

characteristics of radio galaxies in particular. It is noteworthy that the association of the surprisingly intense radiation from quasars with dust was confirmed soon after their discovery³, thus confirming Dr Bruce's prediction made eight years earlier. This and the theory's many other successes, many of them also demonstrably predictions, are outlined in another recent ERA Report⁴, so that it is rather surprising that in their recent note Okuda and Wickramasinghe⁵, while confirming Dr Bruce's suggestion as to the importance of dust in the universe, profess ignorance as to the nature of the energy source associated with it.

The novelty of many of these theoretical predictions makes their subsequent confirmation by observations all the more cogent. For example, when the highest solar temperature then discussed was only around a million degrees, Dr Bruce deduced that the temperature in solar flare discharges must reach hundreds of millions of degrees. The existence of these temperatures was confirmed by the discovery of X-rays from solar flares the following year. Dr Bruce's electrical discharge theory of solar flares

would appear to have been confirmed beyond a doubt by A. B. Severny's⁷ discovery, probably one of the most important astronomical observations ever made, that the transverse magnetic fields surrounding two solar flares in 1966 are such as would be caused by electric currents in the flares.

Yours faithfully,

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¹ Bruce, C. E. R., *ERA Report* Ref. Z/T101 (*Phil. Mag.*, **46**, 1123; 1955).

² Bruce, C. E. R., *ERA Report*, Ref. Z/T117 (1958).

³ Burbidge, E. M., and Burbidge, G. R., in *Quasi Stellar Sources and Gravitational Collapse* (edit. by Robinson, I., Schild, A., and Shucking, E. L., 300 and 306 (Chicago Univ. Press, 1965).

⁴ Bruce, C. E. R., *ERA Report* 5275 (1968).

⁵ Okuda, H., and Wickramasinghe, N. C., *Nature*, **226**, 134 (1970).

⁶ Bruce, C. E. R., *Nature*, **184**, 2004 (1959).

⁷ Bruce, C. E. R., *Nature*, **187**, 865 (1960).

⁸ Severny, A. B. (personal communication).

Announcements

University News

Dr Robert B. Leighton has been appointed chairman of the Division of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy, **California Institute of Technology**, in succession to **Dr Carl D. Anderson**.

Professor W. J. H. Butterfield has been appointed vice-chancellor of the **University of Nottingham**, in succession to **Professor F. S. Dainton**.

Dr M. A. Stephens, McGill University, has been appointed to the new chair of mathematical statistics, **Dr R. A. Lawrie** has been promoted to the new chair of food science and **Dr P. S. Pell** has been promoted to the second chair of civil engineering, all in the **University of Nottingham**.

Dr Eric M. Wilson has been appointed to a personal chair in hydraulic engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering, **University of Salford**.

Appointments

Sir Ashley Miles has joined the board of trustees of the **Beit Memorial Fellowships for Medical Research**, in succession to **Sir Alan N. Drury**.

The Salk Institute has appointed **Dr Frederick de Hoffmann** to the new post of chancellor. Dr de Hoffmann was the founder 15 years ago of the research laboratory known as General Atomic, since absorbed by the Gulf Corporation and now known as Gulf General Atomic.

The **British Nutrition Foundation** has announced the creation of two new offices, to replace that of director-general, held by Dr Alastair Frazer until his death last June. **Professor F. G. Young**, University of Cambridge, has been appointed president of the Foundation (a part-time position), and **Miss Dorothy Hollingsworth**, who is at present head of the Food Science Advice Branch of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, will become full-time director of the Foundation in August.

Miscellaneous

The Duke of Northumberland has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, under that statute which provides for the election of persons who either have

rendered conspicuous service to the cause of science or are such that their election would be of signal benefit to the Society.

Awards from the **Ethel Behrens Fund** are available to Fellows of the **Chemical Society** who are studying for their first degree at a British university or technical college, to assist with maintenance and travelling expenses incurred in attending the annual meeting of the Society. This meeting will be held in Brighton from March 31 to April 3, 1971. Further information can be obtained from the Scientific Affairs Officer of the Society, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN.

Twenty grants from the **Chemical Society's Research Fund**, each of £50, will be awarded to Fellows of the Society for the year 1971. Applications will be considered on a merit basis, but preference will be given to those working in less well endowed establishments. Further details can be obtained from the Administrative Officer, The Chemical Society, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN.

ERRATUM. The contents entry for the article by N. R. Blacklow and A. Z. Kapikian "Serological Studies with EB Virus in Infectious Lymphocytosis" (*Nature*, **226**, 647; 1970) should have been **Infectious lymphocytosis**, not **Infectious mononucleosis**. In the article itself, five lines from the end, read "these children" not "three children".

International Meetings

June 29–July 3, **The Harnessing of Science and its Application to Assist in Day to Day Management**, London (Derek Osborne, Operational Research Society Ltd, 64 Cannon Street, London EC4).

July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, August 5, 12, 19, 24, 26, **Will Rogers' Teaching and Training Institute Summer Seminars**, Saranac Lake, NY (Montague Memorial Library, Will Rogers Hospital, Saranac Lake, NY, USA).

July 15–17, **Testing Fibrous Composites for Mechanical Properties**, Teddington (Dr S. L. S. Thomas, National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex).