post she held, with appropriate promotions, until her retirement in 1965 at the age of seventy.

During a full working life Helen Muir-Wood produced more than fifty memoirs and papers on all aspects of the Brachiopoda including a monograph on the Carboniferous Productoids and memoirs on the Jurassic and Palaeozoic faunas, not only of Great Britain, but of India, Sikkim, Malaya, Irak, Persia, Palestine and Somaliland. She held office as a member of the Council of the Geological Society of London, the Palaeontographical Society, the Ray Society and the Systematics Association.

Although her chief research interests included the morphology, systematics and evolution of the Lower Palaeozoic to Recent genera, she became particularly well known in the thirties for her pioneer work in establishing a classification of Mesozoic genera and species on their internal structures which were ascertained by transverse serial sections. This technique, hitherto used only broadly by a few continental workers, provided the first major step forward in the understanding of the evolution and morphological variation of the group, replacing the somewhat arbitrary methods adopted by S. S. Buckman.

Some of the early research work in connexion with her ideas on the classification was made possible by an award of the Lyell Fund which was presented to her by the Geological Society in 1930. On the completion of this work and in respect of her earlier publications, she received the degree of Doctor of Science from the University of London in 1934.

During the Second World War, from 1942 to 1945, she served in the secretariat of the Admiralty at Bath and although this took her away for a time from her palaeontological researches, she managed to maintain an interest by collecting fossils from beds of the Great Oolite Series exposed in the Bath-Bristol district.

After the war she returned to work at the British Museum (Natural History), continuing her researches on Middle and Upper Palaeozoic genera. In 1950 she agreed to joint authorship, with Dr G. A. Cooper of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, on a work exclusively on the Productoid genera and for this purpose visited the United States on two occasions. The result of this collaboration appeared as "Morphology, classification and life habits of the Productoidea (Brachiopoda)" in 1960 and was quickly recognized by brachiopod workers as being one of the greatest contributions to the study of the phylum. It was largely as a result of her researches in connexion with the publication that she was invited by the American editorial board to contribute, supervise and partly edit the Brachiopoda section for the *Treatise on Invertebrate Palaeontology*. This tremendous undertaking required a concentration of both mental and physical resources second to none, but despite this she willingly accepted the additional post of deputy keeper of the department of palaeontology, British Museum (Natural History) in 1955, involving herself with a host of administrative problems which she discharged with consummate skill and her usual thoroughness. This appointment, previously held only by a male member of the department, counted for more than a major triumph in her life, for her views were distinctly those of a feminist. These views may have been strengthened by her early difficulties in establishing herself in what had always been a strictly masculine profession.

In recognition of her services to geology, Helen Muir-Wood received the coveted distinction of the Lyell Medal which was presented to her by the Geological Society in 1958.

Always sympathetic to the younger worker, Dr Muir-Wood will be remembered for her wise counsel by numerous enthusiastic research students, many now prominent names in this field of research themselves. Aware of the many pitfalls associated with the systematics of the group, she was always keen to guide the unwary newcomer to safe ground with liberal understanding and kindness.

ELLIS OWEN

University News :

London

DR J. E. HOULDIN, senior lecturer at Chelsea College of Science and Technology, has been appointed to the chair of electronics tenable at that college and Dr Richard Croese, reader at St. Mary's Hospital Medical School, has been appointed to the chair of physiology tenable at that school. The title of professor of bacteriology (infectious diseases) has been conferred on Mr D. A. Mitchison in respect of his post at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School.

Nottingham

DR J. W. BARRETT, research director of Monsanto Chemicals Ltd., has been appointed special professor of industrial chemistry, and Dr S. Shone, senior administrative medical officer of the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board, has been appointed special professor of medical administration.

Announcements

THE Nuffield Foundation has awarded its first travelling fellowship in tropical marine biology to Dr E. R. Trueman, senior lecturer in zoology in the University of Hull. He will work at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, and intends to investigate aspects of the littoral and sublittoral fauna of the island.

THE Institute of Physics and the Physical Society have awarded the Maxwell Medal and Prize jointly to Professor K. W. H. Stevens, professor of theoretical physics at the University of Nottingham, and Dr R. J. Elliott of the University of Oxford.

THE following medals were awarded at the spring meeting of the Optical Society of America: the *David Richardson Medal* to Dr H. E. Edgerton of the Department of Electrical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; the *1968 Adolph Lomb Medal* to Dr D. C. Sinclair of Spectra-Physics, Inc., Mountain View, California.

Meetings

ELECTRON Microprobe Analysis, July 31–August 2, Chicago (D. R. Beaman, The Dow Chemical Company, 241 Building, Midland, Michigan).

PROGRESS in Overhead Lines and Cables for 220 kV and above, September 16–20, The Institution of Electrical Engineers (The Conference Department, The Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London, WC2).

ERRATUM. In the announcement section of the March 23 issue of *Nature* (217, 1192; 1968) it was incorrectly stated that Professor W. Morgan was director of the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine. The director is Sir Ashley Miles and Professor Morgan is deputy director.

ERRATUM. By an unfortunate misunderstanding in the *Nature* office, a number of references in the paper, "Late DNA Synthesis in Heterochromatin" by A. Lima-de-Faria and Halina Jaworska (*Nature*, 217, 138; 1968), were incorrectly quoted. The following changes should therefore be made. Page 138, column 1, reference 1 should be 1–3, references 2, 3 should be 4, 5; column 2, references 4, 5 should be 6, reference 7 should be 7–11. Page 140, column 2, reference 43 should be 44, 45. In the first line of Table 2 on page 140, the references 4, 57 should in each case be replaced by 4, 5, 52. In Table 3 on the same page, reference 44 in the first line should be 45 and reference 69 should be 44. In the last line, the group of references 29–43 should be 29–31, 34–38, 40–43; in the same line, references 42, 43 and 70–72 should be 70, 71, 42, 43, 35. On page 141, column 1, the group of references given as 2, 52 should be 4, 5, 52. Lower down, reference 55 should be 55, 56. In column 2, reference 57 should be 57–59.