some of our distinguished senior scientists to function as a scientific directorate. This directorate includes M. C. Chang, PhD and ScD (Cantab.), and James Tait, FRS.

Recently Fernald and his advisers have felt that it would be desirable to bring a research director here and accordingly a search is under way for such a man. While we have several on our staff who are well qualified for this post, it was agreed to seek someone from outside.

Dr Pincus's death and my retirement have occurred at a period when government research funds in this country have been reduced compared with the previous two decades. This has resulted in some reduction in support of biomedical research both here and at other institutions. But we do not feel we are "marking time" in that there has been no serious curtailment of any of our programmes and we have increased our teaching from two postdoctoral training programmes to three during the past two years. Moreover, from legacies, our endowment, while small, has tripled in the past two years.

It might be said that all life science research in America is marking time compared with the booming period of the fifties and early sixties when the Congress greatly increased its annual research appropriations to our National Institutes of Health, but this would be a gross exaggeration, for curtailment of government funding is reflected not so much in reductions of appropriations by Congress as in the fact that appropriations have not increased annually at the rate they did in the past. Inflation, government economies and increasing numbers of scientists entering the field have reduced the formerly rapid growth of biomedical research.

The Worcester Foundation has fared as well as most of our major universities in terms of grant support. Our research programmes are going well and we are optimistic about the future.

Yours faithfully,

HUDSON HOAGLAND

Worcester Foundation for
Experimental Biology,
Massachusetts, USA.

Continental Drift

SIR,—I think that a time has come when some protest must be made against the biased propaganda in favour of continental drift. The Science Report in *The Times* for March 17 begins with the words: "Now that it is universally accepted that the continents have in the past drifted apart and that the movement is continuing in many places . . .". There have been several similar statements in the Press containing the words "universally" or "unanimously". They are false. Many noted geophysicists are unconvinced. Some criticisms of the evidence and of the alleged mechanical explanations are in two lectures of mine^{1,2}, the second of which gives references. The main point is that there is now overwhelming evidence for a law of imperfection of elasticity at small stresses that forbids convection and continental drift, and explains several well established facts that supporters of continental drift have totally neglected. No reply to the arguments has been offered, and the evidence is now stronger than when these lectures were delivered. The only law that permits either convection or continental drift, when applied to other phenomena, requires values of the viscosity differing by factors up to 10^9 .

Yours faithfully,

HAROLD JEFFREYS

St John's College,
Cambridge.

¹ Jeffreys, H., Presidential Address to the Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior, Helsinki, 1960.

² Jeffreys, H., *Quart. J. Roy. Astro. Soc.*, 5, 10 (1964).

University News

Professor A. S. Breathnach has been appointed to the chair of anatomy at **St Mary's Hospital Medical School**, University of London.

Professor Hugh Ford has been appointed to the chair of mechanical engineering at **Imperial College of Science and Technology**, University of London.

Professor J. M. Alexander has been appointed to the chair of applied mechanics at **Imperial College of Science and Technology**, University of London.

The title of professor of insect physiology has been conferred on **Dr A. D. Lees** in respect of the post held by him at **Imperial College of Science and Technology**, University of London.

Professor A. Fröhlich has been appointed to a chair of mathematics at **King's College**, University of London.

Professor R. E. Steiner has been appointed to the chair of diagnostic radiology at the **Royal Postgraduate Medical School**, University of London.

Dr S. S. Schwartz, New York University School of Medicine, has been named professor of radiology and chief of the section of diagnostic radiology at the **Yale School of Medicine**.

Appointments

Dr R. L. Ringler has been appointed deputy director of the **National Heart Institute**, Bethesda, Maryland.

Dr J. L. Locke has been appointed assistant director of the Radio and Electrical Division of the **National Research Institute of Canada**.

Professor G. B. Kistiakowsky, Harvard University, has been elected to a second term as vice-president of the **National Academy of Sciences**.

Mr J. M. Cameron has been appointed chief of the newly formed Office of Measurement Services in the Institute for Basic Standards at the **National Bureau of Standards**, US Department of Commerce.

Announcements

Academician V. A. Ambartsumian, director of the Burakan Astro-Physical Observatory and president of the Armenian SSR Academy of Sciences, **Dr Inge Lehmann**, formerly chief of the seismological department of the Danish Geodetic Institute, **Professor A. S. Romer**, emeritus Alexander Agassiz professor of zoology, Harvard University, and **Professor K. V. Thimann**, professor of biology and provost of Crown College, University of California, have been elected **Foreign Members of the Royal Society**.

The **Paul Instrument Fund Committee**, composed of representatives of the Royal Society, the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society and the Institution of Electrical Engineers, has made grants to **Professor J. B. Chappell** and **Dr A. R. Crofts**, University of Bristol, for the construction of a recording spectrophotometer with double-beam and split-beam facilities, a rapid time resolution and attachments for fluorimetry and actinic illumination; to **Dr P. J. Kennedy**, University of Edinburgh, for the construction of a solid state source capable of providing highly polarized high current electron beams for experiments in spin dependent collision experiments; and to **Mr A. R. Luxmoore**, University College of Swansea, for the completion of the construction of a moiré-scope and for the extension of means of measuring in-plane strains by using holographic methods.

Former Senator Lister Hill of Alabama has been awarded the **Public Welfare Medal** of the National Academy of Sciences for his services in the application of sciences to public welfare.