

gramme. Professor H. Bowen-Jones, director of the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at Durham, and Mr J. Owen Jones, director of the Commonwealth Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The chairman is Mr A. S. H. Kemp, secretary general of the Royal Commonwealth Society, exemplifying the belief that the Commonwealth is a valuable unit in which to pursue the study of human ecology.

CHEC evolved from a committee on human nutrition in the Commonwealth, which, in the 1950s and early 1960s, had such active members as Professors B. S. Platt and R. A. McCance looking for a closer relationship between agriculture, medicine, nutrition and education. This committee conceived the idea of a pilot case study of a small Commonwealth region so that hard facts could be established on an ecological basis. From this idea grew a study of Malta, which the Government and Royal University of the island began in 1966. To complement the activities in Malta with expertise and advice CHEC came into being as a non-profit-making company.

So far the medical side of the Malta project has involved a survey of the physical development of children with respect to nutrition, and a survey of attitudes to health in rural communities. A socio-economic survey is under way, and at the planning stage are surveys of soil and water balance needs, agricultural and food resources, education and physical planning and urbanization.

CHEC hopes that the findings of this and future projects—none are at present in the pipeline—will not only help planners in the regions concerned, but will also be applicable to similar regions in developing areas of the world such as Africa and India. CHEC and the other bodies which are supporting its activities—Unesco among them—feel that this could be a way of providing guidelines for development in harmony with the environment. The first fruits of these grand designs will be made known at the conference in October. With the experience of the Malta project in mind, it has the object of “examining problems of satisfying essential human needs while establishing an ecologically sound balance between man and his environment”.

#### ASSOCIATIONS

### New Image for ANZAAS

SOCIAL responsibility is rapidly becoming a catchword among scientists in Australia and New Zealand. Not only has the Australia and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science adopted the aims of the social responsibility movement and embodied them in its new constitution, but the association's new-style magazine *Search* is anxious to publish articles concerned with the social and economic consequences of science and technology.

The new constitution of ANZAAS, which was proposed last August by a committee under the chairmanship of Sir John Crawford, is essentially a response to the growing dilemma which faces many such organizations. Specialized societies have steadily been taking over the association's role of bringing together scientists for the exchange of information and news, and ANZAAS was forced either to change its aims and functions or to do nothing and fade into obscurity. The aims set out in the association's new

constitution deftly solve the problem of bringing its members together to pursue a common cause—to ensure that science and technology are used for social good—and at the same time they should help to promote science in an atmosphere which is becoming increasingly hostile to scientific development.

The aims of ANZAAS, as stated in the new constitution, are “the advancement of knowledge by bringing together scientists of all types and occupations so that they may interchange information and ideas, and making the public aware of what science is, what scientists do, and of the applications and implications of scientific discoveries to their everyday affairs and those of the nation”.

Sir John's committee clearly saw the need for improved communications between members of ANZAAS for carrying out the new aims of the association, and it took a hard look at the ANZAAS journal, the *Australian Journal of Science*. The first thing to be done, the committee decided, is to give the magazine more money, and to make it more topical and outward looking. The results were seen recently with the publication of *Search*, the new magazine of ANZAAS which has a completely different editorial policy from the old journal.

Mr J. B. Davenport, the magazine's editor, explained in an editorial that *Search* intends to publish review articles which should be comprehensible to scientists not working in that particular field, articles which deal with the social and economic consequences of science and technology, news and comment, and short research communications from scientists working in Australia and New Zealand. Science education will probably receive considerable attention in the magazine's pages, and the first issue contains articles on universities and research and the place of science in Australian education. *Search* is certainly a refreshing change from the *Australian Journal of Science*.

#### NATURE RESERVES

### Mementoes of the Ice Age



A section of the famous “parallel roads” in Glen Roy near Fort William in Inverness, an area which has recently been purchased from the Forestry Commission and subsequently declared a national nature reserve by the Nature Conservancy. The three “roads” or terraces which run along the sides of the glen mark the former water levels of lakes which had been dammed by glaciers during the Ice Age. The highest terrace is at a height of 1,155 feet above sea level, the middle at 1,077 feet, and the lowest at 862 feet.