

Names for Nuclear Science

SIR,—F. Kertesz, in his recent article on "Names for Nuclear Science" (*Nature*, 223, 21; 1969), states that we can expect sooner or later the appearance of a machine called Charybdis. Such a machine was in fact described in a paper published in 1962 (ref. 1), except that the name was given in Italian (Cariddi) rather than in English.

The machine was built at Frascati (Rome), which explains the use of Italian. Another reason, however, was that an interesting reference to "Cariddi", cited in the paper, referred to the dramatic description of colliding shock-waves given by Dante². The apparatus was designed to study exactly this phenomenon, in plasmas though, rather than within the Straits of Messina.

Yours faithfully,

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¹ Allen, J. E., Bartoli, C., Brunelli, B., Nation, J. A., Rumi, B., and Toschi, R., *Nuclear Fusion* (supplement, Part 2), 621 (1962).

² Alighieri Dante, *La Divina Commedia, Inferno*, Canto VII, 22.

Museum on the Move

SIR,—We, of this museum, heartily agree with the protests voiced by Messrs James and Jeffery Harrison and Professor Jacques Berlioz (*Nature*, 222, 605; 1969) against such a retrograde step as the proposed transference of London's famous and invaluable collection of birds to such an out of the way location as that of the partially abandoned Rothschild edifice at Tring.

If the proposed transference is detrimental to the interests of relatively nearby European ornithologists, it is obviously still more detrimental to the interests of those who work in the countries of the River Plate and other parts of the South American continent, not a few of whom have divided interests in the natural sciences and only limited time to devote to the elucidation of doubts that may arise in connexion with any particular discipline.

Yours faithfully,

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Translations and the Language Barrier

SIR,—The Postgraduate School of Librarianship and Information Science at Sheffield University has been investigating the use of foreign language publications by research workers. Supported by a grant from the Office for Scientific and Technical Information, the 18 month project, now nearing completion, has covered research work being carried out in all disciplines at Sheffield University, assuming this university to be reasonably typical for Britain. We have interviewed well over 50 per cent of academic staff and research students about their language knowledge, scope of research and use of foreign language materials, and, of course, we have collected records on all aspects of library use.

A major objective of the project is to isolate the factors militating against the full use of relevant research work published in languages other than English and to assess the relative significance of these factors. One important aspect is the availability of translation services and the

cost, speed and quality of translations made. We should be pleased to hear from research workers in other universities and in industry about their own experiences in obtaining translations (if possible with details of the translations they have had: language, subject, source of translation, speed, full or summary translation, written or oral, length and cost of the translations, quality, and so on), and in any unsuccessful attempts to obtain translations, in particular the language concerned and the sources approached. We would also welcome any suggestions for improving the present situation.

Yours faithfully,

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University News

The Ralph Yablon Company, Limited, has endowed a chair, to be known as the **Ralph Yablon** chair in behavioural studies which will be established within the Management Centre of the **University of Bradford**.

Dr C. W. Rees, University of Leicester, has been appointed as second professor of organic chemistry at the **University of Liverpool**.

The title of professor of gas dynamics has been conferred on **Dr K. N. C. Bray**, **University of Southampton**.

The title of professor of applied electrostatics has been conferred on **Dr A. W. Bright**, **University of Southampton**.

The title of professor of automobile engineering has been conferred on **Dr T. Priede**, **University of Southampton**.

Appointments

Professor H. J. Evans, University of Aberdeen, has been appointed director of the Medical Research Council's **Clinical and Population Cytogenetics Unit** at the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh.

The Minister for Education and Science in Australia has announced that **Dr J. R. Price** will succeed Sir Frederick White as chairman of the **Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization** when he retires in May 1970.

Announcements

Dr F. E. Round, reader in botany at the University of Bristol, is to visit the University of Ghana as **Royal Society Visiting Professor**. This visit is being made as part of a Royal Society scheme, supported financially by the Leverhulme Trust and the Ministry of Overseas Development, which aims at helping scientific higher education and stimulating scientific interchange between the United Kingdom and overseas countries.

The **Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory of Quantitative Biology** will begin regular distributions of the abstracts of papers presented at its various meetings and selected meetings held elsewhere to all those who require this