

# CORRESPONDENCE

## Organochlorines

SIR,—The recent letter by Oestretcher, Shuman and Wurster entitled "DDE Reduces Medullary Bone Formation in Birds" (*Nature*, **229**, 571; 1971) prompts me to suggest that the effects of organochlorines on calcium metabolism in mammals may prove to be a fruitful line of research. During the early 1950s I was a member of a team studying the popula-

tion dynamics of a tropical pest and we were handling gamma-BHC dusts at very high concentrations in order to obtain complete kills. Several of us found that periods of field work were accompanied by a distressing de-calcification of the teeth and hastened tooth decay that we were quite unable to explain. During the past year I have wondered if the condition was due to the high doses of organochlorines that we were absorbing during

our work. If there should prove to be a relation between organochlorines and tooth structure, then the implications for all of us, especially dentists, are obvious.

Yours faithfully,

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## Announcements

### University News

The following appointments to chairs have been made in the **University of London**: **Dr D. E. N. Davies**, University of Technology, Loughborough, to the chair of electrical engineering at University College; **Dr Vivian Moses**, to the chair of microbiology at Queen Mary College; **Professor D. A. Mitchison**, to the chair of bacteriology at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School.

### Appointments

**Mr George F. W. Adler** has been appointed director of research of the **British Hydromechanics Research Association**, in succession to **Mr L. E. Prosser**.

### Miscellaneous

The gold medal of the **Entomological Society of Canada** has been awarded to

**Dr J. G. Rempel**, former professor of biology at the University of Saskatchewan.

Ten research fellowships are offered by the **Parkinson's Disease Foundation** to medical students interested in basic or clinical research in Parkinsonism, to work for three months at their own institutions or at the Clinical Center for Parkinsonism at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. Applications should be submitted to **Dr Melvin D. Yahr**, Parkinson's Disease Foundation, 640 West 168th Street, New York, New York 10032, USA.

Entries are invited by the governors of the **Teyler Foundation** and the members of **Teyler's Second Society** for the Teyler medal. Competitors should submit a treatise, based on published results of experiments, on the morphogenetic processes leading to the formation of roots or buds from full grown cells of higher plants. Further information can be

obtained from the Honorary Secretary, Teyler's Second Society, Haarlem, The Netherlands.

The **Royal Geographical Society** has announced the following awards for 1971: Founder's medal, to **Sir George Deacon**, director of the National Institute of Oceanography; Patron's medal, to **Dr Charles Swithinbank**, British Antarctic survey; Victoria medal, to **Professor O. H. K. Spate**, Australian National University; Murchison award, to **Professor J. W. House**, University of Newcastle upon Tyne; Back award, to **Dr Claudio Vita-Finzi**, University College London; Cuthbert Peak award, to **Dr R. Murray Watson**, Royal Geographical Society's South Turkana expedition; Gill memorial, to **Dr D. B. Grigg**, University of Sheffield; Mrs Patrick Ness award, to **Major J. D. C. Peacock**, Joint Services expedition to Northern Peary Land; Cherry Kearton medal and award, to **Eugen Schuhmacher**.

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