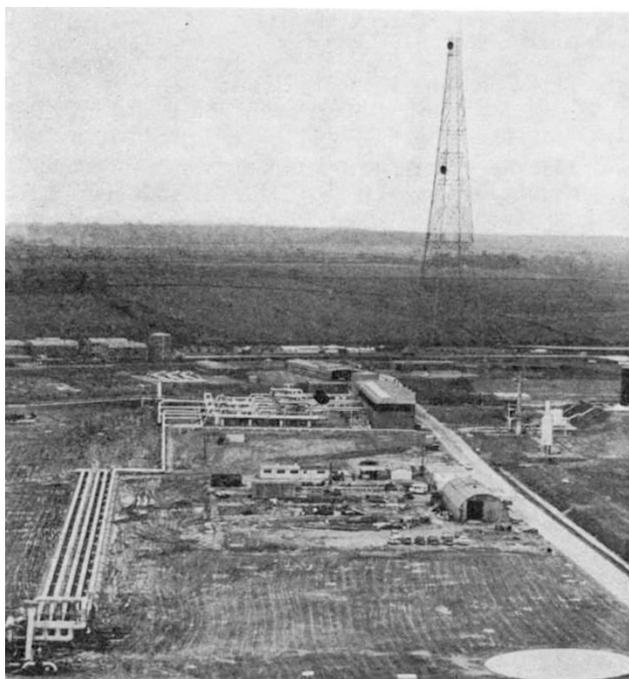


meet the specifications of the distributors, and there are three purification plants at Bacton operated by the production companies with rigs in the Leman, Indefatigable and Hewitt gas fields. Clean natural gas from each of the three plants is then passed on to the Gas Council terminal, where it is filtered, metered and blended so as to remove variations of composition.

There are also facilities for odorizing the gas and for injecting methanol to prevent the formation of methane hydrate. North Sea gas contains about 95 per cent methane.

The purification process is straightforward, involving the removal of water, liquid hydrocarbons and dust particles, mainly sand. Most of the gas piped to Bacton is free from sulphur, but one of the fields which the Phillips-Arpet group is exploiting contains sour gas from which the hydrogen sulphide has to be removed by conversion to sulphur dioxide. The hydrocarbons will be separated from the water and refined for sale as a light oil.



The North Sea gas installation at Bacton, Norfolk.

With so much of the British gas supply being channelled through Bacton, precautions are being taken against mishaps. The Gas Council terminal is equipped with two independent power supplies, one underground, and each has a back-up system in case of failure. There is only one feeder main leading to the national grid near Rugby, but four others are planned for full operation in 1974.

LINNEAN SOCIETY

Journals Redesigned

At their anniversary meeting on May 24, Fellows of the Linnean Society heard that the appeal for redevelopment has already exceeded the target of £55,000 now that the anonymous benefaction of £25,000 can be claimed. This gift was conditional on the society

itself raising an equivalent sum, and it now has promises of £34,000. But in spite of this good news, the society is still living above its income. The treasurer, the Earl of Cranbrook, prescribed three remedies. An increase in subscriptions is the least desirable, and leaves the possibility of increasing the number of fellows—there are not even twice as many as a hundred years ago—and making the society's publications pay.

The third remedy is already in hand, and for the second time the publications have made a small profit this year. An important contribution to the efforts has been the redesigning of the society's journals. The *Botanical* and *Zoological Journals of the Linnean Society*, with new covers in the old colours of green and orange, replace the *Journal of the Linnean Society (Botany)* and the *Journal of the Linnean Society (Zoology)*. A new journal with a yellow cover, the *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*, replaces the society's *Proceedings*. Domestic information will now be published annually as a pamphlet for insertion into the *Biological Journal*.

The journals have the same page and text size as before, but a clearer modern type is being used. Appreciating the value of good illustrations, the society is prepared if necessary to use a very fine screen (175 instead of the usual 150) for half-tone illustrations, and will accept colour pictures that are essential and suitable for publication. There are two colour plates in the first issue of the *Biological Journal*, a double number just out containing the proceedings of the symposium on speciation in tropical environments, held jointly with the British Ecological Society last November. Although this issue contains both numbers one and two of the *Biological Journal*, the three journals will normally all appear quarterly.

The Society's first journal, the *Transactions*, was published from 1791 until 1955. The *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London* was published between 1838 and 1857 before it split into the *Journal of the Proceedings (Botany)* and the *Journal of the Proceedings (Zoology)*. In 1857 these two became the *Journal of the Linnean Society (Botany)* and the *Journal of the Linnean Society (Zoology)* and the *Proceedings* were published separately. Towards the end of its 111 years the *Proceedings* no longer truly recorded the proceedings and activities of the Society and often contained papers that had not been read at a meeting.

Since its foundation in 1788, the Linnean Society of London has tried to meet the growing demands of biology. In its publications it achieved this by publishing varying volume sizes at irregular intervals. This is no longer appropriate and the present arrangement of regular annual volumes gives authors quicker and more reliable publication of their scientific work. The journals, published for the society by Academic Press, contain original papers in experimental and descriptive biology, palaeontology, systematics and taxonomy, and by so doing fulfil the society's aims laid down in its Royal Charter of 1802—the "Cultivation of the Sciences of Natural History in all its Branches".

TECHNOLOGY

Tungsten-coated Carbon Fibres

THE Fulmer Research Institute has jumped on the carbon fibre bandwagon by successfully coating carbon