

cervical cancer may be saving between 2,000 and 3,000 lives a year. The campaign feels that if it can afford to keep operating it could reach over six million women each year, which should greatly increase the prevention figures.

In the past the WNCCC, originally backed by a five-year grant from the philanthropic organization, Tenovus, has found it difficult to raise money because so many foundations and industrialists already give money to cancer research; even its efforts to get a flag day failed because two other cancer campaigns, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and the Cancer Research Campaign, both devoted to cure rather than prevention, had beaten it to the post. These same bodies are unable to help financially because their constitution prevents them from giving any money to cancer education. The present crisis has been precipitated by the withdrawal of an interest free loan at short notice, but the campaign feels that if it gets the necessary £5,000 which will enable it to carry on for the rest of the year it will survive. Fund raising schemes are under way and it is hoped to encourage those industrial firms "who care for the welfare of their staff" to join a covenant scheme, which would ensure a steady income.

The Department of Health and Social Security has no available money for financing voluntary organizations, but Dr Bill Jones, director general of the Health Education Council, a body funded chiefly by the government, has said "we are having talks with the Women's National Cancer Control Campaign to explore ways in which we can not only help them to carry on, but to be viable".

WEATHER SATELLITES

Nimbus in the Infra-red

THE British infra-red experiment designed to measure atmospheric temperature which is carried aboard the US advanced weather satellite Nimbus D launched in early April is working so well that application has

been made to use the data for the US Weather Bureau's regular daily weather analyses. The experiment, which uses a selective chopper technique, obtains continuous global readings of atmospheric temperature at a number of levels up to 50 km by looking at carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere. It has been prepared by a team led by Dr J. Houghton of Oxford and Dr S. D. Smith of Reading University, using equipment built by GEC-Elliott and Grubb Parsons.

To begin with, an American radiometer of different design yielding two channels of data was providing material for the Weather Bureau's daily charts but the channels recently became noisy, thereby much degrading the data.

Under the original agreement arranged through the Science Research Council, the British experimenters have exclusive rights in the data from their experiment for six months. Negotiations have been going on to release the material daily for the Weather Bureau's practical needs. Obtaining the data in good time is not a problem since it passes through the Goddard Spaceflight Center on its way from the read-out point in Alaska to England. This takes about 6 hours. A fresh computer programme would be required to convert the raw data for the Weather Bureau which was set up to handle the differently processed American material.

The Meteorological Office is also showing great interest in the Houghton-Smith radiometer material. The data is processed daily at the Clarendon Laboratory and passed to Bracknell at intervals of three days or so. There is no plan to include it in daily analyses from Britain but it is being carefully compared with routine measurements of the upper air temperature profile such as those obtained by radio-sonde.

Instrumentation is already well advanced at the Clarendon Laboratory for adapting the technique employed in Nimbus D to measure water vapour in the atmosphere on Nimbus E. This satellite is scheduled for launch in early 1972. For Nimbus F there are plans for extending the temperature measurements to even greater altitudes than those sampled by Nimbus D.

Science in the New Parliament

WHEN the new Parliament reassembles on July 2, 153 new members will find themselves in unfamiliar surroundings—the other 477 were there before the election. What difference will this influx of new blood make to science and technology? For one thing, several able politicians who have taken an interest in science have suddenly found themselves out of a job, and the Select Committee on Science and Technology finds itself in a bereft and peculiar position. But it is perhaps the two people at the head of the ministries—Geoffrey Rippon at the Ministry of Technology and Margaret Thatcher at the Department of Education and Science—who will bear the brunt of the responsibility for reshaping science and technology policy.

Scientists and technologists have always been

reluctant to leave the laboratory bench to take up national politics, and last week's election was no exception. Far from increasing the representation of scientists and technologists in the House of Commons, the election removed from office several members of Parliament who have taken a special interest in scientific affairs and practising scientists are notably few and far between among the members who will take their seats for the first time next month. Only one new member—Dr Gavin Strang, who will represent Edinburgh East—has made a direct swap from laboratory to division lobby, and there are only six engineers among the 153 new recruits to the House of Commons. Dr Strang is a geneticist who has been working for the past four years at the Animal Breeding Research Organization in Edinburgh.