

problems involved, and produces a common European attitude on how they should be solved, the Council of Europe will have made a major contribution to the future development of world resources.

JOURNALS

Filling a Gap

IN line with increasing acceptance of the need for a scientific approach to the management of research and development, the only British journal devoted entirely to the field has recently been published (*R & D Management*, Basil Blackwell). Dr E. A. Davies, formerly Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Technology, says in the foreword that its principal aim should be to promote the "... efficient and purposeful management of our R & D whether in government, industry or universities. ..."

The new journal is edited by Mr Alan Pearson, director of the R & D Research Unit of the Manchester Business School where contacts with industrialists have emphasized the demand for such a journal. He sees it as combining some of the best features of the two principal research management journals in the US. These are *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, which tends to be rather theoretical, and *Research Management*, which has an editorial board of industrialists and errs rather on the side of publishing subjective accounts of individual R & D policies. Mr Pearson says that his journal will attempt to adopt a disciplined academic approach to a topic which must at all times remain both practical and applicable.

These views are also borne out by the activities of the Science Policy Foundation whose aim of promoting the scientific investigation of science itself includes studies of the economics of research and development. The need to ensure that discussion and exchange of information are on an academically sound basis and as free as possible from subjective bias is reflected in the nature of the seminars organized by the SPF. A measure of the interest among middle and top management can be gauged from the attendance of 70 people at the second of a series of five such seminars on the theme "Industrial R & D—sound business or act of faith?"

The editorial board of *R & D Management* hopes that the circulation of the new journal, published three times per year at a subscription rate of £5, will soon pass the 1,000 mark and that it will be appropriate reading for a wide spectrum of people from directors of research to practising scientists. Its role in the realms of formal education is stressed by Professor F. R. Jevons, head of the Department of Liberal Studies in Science at the University of Manchester and a member of the journal's advisory board. He emphasizes the possible uses of the journal both in joint courses such as those run by his own department and the Manchester Business School and in those optional courses in management economics offered by many engineering schools.

The first issue contains papers on topics such as innovation and the small firm, communication networks in research laboratories and methods for research project selection. It is, however, rather disappointing in its layout, but a rather uninspiring front cover and some blank spaces inside will no doubt disappear as the journal finds its feet.

Parliament in Britain

Open University

THE government's plans for the Open University were the subject of several questions last week. But Mr William van Straubenzee, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science, refused to be drawn into making definite commitments. The university's grant for 1971–73 has been assessed for an intake of 25,000 students in the first year, and between 36,000 and 42,000 a year for the next two years, but annual intakes for the following years have not been determined. Asked by Mr Peter Hardy for an assurance that the university will be allowed to make unimpeded progress and will not be used as a cheap form of education for those leaving school at the age of 18, Mr van Straubenzee said that the government's decisions have been announced and will be adhered to. Nevertheless, the government has asked the Open University to look into the possibility of taking students at the age of 18. The government also has no plans for increasing the educational facilities of the Open University. (Oral answers, December 17.)

Post Office Equipment

ASKED by Dr Maurice Miller whether the government intends to change the right of the post office to manufacture its own equipment, Mr Christopher Chataway, Minister of Post and Telecommunications, said that he has no proposals to amend present legislation. There has been some speculation recently that the Post Office is considering acquiring some manufacturing facilities of its own. (Written answers, December 14.)

Royal Commission on Environment

MR PETER WALKER, Secretary of State for the Environment, said that he has no intention of reviewing the terms of reference of the Royal Commission for the Environment that was set up by the previous government. Mrs Peggy Fenner said that she was sceptical, however, about delaying tactics like the setting up of Royal Commissions. She asked the minister to bear in mind that what the public wants is not advice, consultation, or coordination, but action. Mr Walker replied that the commission should have freedom to choose which aspects of pollution should be given priority. (Oral answers, December 16.)

Museums Charges

DURING a debate in the House of Lords on the government's proposal to institute charges for admission to museums and galleries, Lord Eccles, Paymaster General, announced that the grant to the Arts Council will be increased next year by £2.6 million to £11.9 million. Lord Eccles also made it clear that he is entirely in favour of the proposed charges, and that this was not a measure foisted on him by his colleagues. I thought the choice was right, he said, and I asked my colleagues to endorse it. Lord Eccles offered the increase in the grant to the Arts Council as proof of the government's intention of giving more aid to the arts, and he was also considering ways of releasing the publications department of the British Museum from having to return its profits to the government. Despite strong criticism of the government's proposals, members of the House of Lords endorsed them by a vote of 121 to 84. (Debate, Lords, December 16.)