

He inspired many younger workers, and they will miss him dearly.

There are some today who look with condescension on the study of natural history. They would do well to consider the quality and magnitude of Cyril Diver's contribution to biological science. He was an amateur giant who survived into an age of professional midgets.

## Correspondence

### Once More Round the Course

SIR,—I should be grateful if you would allow me to make a few comments on your leading article of May 24 on the Select Committee on Science and Technology (*Nature*, 222, 709; 1969).

This committee, unlike others set up when Mr Crossman was Leader of the House of Commons, was the outcome of continuing pressure brought to bear by the All-Party Parliamentary and Scientific Committee over two or more years. Having been a member of the Select Committee since its initiation, I am a little surprised to read your suggestion that the durability of the Select Committee "owes something to the way in which it tends to chase harmless hares". Certainly it is not my experience that we have in any way sought to exercise a "facility for blunting the edge of justifiable criticism". Our report on the United Kingdom Nuclear Reactor Programme, for example, in paragraph 154, expressed concern that neither the Minister of Power nor the Minister of Technology appeared to have any very effective technical check on the activities of the AEA and the consequent allocation of public funds for the authority's purpose. Also in paragraph 118, we recommended the winding up of the British Nuclear Export Executive which we felt might all too easily "provide an excuse for failure to face up to export realities and, where there are weaknesses, to take steps to put matters right", and we saw "in particular the apparent failure to examine in detail the scope of the world market for British nuclear goods".

In connexion with the letting of the Hinkley Point (B) Station, we concluded "that the CEGB were at fault in not going out to competitive tender in the first instance" and that "the Minister of Power should have used the sanction he had already used in holding back the date of consent to suggest to the Board that they should give the other consortia an opportunity to tender, in order to ensure that the work was to be carried out as cheaply as possible".

In paragraph 98, we also referred to "a serious weakness of present British energy policy", namely the lack of full consultation with the oil industry and of an examination by an independent outside agency of the purely financial aspects of costing of all methods of energy supply.

The foregoing are but a small selection of various critical observations by the committee which seem to me to belie your accusation that we have tended "to chase harmless hares" or blunt the edge of justifiable criticism.

May I also remind you that there was one matter on which the committee was not entirely unanimous—namely the recommendation for a single organization to take the place of the old consortia and the AEA. By the narrow majority of seven votes to five (Mr David Ginsburg abstaining and the chairman not voting) an amendment moved by Mr David Price was defeated. It would have had the effect of allowing a market solution to decide the future structure "recognizing that any re-grouping will only be realistic if it is based on sound

commercial and managerial experience, especially exporting experience gained in the capital goods markets". It now seems that this is basically the policy which will be followed.

I must not, of course, comment on the present work of the sub-committee, of which I am chairman, which is looking into the operations of the Natural Environment Research Council, reports of whose proceedings you have been so gratifyingly carrying in your last five issues.

Perhaps, however, I may be allowed to make a few observations on the work of the Sub-Committee on Coastal Pollution of which I was also chairman and which reported on July 26, 1968. In January 1969, the Government published Cmnd. 3880 which contained their observations on this report. The Government's observations amply demonstrate their awareness of the sharpness of the edge of our criticism. The continuing incidence of oil pollution round our shores since we reported has, I suggest, re-emphasized the importance of our constructive criticisms, but so far we have not been able to persuade the Leader of the House to provide an opportunity for debating our report and the Government's observations on it.

I hope, however, that you will accept my assurance that the "hares" we had to chase were certainly not harmless.

Yours faithfully,

H. LEGGE-BOURKE

House of Commons,  
London SW1.

### International Laboratory Needed

SIR,—Your case for an "international molecular biology laboratory modelled along the lines of CERN" (*Nature*, 222, 836; 1969) would be indisputable if, like CERN, molecular biology needs equipment and facilities beyond the financial capabilities of individual member states. I am not convinced that this is so. Nor am I yet convinced that the establishment of one very large laboratory, somewhere in Europe and possibly not associated with a university, is the best way of advancing knowledge in molecular biology, of educating young scientists for teaching and research in this field, of stopping the brain drain, or (if such sums were available) of most effectively spending \$16 million over seven years.

