Announcements

The following have been elected foreign members of the **Royal Society: Professor E. Amaldi,** director of the Istituto di Fisica, Rome; **Professor A. Butenandt,** director of the Max-Planck-Institut für Biochimie, Munich; **Professor K. Gödel,** professor of mathematics at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton; **Professor J. Monod,** head of the Department of Metabolic Chemistry, Institut Pasteur, Paris.

The following have been elected foreign associates of the **US National Academy of Sciences: Professor E. Bunning,** professor of botany, University of Tubingen; **J. Y. Cousteau,** director of the Oceanographic Museum in Monaco; **Professor E. Faure-Fremiet,** honorary professor, Collège de France, Paris; **Professor R. Granit,** professor emeritus, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm; **Dr G. Herzberg,** director of the Division of Pure Physics, National Research Council of Canada; **Professor H. C. Longuet-Higgins,** professor of theoretical chemistry, University of Cambridge; **Professor A. R. Luria,** professor of psychology, Moscow State University; **Professor J. Monod,** head of the Department of Biochemistry, Pasteur Institute, Paris; **Professor C. L. Seigel,** professor emeritus, University of Gottingen; **Professor J. Tuzo Wilson,** professor of geophysics, University of Toronto.

The prizewinners of the **Feldberg Foundation** awards for 1968 are **Professor A. Gierer** of the Max Planck Institute for Virus Research, Tubingen, and **Professor D. C. Phillips** of the Molecular Biophysics Laboratory, Department of Zoology, University of Oxford. The Feldberg Foundation for German–English Scientific Exchange was established in 1961 with the object of promoting Anglo-German friendship in medical and biological sciences.

The **Meldola Medal** for 1967 has been awarded to **T. J. Kemp,** University of Warwick, for his work on the properties of free radicals and excited states, with particular reference to radiolysis.

Meetings

May 24, **Biopolymers,** University of Essex (Professor M. Gordon, Department of Chemistry, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex).

ERRATUM. In the article "Analysis of the Mineral Entrapped Fatty Acids isolated from the Green River Formation" by A. L. Burlingame and B. R. Simoneit (*Nature*, **218**, 252; 1968) the eleventh line in the left hand column on page 254 should read: 428 ($C_{29}H_{48}O_2$), 442 ($C_{30}H_{50}O_2$), 456 ($C_{31}H_{52}O_2$), 470 ($C_{32}H_{54}O_2$), 484 ($C_{33}H_{56}O_2$), 498 ($C_{34}H_{58}O_2$), 512 ($C_{35}H_{60}O_2$) and 458 ($C_{31}H_{54}O_2$).

ERRATUM. In the fifth paragraph of the communication "Measurement of Relative Thyroid Activity in Free-ranging Rodents along an Altitudinal Transect" by C. A. Tryon, W. R. Kodrich and H. N. Cunningham (*Nature*, **218**, 278; 1968) the doses of sodium iodide-131 should be expressed in micro and not millicuries.

ERRATUM. In the communication "Photoreceptor Orientation in the Primate Eye" by Alan M. Laties, Paul A. Liebman and Charles E. M. Campbell (*Nature*, **218**, 172; 1968) the second sentence of the fourth paragraph should read: "The lines D, P_n pass through each receptor axis at each point P_n. The magnitude of the deviation angle θ_1 included at the intersection of the axis line D, P_n and the radius line O, P_n is computed from the sine law . . .".

ERRATUM. In the communication "Thiourea and Potassium Permeability of Phospholipid Bilayer Membranes as affected by Enniatin *B*" by Claudio Lippe (*Nature*, **218**, 196; 1968) on the eighth line of the third paragraph, page 196, "a 0·1 solution" should read "a 0·1 M solution". The second sentence of the seventh paragraph should read: "According to Vreeman[7], however, lipid membranes have a sodium ion permeability coefficient ($P_{Na}+$) which is at least two or three orders of magnitude lower . . ."

ERRATUM. In the communication "Spectral Conformity—a Widespread Effect of Light" by Herbert F. Launer (*Nature*, **218**, 161; 1968) the sentences beginning on the eleventh line of the second paragraph of page 163 should read: "Absorber formation poses a problem, however, because photons of green and blue light ordinarily lack the energy to break bonds. Heating cannot be responsible because temperature control was reliable[1] and the heat generated by red light, which formed no absorbers, was two to three times that by 546 mμ, as may be calculated from the data given".

CORRESPONDENCE

Pollution

SIR,—For several hundred years men have been aware of the consequences of unrestrained pollution of land, water and air. In recent times the acceleration of industrial production, the emergence of new industrial societies, the projected vast increase in power consumption and the growing world population have brought this situation into sharper focus.

Consequently, increasing numbers of engineers and scientists are giving attention to the study and control of pollution. As yet, no single name for this field has been put forward.

I would like to suggest the word "Miasmology", derived from the Greek word for pollution, to denote the study of the effect of civilization upon the physical environment. By giving this field the dignity of a name, we may encourage a greater unity among workers who seek to understand and control the many forms of environmental pollution.

Yours truly,

DAVID L. SWIFT

The Johns Hopkins University,
Department of Environmental Medicine,
615 North Wolfe Street,
Baltimore,
Maryland.

Decimal Currency

SIR,—The first few days of the new decimal coins has convinced me that the really confusing thing in the new currency is the retention of the name "penny" even qualified by "new", and that if this unit had been called a "cent" or some other name not associated with current British coinage, the transition would have been greatly eased.

I believe that the real trouble with the SI system is the retention of the name "kilogramme" so that, unless we are to perpetuate such barbarities as a millikilogramme", we have, most confusingly, lost the proper use of the valuable system of prefixes. Is it too late, for the UK anyway—and others might follow—to give the unit of mass another name?

Yours truly,

EWEN MCEWEN

1 Howard Court,
Portland Road,
Birmingham, 16.