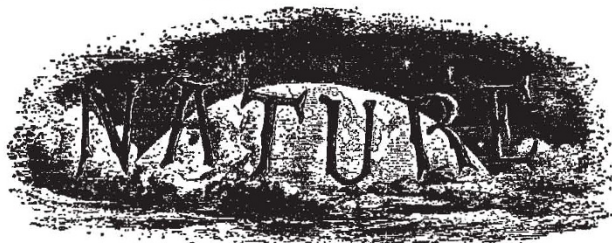


to justify the inclusion of new materials in the safe list. There may be a case for holding this point of view, but if it were accepted, it would be necessary to increase the research strength of the FDA not merely by a factor of two or three but by an order of magnitude.

This is why one of the most disappointing features of the new report, the most recent in Mr Nader's programme to expose all the regulatory agencies to scrutiny, is that it has very little to say about the philosophy which should be adopted by organizations like this. In the past twenty years, the Food and Drug Administration has made a good name for itself by developing and enforcing standards of purity for food. More recently, it has plainly found it harder to keep up with the monitoring of innovation. The ambitious but well intended plan to drive off the pharmacy shelves not merely drugs which are dangerous but those which are in some sense or another unnecessary is having to be farmed out to committees such as that organized by the National Research Council, a procedure which exposes both parties to the bargain to some unnecessary hazards. The difficulty is that any other course would require a Food and Drug Administration which is not merely able to keep pace with the manufacturers but which can also anticipate their innovations.

100 Years Ago



The distance across the Channel on the line chosen is about 22 miles. The tube as proposed is large enough for the passage of carriages of the present ordinary construction, and to avoid the objections to the use of locomotives in a tube of so great a length, and the nuisance which would be thereby created, and taking advantage of the perfect circular form which the mechanical operation of turning, facing, &c., will insure, it is proposed to work the traffic by pneumatic pressure. The air will be exhausted on one side of the train and forced in on the other, and so the required difference of pressure will be given for carrying the train through at any determined speed. Powerful steam-engines, with the necessary apparatus for exhausting and forcing the air into the tube, will be erected on shore at each end; and supposing one tube only to exist, the traffic will be worked alternately in each direction.

It has been found by calculation, that, for moving a large amount of tonnage and a great number of passengers, the most economical arrangement will be to send combined goods and passenger trains through the tube at 20 miles an hour, with occasional express trains at 30 miles an hour. Thus, an ordinary, or slow train would occupy about 66 minutes in the transit, and a quick or express train about 45 minutes. In this way the tube, if fully worked, would permit the passage of 16 ordinary slow trains (8 each way), and 6 express trains (3 each way), each conveying both goods and passengers. About 10,000 tons of goods per day, or upwards of 3,000,000 per annum, and 5,000 passengers, or nearly 2,000,000 per annum, might be taken through, or a less amount of goods and a larger number of passengers, or *vice versa*, if circumstances rendered other proportions necessary or desirable.

From a report in *Nature*, 1, 632, April 21, 1870, of an Anglo-French scheme for constructing a Channel Tunnel.

OLD WORLD

SALARIES

Pay Rise for Dons

by our Education Correspondent

THE latest recommendations of Mr Aubrey Jones's Prices and Incomes Board on university teachers' pay are unlikely to provoke the howls of indignation and the resignations that greeted the first report. An across-the-board rise of 9 per cent, backdated to October 1, 1969, has been recommended (*Standing Reference on the Pay of University Teachers*, Cmnd 4334, HMSO, 6s). It is true that this goes little more than half-way towards meeting the claim put in by the Association of University Teachers last December, but at least the stumbling block of the previous report—that students should have some say in assessing the teaching ability of staff—has been tactfully dropped.

The award will add about £9 million to the total salary bill, and will give assistant lecturers an increase of about £112. The average professor will find himself better off to the tune of about £420 a year. The Association of University Teachers (AUT) asked for increases ranging from 11 per cent for junior lecturers to 15 per cent for professors, and Mr Laurie Sapper, the AUT's general secretary, said that although the association is disappointed that its claim has not been met in full, it is only an interim award and the offer which will be made in October this year may be nearer the level asked for.

When the AUT put in its claim last December, it argued for greater increases at the top end than at the bottom of the salary scale, because shortage of finance has reduced the ratio of senior to junior teachers and caused career prospects to deteriorate. This argument cut no ice with Mr Jones's committee, which suggests in its report that career prospects would be improved much more by removing the UGC's fixed ratio of senior teachers to total number of staff. This proposal, which is supported by the AUT, seems to have been left out of the list of recommendations given at the end of the report, and even if it is accepted by the government it may not make any immediate difference to staff ratios. In most departments, except medicine, the proportion of senior staff is in any case well below the figure recommended by the UGC.

University teachers have always been bitterly opposed to government regulation of their salaries through Mr Jones's committee, and Mr Sapper said that the AUT "rejects completely" the proposal that the Prices and Incomes Board should be involved in further negotiations about university salaries. New machinery for negotiating salaries, which involves direct talks between the AUT and university authorities, is being studied by the Secretary of State for Education at the moment, but the Prices and Incomes Board report suggests that such machinery should not be brought into operation until 1971. A study of university teachers' pay commissioned by the Prices and Incomes Board, and being carried out by the Higher Education Research Unit at the London School of Economics, should be completed in March 1971, and until that time Mr Jones's committee wants to stay in the saddle. But at least British dons are not alone in their opposition to current methods of salary negotiation. Austra-