There are alternatives to the EMBO proposals, already hinted at in the Kendrew Committee's report (Cmnd. 3675), which are at least worth examining. Your description of those who refuse blindly to swallow the EMBO prescription as "a short-sighted fifth column" suggests that you, also, have restricted your field of vision.

Yours faithfully,

H. L. KORNBERG

Department of Biochemistry,  
University of Leicester.

### Appointments

**Dr Arthur Newcombe Bourns**, McMaster University, **Jean-Paul Gignac**, Sidbec, Montreal, **Dr G. W. Holbrook**, Nova Scotia Technical College, **Eric W. Leaver**, Electronic Associates of Canada, Limited, and **Dr H. D. B. Wilson**, University of Manitoba, have been appointed members of the National Research Council of Canada. **Dr Lucien Piché** has been reappointed for a three-year term, and **Dr J. Milton Ham**, University of Toronto, will take up his appointment on July 1.

**Professor Kurt Hoselitz** has been appointed director of the Mullard Research Laboratories. He has been deputy director since 1964, and joined the Mullard Research Laboratories in 1952 to establish the solid state physics division.

## Announcements

The following prizes have been awarded by the **Royal Aeronautical Society** for written papers in five subject groups published by the society in 1968: the **George Taylor (of Australia) Prize** to **J. Taylor**, Royal Aircraft Establishment; the **Simms Prize** to **E. G. C. Burt**, Royal Aircraft Establishment; the **Busk Prize** to **A. B. Haines**, Aircraft Research Association, Limited; the **Hodgson Prize** to **A. Stratton**, Ministry of Defence; the **Akroyd Stuart Prize** to **F. J. Bayley** and **A. B. Turner**, University of Sussex; and the **Pilcher-Usborne Prize** to **P. D. Chappell**, Technical Staff, Royal Aeronautical Society.

**Dame Honor B. Fell** has retired and **Sir Alexander Haddow** has resigned from the advisory board of the **Beit Memorial Fellowships**. They are succeeded by Professor M. Abercrombie and Professor R. R. Porter.

**CORRIGENDUM.** Dr D. F. Cheesman and Anne Whitehead have written to say that after the publication of their article "Possible Role in Contraction of Structurally Bound Phosphate of Muscle" (*Nature*, 221, 736; 1969), "Professor A. F. Huxley pointed out that, while agreement was good between the mean values for specific activity ratios obtained in our different experimental series, such agreement was hardly consistent with the relatively high values for the standard error of the mean.

"The first footnote to our Table 1 is, in fact, wrong. The limits of error given for all results, in this as in the earlier paper<sup>1</sup>, represent the standard deviation about the mean. The effects recorded thus have considerably higher significance than the text would suggest.

"We apologize to Latinists for a proof-reading error which gave an outrageous plural to 'rectus abdominis'."

<sup>1</sup> Cheesman, D. F., and Hilton, E., *J. Physiol.*, 183, 875 (1968).

**ERRATUM.** In the article entitled "Anatomical Demonstration of Columns in the Monkey Striate Cortex" by D. H. Hubel and T. N. Wiesel (*Nature*, 221, 747; 1969), the introductory paragraph should have read "Here the shape, size and arrangement of ocular-dominance columns are described." On p. 749, line 8, "left eye" should have read "right eye", and on line 9, "left" should have read "right". On the same page, the sentence beginning on line 5 of the third paragraph should have read "A few fibres ascended to the first layer where they turned horizontally and ran for several millimetres. A separate concentration of geniculate terminals in layer three has not to our knowledge been described before." In the following paragraph, "is about 1 mm" on line 19 should have been "0.7 mm", and this should have been followed by "so that each column has a width of about 0.35 mm". On line 32 "seventy-five" should have been "one hundred" and "150" should have been "200".

