

trained scientists apply for each advertised job? I have a sneaking suspicion that if all Indian scientists abroad were to return home, it may prove a trifle embarrassing for the home country.

Yours faithfully,

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¹ Fowles, John, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, 294 (Little, Brown and Co., 1969).

² Kuhn, T. S., *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Ch. 4 (The University of Chicago Press, 1962).

Obituary

Professor Gunnar Thorson

GUNNAR THORSON, professor of marine zoology at the University of Copenhagen, died on January 24, 1971, at the age of sixty-four. He was best known for his investigations of the fauna of the sound between Denmark and Sweden and his death means a severe loss to the many marine zoologists throughout the world to whom he was a great source of inspiration.

As a student of the University of Copenhagen, Gunnar Thorson had been inspired by the quantitative techniques of Dr C. G. Johs Petersen, and after graduating in 1930 he joined Lauge Koch's three year expedition to east Greenland. There he carried out a quantitative investigation similar to that of Petersen in the Danish waters, working throughout the winter in the Franz Joseph's Fiord complex. It was with some of this work that he obtained his DSc. After a spell as a staff member at the Zoologisk Museum in Copenhagen, he joined Dr H.

Blegvad on an expedition to the Persian Gulf in 1937, to study the bottom fauna.

When war broke out, Gunnar Thorson was on the Swedish island Ven investigating the variations and occurrence of planktonic larvae in the sound between Denmark and Sweden. But by transferring his laboratories to cellars near the harbour in Elsinore, and by persuading the patrol vessels to cooperate in the collection of samples, he was able to continue his work uninterrupted. Thus in 1946, he published the results of these studies in his book *The Reproduction and Larval Development in Danish Marine Bottom Invertebrates*, a work which won him a large prize from a Danish newspaper and world-wide recognition. Later, after many travels, he started to write a monograph on prosobranch egg-capsules, but this he failed to complete.

During his days on Ven, Gunnar Thorson dreamed of establishing a marine laboratory at the University of Copenhagen. This he was able to do, for in 1957 he was made full professor of marine

zoology and put in charge of a small laboratory at Elsinore. While the laboratory as a whole flourished, he himself concentrated on the relationships between predators and their prey. At this time, he also became president of a Nordic College for Marine Biology, and in 1964 he started *Ophelia*, a journal edited by his laboratory, and formed the Mediterranean Association of Marine Biological Organizations. Shortly afterwards he served as a consultant to the Academy of Sciences in Israel. Then, in 1966, he helped to establish a marine biology laboratory at Phuket in Thailand.

Professor Thorson lived just long enough to see a large new wing added to his laboratory in Elsinore, but by this time a heart illness had forced him to retire from his professorship. He collapsed while on a private travel, and died a few days after his return to Denmark. Besides being a biologist bestowed with many honours, he was a man of great enthusiasm for art and music, one who will be remembered as a most inspiring personality.

Announcements

University News

Four appointments to visiting professorships have been made in Imperial College, University of London: **Sir Frederick Bawden**, director of Rothamsted Experimental Station, to the Departments of Botany and Plant Technology and Zoology and Applied Entomology; **Mr R. J. Clayton**, technical director of GEC, to the Department of Engineering; **Dr J. A. Nelder**, Rothamsted Experimental Station, to the Departments of Computing and Control and Mathematics; **Dr C. Potter**, Rothamsted Experimental Station, to the Department of Zoology and Applied Entomology. **Professor J. G. Ball** has been elected dean of the Royal School of Mines and **Professor T. R. E. Southwood** has been elected dean of the Royal College of Science. **Professor A. J. Rutter** has been appointed head of the Department of Botany and Plant Technology at Imperial College.

Appointments

Dr D. J. Watson has been succeeded by **Dr F. G. W. Jones** as deputy director of Rothamsted Experimental Station and by **Professor C. P. Whittingham** as head of the Department of Botany.

Miscellaneous

The medal of the **Society of Chemical Industry** for 1971 will be awarded to **Dr D. W. Kent-Jones**, president of the British Industrial Biological Research Association, at the annual general meeting of the society in Belfast.

The following foreign members of the **Royal Society** were elected on April 22: **Professor H. Cartan**, University of Paris; **Professor S. W. Kuffler**, Harvard Medical School; **Professor K. Mothes**, Institute of Plant Biochemistry, Halle/Saale; **Professor K. Ziegler**, Max-Planck-Institute, Mülheim-Ruhr.

International Meetings

June 2-4, **Microcircuits and their Applications**, London (Symposium Secretary,

Department of Electronic and Communications Engineering, Northern Polytechnic, Holloway Road, London N7).

June 13-18, **American Society of Biological Chemists Meeting**, San Francisco (Mrs T. C. Heatwole, American Society of Biological Chemists, 5110 West Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia 23226, USA).

July 3-10, **Science and Society**, Herceg-Novci (Executive Secretary, Organizing Committee, PO Box 163, Belgrade, Yugoslavia).

July 6-9, **Major Loss in the Process Industries**, Newcastle upon Tyne (Institution of Chemical Engineers, 16 Belgrave Square, London SW1).

July 12-14, **Mode of Action of Narcotic Analgesic Drugs**, Aberdeen (Dr J. F. Mitchell, Department of Pharmacology, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 2QD).

July 19-23, **Molecular Energy Transfer**, Cambridge (A. B. Callear, Department of Physical Chemistry, Lensfield Road, Cambridge CB2 1EP).