

obtained from near to (20,000 miles). One Mariner spacecraft will fly over the south polar cap and the other over the equatorial zone. These spacecraft are nearly twice the weight of their predecessor, 900 lb each instead of 565 lb.

MUSEUMS

Ships at Greenwich

THE accompanying contemporary print of the interior of a "first rate" ship of the late seventeenth century is one of several items from the strongroom of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, recently to have gone on display in the Queen's House. It is currently part of a special exhibition of "The *Wasa*, and her Place in History" centred on a small travelling exhibition illustrating the recovery and relics from the famous seventeenth century Swedish "admiral" ship which went down in Stockholm harbour at the start of her maiden voyage and was raised intact in 1961. When the *Wasa* travelling exhibition moves on, however, many of the newly displayed museum items will remain on view. The National Maritime Museum has a unique collection of early ship models, drawings and oils. The excellent ship models alone are worth a visit. The delicate wash sketches of Renaissance ships by Van de Velde now in the Queen's House have not been on view for many years. They appeal strongly to modern taste—not least in their evocation of the misty northern waters in which these ships operated.

The current exhibition and the new exhibits are well set off by the redecoration to the seventeenth century Queen's House which forms the centre building of the museum complex. Redecoration has just been completed under the museum's new director, Mr Basil Greenhill. An effect of subdued richness has been admirably achieved by the Ministry of Works' architect, Mr H. G. Yexly, and is believed to be authentic to Inigo Jones's design for Charles II's queen, Catharine of Braganza. There are traces of the original paint-

work on the balustrade round the gallery of the Great Hall.

MEDICINE

Costly Transplants

WHILE the ethical and legal problems of organ transplantation have been repeatedly thrashed out, comparatively little consideration has been given to the allocation of resources between this specialized form of treatment for the chosen few and the more conventional and less demanding treatments which are available to all. Last June, however, the annual representative meeting of the British Medical Association asked the association's Planning Unit, under its director, Professor Henry Miller, Vice-Chancellor of Newcastle University, to look at the problem of financial priorities in medicine. The conclusions reached by the unit are set out in a report, *Priorities in Medicine*, published last week.

The report strongly rejects the view that transplantation should be neglected or discouraged in the "dubious expectation that this would in some way lead to much-needed improvements in the quantity or the quality of existing services". On the contrary, it believes that organ transplantation and mechanical organ replacement are of enormous potential benefit and should be the subjects of vigorous clinical research. At the same time, however, it emphasizes that the greatest immediate encouragement should be given to those forms of transplantation which already offer practical benefits to a large number of patients. For the present at least, resources for an accelerated programme of "relevant scientific research" should take priority over National Health Service provision for heart and lung transplantation.

In spite of the high cost of renal transplantation—about £6,000 per patient—this procedure is stated to be a better investment than long-term dialysis; the patient enjoys better health than the subject of dialysis and requires much less medical attention.

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