

Mr Benn's Parish

SIR,—A statement in your article "Mr Benn's Parish" (*Nature*, 221, 297; 1969) is a little uncertain in its meaning but could be interpreted in a sense that is unfair to British industry and presents an inaccurate picture so far as Harwell is concerned.

The article included the following sentence: "The announcement that Harwell was ready to undertake industrial work, two years or so ago, is said to have produced only two replies from industry." If this is taken to mean that in two years Harwell has received only two enquiries from British industry, then it is very far from true.

To take one example, the Harwell Ceramics Centre (set up in January 1967) had received some 650 enquiries from industry by the end of December 1968 (many of which were stimulated by the regional offices of the Ministry of Technology). Again, during the same period, the Non-Destructive Testing Centre had over 170 technical problems put to it by industry and the NDT information service received nearly 650 queries. Industry's initial response to the booklet, "Harwell and Industrial Research" (published last October), was at the rate of 20–30 replies a day.

I think you will agree that this is a most encouraging response from industry and very different from that suggested in your article.

Yours faithfully,

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AERE,
Commercial Office, Building 329.2,
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More Children for Science

SIR,—May I make one small correction to your succinct and useful report (*Nature*, 221, 607; 1969) on the Birmingham meeting about the shortage of science pupils? The first of the points attributed to me in the discussion should be that science gets more blame for the bad features of the modern world than credit for the good ones and I suggested that teachers should help to redress the balance.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN WALKER

Department of Physics,
University of Birmingham.

University News

Professor R. C. Lewontin has been named chairman of the committee on evolutionary biology at the **University of Chicago**.

Dr J. S. Brimacombe, University of Birmingham, has been appointed to the Roscoe chair of chemistry at the **University of Dundee**.

Dr C. E. Lewis, University of Kansas, has been appointed professor of social medicine and assistant director of the Centre for Community Health and Medical Care at **Harvard University**.

Dr H. W. Woolhouse, University of Sheffield, has been appointed professor of botany at the **University of Leeds**.

Dr E. R. Gilliland has been appointed to the recently established Warren K. Lewis professorship of chemical engineering at the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**.

Mr P. A. Bramley, Plymouth General Hospital and Royal Cornwall Hospital, has been appointed professor of dental surgery at the **University of Sheffield**.

The name of the sub-department of Radiological Physics at the **University of Sheffield** is to be changed to **Medical Physics**, and the title of Honorary Lecturer in Radiological Physics has been altered to Honorary Lecturer in **Medical Physics**.

Appointments

Dr W. Marshall, director of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, has been appointed director of the Research Group, which includes the Culham Laboratory as well as Harwell.

Dr W. C. Hamilton, Brookhaven National Laboratory, New York, has been elected president of the **American Crystallographic Association**. Dr D. P. Shoemaker, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the association's new vice-president.

Dr R. Serber, University of Columbia, has been named vice-president elect of the **American Physical Society**.

Dr B. D. Loncarevic has been appointed to the new position of assistant director of the **Atlantic Oceanographic Laboratory** at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Announcements

The **Chemistry Society** will be awarding the Corday-Morgan Medal and Prize for the year 1968. There are three awards to be made for published work in different branches of chemistry. Further details can be obtained from the Scientific Affairs Officer, The Chemical Society, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN. The Chemical Society will also award twenty research fund grants of £50 each for 1970. Preference will be given to those working in less-well-endowed establishments. Details can be obtained from the Administrative Officer.

An **Environmental Mutagen Society** has been formed. The purpose of the society is to encourage interest in and study of mutagens in the human environment. Membership application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, S. S. Epstein, Children's Cancer Research Foundation, Inc., 35 Binney Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA.

The Council of the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society has approved the formation of a **Computational Physics Group**, which will be concerned with the whole subject of the use of computers in physics. Details may be obtained from the Registrar, The Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1.

A limited number of awards will be made to scientists with active interests in pure and applied biophysics who are planning to attend the **Third International Biophysics Congress**, to be held in Cambridge, Massachusetts, August 29–September 3, to help cover their expenses. Application forms and details can be obtained from Third International Biophysics Congress, Room 20B-221, MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139, USA.

International Meetings

May 5, **Organization and Management of Research and Development**, London (Meetings Officer, The Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1).

July 28–31, **Computational Physics**, Culham (Meetings Officer, The Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1).

August 28–September 5, **Nutrition**, Prague (Secretariat, VIIIth International Congress of Nutrition, Office of the Secretary-General, Institute of Human Nutrition, Budejovicka 800, Prague 4, Czechoslovakia).