**CORRIGENDUM.** In the article "Dielectric Diffusion—A New Cross Phenomenon" by Breuer and Robinson (*Nature*, 221, 1116; 1969) the factor  $1/T$  in equations (3), (4) and (5) should be deleted from the right-hand side of the equation. Consequently in equations (13) and (14) the factor  $T$  should be omitted from the left-hand side of the equation. The final equation (17) should therefore read:

$$D \frac{d\mu_1}{dc} \left( \frac{dc_1}{dx} \right)^2 - L_P \bar{I}^2 \left( \frac{1}{k_0} - \frac{1}{k} \right)^2 + \bar{I}^2 \left( \frac{k_0}{k^2} - \frac{1}{k} \right) = 0$$

**CORRIGENDUM.** W. B. Gratzer and D. A. Cowburn write to say that in their article "Optical Activity of Biopolymers" (*Nature*, 222, 426; 1969) the legend of Fig. 5 omits to state that the curves for the  $\beta$ -structure in the third panel include only data on solutions. For clarity the very different curves observed in some films by Fasman and Potter<sup>31</sup>, and termed by them Type II- $\beta$ , were omitted from the diagram.

## International Meetings

June 16–19, **Antiviral Substances**, New York (Amy Selwyn, New York Academy of Sciences, 2 East 63 Street, New York, NY 10021).

September 18, **Clean Surfaces**, Southampton (Meetings Officer, The Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, 47 Belgrave Square, London SW1).

September 22–26, **Cystic Fibrosis**, Cambridge (General Secretary, Cystic Fibrosis Research Trust, Stuart House, 1 Tudor Street, London EC4).

September 30–October 2, **International Synthetic Rubber Symposium and Exhibition**, London (Mary Taylor, Rubber and Technical Press, Ltd, 25 Lloyd Baker Street, London WC1).

October 1–4, **Suicide Prevention**, London (Dr E. Stangel, c/o Department of Psychiatry, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK).

October 2–4, **Therapeutics**, Paris (Professor J. Leoper, CHU St Antoine, 27 Rue Chaligny, 75 Paris 12, France).

October 5–9, **Meeting of the Water Pollution Control Federation**, Texas (Mr R. E. Furtman, Room 302, 4435 Wisconsin Avenue NW, Washington DC 20016, USA).

October 5–10, **Engineering Management Conference**, Montreal (Office of the Technical Activities Board, American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 345 East 47th Street, New York, NY 10017).

## Sabbatical Itinerants

In the hope of providing some practical assistance in the good cause of mobility between laboratories, *Nature* advertises the needs for housing of families about to take up periods of sabbatical leave. To begin with, no charge will be made for advertisements like this. It is hoped that a period of experiment will show what form these advertisements could most usefully take and whether they are effective.

**Wanted:** House in Birmingham with reasonable access to the university from about mid-December 1969 to mid-December 1970 for a botanist and wife and three children (6, 8, 12 years). A house will be available for letting in Adelaide. Please contact D. E. Symon, Waite Institute, Private Bag, Glen Osmond, South Australia.

**Vacant:** Furnished house, 2–3 bedrooms, available in Battersea Park area of London for 12 months from September 1, 1969. Gas-fired boiler, small garden. Convenient access to central London. Please contact Dr J. Craske, Virus Reference Laboratory, Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London NW9.

**Vacant:** From October 1, 1969, for 12 months, semi-detached 3-bedroomed house, Edmonton, North London. Convenient for trains to central London. Please contact Dr P. J. Simons, School of Medicine, Victoria Square, Perth, Western Australia 6000.

**Wanted:** Furnished apartment, 2 bedrooms, in Berkeley, California, for a Belgian doctor and wife from September 1, 1969, for 12 months. Preferably within easy reach of the Virus Laboratory, University of California. Please write airmail to Dr Jean Content, Institut Pasteur du Brabant, 28, rue du Remorqueur, Bruxelles 4, Belgium.

**Wanted:** Flat or house for American professor and family in Oxford area for July and August. Please contact Dr Melvin Greenblatt, 667 Parkwood Lane, Omaha, Nebraska 68132, USA.