on display to the public until October 27, Monday to Friday, 9–5 pm, in the University Library, Whiteknights, Reading. This exhibition of geological maps is in honour of the eightieth birthday of Emeritus Professor H. L. Hawkins.

ERRATUM. In the article "Half-lives of Peptides and Amines in the Circulation" (*Nature*, 215, 1237; 1967), the first sentence of the third paragraph on page 1238 should read: "The design of the experiments to find the half-life of bradykinin in the circulation of the cat was as follows".

CORRESPONDENCE

What is Science Policy ?

SIR,—On my return from an overseas business tour attempting the difficult task of selling European aircraft in the United States, I have seen in your issue of September 2 your leading article "What is Science Policy ?" (*Nature*, 215, 1013; 1967), and I would like to challenge the point you make about Concord.

It has never been suggested that the full cost of Concord research and development will be recovered through aircraft sales, although I believe personally that at least a very substantial recovery will be made. With Concord, Britain and France have a real opportunity of securing a worthwhile share in the civil aircraft market, a major growth market.

Our detailed market assessments based on realistic, even pessimistic, premises (such as, for example, the assumption that there will be a complete ban on overland supersonic cruise) indicate a minimum market of 200 Concords by 1975, rising to a possible 350/400 by 1980. These estimates are borne out by independent American market research. The sale of 200 Concords would represent a contribution of at least £100 million annually for seven years to Britain's balance of payments, and you would probably concede that this would be "some kind of economic return".

As a direct result of Concord research and development expenditure, advanced technological activities have been initiated and pressed forward in many and diverse fields; in materials, electronics, miniaturization, automation, machine tools, computerized operational research and structural test techniques, to give a random selection. The greater part of this work has a direct applicability and value for industrial fields other than aviation, but, as you will appreciate, this value cannot be expressly stated in money terms.

In a recent speech Mr. Wedgwood Benn said: "Foreign defence expenditure is strengthening the advanced technology of our competitors and losing us export markets". Everyone who is trying to sell in international markets knows this is true. Concord expenditure is already doing much, and will do more, to improve our competitive position.

Yours faithfully,

E. H. BURGESS

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