

## University News : Edinburgh

PROFESSOR J. I. G. CADOGAN, at present Purdie professor of chemistry in the University of St. Andrews, has been appointed to the Forbes chair of organic chemistry on the retirement of Professor E. Hirst.

### Announcements

THE Council of the Edinburgh Geological Society has awarded the Clough Medal for the period 1967-68 to Dr A. G. MacGregor in recognition of his contributions to Scottish geology, particularly in the fields of volcanology, tectonics and metamorphism.

THE Paul Instrument Fund Committee, which is composed of representatives of the Royal Society, the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society and the Institution of Electrical Engineers, and was set up in 1945 "to receive applications from British subjects who are research workers in Great Britain for grants for the design, construction and maintenance of novel, unusual or much improved types of physical instruments and apparatus for investigations in pure or applied physical science", has made the following grants:

£2,000 to Dr A. P. Anderson, lecturer in the department of electronic and electrical engineering in the University of Sheffield, for the construction of an instrument for the measurement of energy in laser beams; £1,500 to Dr W. J. Jones, demonstrator in the department of physical chemistry, University of Cambridge, for the construction of a spectrometer employing frequency selective intensity modulation; £1,830 to Mr A. R. Luxmoore, division of civil engineering, University College of Swansea, for continuation of the construction of a 'Moiré-scope' for which he received a grant of £5,000 in November 1965 and £1,980 in June 1967; £6,250 to Professor J. D. McGee, professor of applied physics at the Imperial College of Science and Technology in the University of London, for continuation of his work on the development of a photo-electronic image device for time images for which in December 1964 he received a grant of £8,100 over three years; £4,000 to Dr K. I. Mayne, senior lecturer in the department of natural philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, for the construction of a polarized electron source.

WOLFSON Foundation Grants for Technological Projects: On October 14, 1967, the Wolfson Foundation made public its decision to set aside, in principle, up to £500,000 a year over the next five years to support large projects at universities in fields of applied science which, in the judgment of the trustees, would be most likely to improve the economic position of the United Kingdom and help the modernization of British industry. Subsequently all universities and colleges of technology were informed of this decision. The foundation now announces that applications in support of projects which conform to its intentions should be sent, in appropriate detail, to the foundation offices (Universal House, 251 Tottenham Court Road, London, W1) by July 1, 1968. It is hoped that it will be possible to decide by early October which schemes the foundation will support. Applications will be judged in competition with each other on the basis of their technical merits. Favourable consideration will be given to projects which are linked to industry. Applicants who feel they require information about the relevance of possible projects should get in touch with the director of the foundation.

AN experimental Information Centre on Intestinal Absorption has been set up at the University of Sheffield with a grant from the Office for Scientific and Technical Information (OSTI). The project, initiated by Professor D. H. Smyth, is a joint venture of the Department of Physiology

and the Postgraduate School of Librarianship and Information Science (director, Mr W. L. Saunders). At present the centre has a staff of three. A monthly bulletin of literature references with brief abstracts is produced. The emphasis is on mechanisms of transport across the absorptive epithelium, a field in which Professor Smyth's department is very active and has much experience. References are collected both by conventional methods and by the computer services ASCA, CBAC, Chemical Titles and MEDLARS. Author and subject indexes are produced using a computer in conjunction with offset lithography. The aims of the project are: 1, to investigate information needs of workers in this field and services already available; 2, to indicate ways in which a centre of this kind can provide improved information services; 3, to investigate the benefit, to users, of the association of the centre with an active group of research workers; 4, research and development in methods of information handling.

During 1968 the service will be free; users will be asked to help to improve the service by providing details of their information requirements. Further details may be obtained from Mr J. K. Barkla, Biomedical Information Project, Department of Physiology, University of Sheffield.

### Meetings

BIOLOGICAL Semiconductors, April 1-3, University of Nottingham (Dr J. B. Finean, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Pharmacology, The University, PO Box 363, Birmingham 15).

HEAVY Particle Collisions, April 1-3, Queen's University of Belfast (The Conference Secretary, The Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1).

BUSINESS Information, April 8-9, University of Aston, Birmingham (The Education Officer, Aslib, 3 Belgrave Square, London SW1).

SOME Aspects of Heterocyclic Sulphur Chemistry, April 9-10, University of Salford (Drs O. Meth-Cohn and B. Iddon, Department of Chemistry, University of Salford, Salford 5, Lancashire).

SPECTROSCOPY, April 17-19, Brighton (The General Secretary, Institute of Petroleum, 61 New Cavendish Street, London W1).

ERRATUM. In the introduction to the article "Multi-phase Development of the Lunar Crater Tycho" by R. G. Strom and G. Fielder (*Nature*, 217, 611; 1968) it was stated that Orbiter V landed on the Moon, which is, of course, wrong—the satellite orbited the Moon.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### Inside Plants

SIR,—When I read a review such as that which you publish for *Plant Anatomy* (by Professor A. Fahn) in *Nature* (216, 522; 1967), I realize how low the intellectual level is sinking and the disservice which is propagated. It was a sad day when *Nature* forsook Wordsworth's advice\*, for this meanness would never have been reached.

Yours truly,

E. J. H. CORNER

Botany School,  
Downing Street,  
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\**Nature* used to bear the legend: "To the solid ground of Nature trusts the mind that builds for aye."