uneven distribution of the coins, may mean that part of the site was a market place. Pieces of slag and other artefacts suggest the existence of ovens or, though less likely, furnaces for some local metal industry. Several bronze and iron objects including hairpins, keys, latches and pins have been found.

Because all the digs at Baldock have been emergency excavations, the layout of the Roman buildings and their relationship to Stane Street which, by elimination, is believed to be beneath the modern road, remain unclear. What the excavations have established, however, is the importance of Baldock even before the conquest, and the continuity of the pre-Roman and Romano-British occupation of the town, which occupied a key position at the crossing of the two ancient and important routes, one leading east–west, the other north–south. With luck, further excavations of a Roman cemetery in Walls Field, which the Ministry of Works intends to start in September, should throw more light on the period.

Brain Sciences

THE latest instalment of the world survey of brain sciences—a term covering everything from behavioural ecology to mathematical models of the brain—sponsored by the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO), covers research and teaching in brain sciences in the United States. The report, which was supervised by the Committee on Brain Science of the National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, contains a state by state list of research groups and summaries of their research interests. Inevitably it is a little out of date and incomplete—some groups failed to reply to questionnaires—but more than 4,000 individuals working in 373 laboratories are listed. Comparable surveys of 37 other countries have appeared in the IBRO bulletin published by UNESCO, and the surveys of the USSR and Mexico which are still in preparation will complete the series.

The brief breakdown of the survey in the report reveals that two thirds of the research groups receive at least some support from the Federal Government through its agencies, notably the National Institutes of Health. The graduate schools are apparently conducting 29 per cent of all brain science research, the medical and veterinary schools 25 per cent, and hospitals, research centres and Government and industrial laboratories account for the rest. The size of the research groups varies from individuals to groups of fifty or more people but there are only nine of these, including the Brain Research Institute of UCLA and groups at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the Rockefeller University, the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute for Mental Health. By contrast 249 of the 373 groups listed consist of between one and ten people. When analysed by departments, 32 per cent of the groups are in basic science, 18 per cent in clinical science, 14 per cent in behavioural science and 2 per cent in neurocommunications, which includes molecular biology of the brain.

The survey is essential reading for anyone who needs to discover what is happening in the field in the United States. The short descriptions of the research projects make it particularly valuable, and a limited number of copies are available on request from the National Academy of Sciences, Washington.

Parliament in Britain

by our Parliamentary Correspondent

Diversification

MR ANTHONY WEDGWOOD BENN, Minister of Technology, gave details of the work undertaken by the Atomic Energy Authority under section 4 of the Science and Technology Act, 1965, which allows the AEA to diversify. He provided Sir Harry Legge-Bourke with a list of the projects under way at the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment at Aldermaston. It includes space technology, the APACE computer centre, various forensic science projects for the Home Office, work on glass fibre reinforced plaster (*sic*) and work on dental materials. Diversification is clearly gathering pace; while total expenditure to March 31, 1968, had been £1·434 million, a further £1 million is to be spent in the year 1968–69. (Written answer, July 22.)

Channel Tunnel

THE Minister of Transport, Mr Richard Marsh, said that it should be possible to make an announcement shortly about progress on the Channel Tunnel. He had considered the proposals of three private groups, and an agreement with a selected financing group should be made by the end of the year. The issue was complicated, he explained, because the Government was trying to reconcile public and private investment in the project; he would try to make an announcement before the end of the recess, and promised that a debate would be held before a final decision was made. (Oral answer, July 24.)

300 GeV Machine

MR PETER KIRK (Saffron Walden) opened a short debate on the Government's decision not to support the 300 GeV machine at CERN. The decision, he said, accorded ill with Mr Wilson's constant references to a European technological community. British credibility in Europe had been lost, and the projects still supported with Europe, the Concorde and the European Airbus, were of doubtful profitability. Mr Tim Fortescue (Liverpool, Garston) agreed, but said that it was not too late for the Government to change its mind. Comparatively little expenditure was involved in the next three or four years. Replying, Mrs Shirley Williams, Minister of State at the Department of Education and Science, said that the decision was not simply a matter of money, though that was significant. There was also the length of the commitment, and the fact that the budget of the SRC would have had to grow at a rate of 9 per cent for no less than 10 years ahead. There were also, she thought, dangers of the cost of the project escalating—the costs of the 28 GeV machine had gone up considerably, and the two small accelerators in Britain had shown escalations of 25 per cent. Science had other calls on the budget, and not everybody agreed that so much of the money should go to high energy physics. Support of the project would have meant that the whole of British high energy physics research would have been based in another country. The Government continued to support another major project at CERN, the intersecting storage rings project, which would itself cost £40 million. The Government regretted certain decisions that had to be made in the light of devaluation, and "very much hoped that there was no question of a fall in expenditure on scientific research". (Debate, July 24.)