

of milk for the benefit of the dairy industry, but primarily done to promote the health of the children whom he suspected of being undernourished, led to further work on human nutrition. With government financial help he undertook the survey which became a classic: *Food, Health and Income*, and was first published in 1936 and had world-wide repercussions.

Then there followed the more extensive dietary and clinical surveys of representative groups of families with children of varying income levels in many parts of Britain, which further demonstrated the relation of food, health and income, and the consciousness of this on a world scale grew into a natural and later international food policy based on human needs. This was supported by Carnegie UK Trust funds. Such was the value of this

accumulated knowledge of human needs and intakes that Orr was able to so advise the Government on the scientific food policy during World War II that we were able to emerge in a better nutritional state than when we entered, for rationing was based on needs and not on purchasing power. Further, these observations and knowledge displayed by Orr so impressed the United Nations that Sir John Orr—as he then was, having been knighted in 1935—was appointed at the Quebec Conference the first director-general of the Food and Agricultural Organization, coinciding with his retirement from the Rowett Research Institute in the autumn of 1945, and this post he held until 1948. It was on the platform or at the conference table that his biggest personal impacts were made.

He was lean with craggy eyebrows,

long jawed, and although he had no tricks of oratory, the single-mindedness of his argument—one thing at a time—and his prophetic sincerity generally won the day. Some thought him naïve, but it was an expressed simplicity with a purpose. His hunches were very sound: he was sometimes impatient of the slowness of the research worker to corroborate what he felt in his bones to be valid and vital.

Orr inherited much of his strength of character from his mother, who was a Boyd. In 1915 he married Miss Elizabeth Pearson Callum, of West Kilbride. They were seldom separated and travelled the world together. She was a wonderful partner and ambassador. He is survived by his wife and two married daughters. Their only son was killed on a Coastal Command mission during the war.

## Announcements

### International Meetings

September 15–17, **British Society for Cell Biology Meeting**, Bristol (Dr J. M. N. Boss, Department of Physiology, Veterinary School, Park Row, Bristol BS1 5LS).

September 20–21, **Small Craft**, Southampton (Royal Institution of Naval Architects, 10 Upper Belgrave Street, London SW1X 8BQ).

September 21–23, **Infrared Techniques**, Reading (Conference Department, Institution of Electronic and Radio Engineers, 8–9 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3RG).

September 28–29, **Biochemistry, Genetics and Therapy of Schizophrenia**, London (Schizophrenia Association of Great Britain, Llanfair Hall, Caernarvon).

September 28–29, **Ultrasonics 71**, London (Mr A. H. Crawford, Ultrasonics 71, 32 High Street, Guildford, Surrey).

October 11–12, **Natural Slopes Stability and Conservation**, Naples and Cosenza (Dr G. Guzzetta, Istituto di Geologia, Naples, Italy).

October 18–22, **Eurocon 71**, Lausanne (Eurocon 71 Office, 24 Chemin de Bellevue, CH-1007 Lausanne, Switzerland).

November 10, **Medical Thermography**, London (Warren Cook & Partners, Woodfield House, Goudhurst, Kent).

November 11–12, **Coatings**, Great Malvern (M. G. Bader, Department of Metallurgy and Materials Technology, University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey).

November 11–12, **Endocrine and Non-endocrine Hormone Producing Tumours**, Houston (Mrs Jane Brandenberger, Information Coordinator, University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute, Texas Medical Center, Houston, Texas 77025, USA).

## Reports and Publications

not included in the Monthly Books Supplement

### Other Countries

Australian Journal of Zoology. Supplementary Series. Supplement No. 1: The Tipulidae (Diptera) of Australia. 3: The Genus *Ptilogyna* Westwood. By N. V. Dobrotworsky. Pp. 41. (East Melbourne: CSIRO, 1971.) [195]

Australian Academy of Science. Reports No. 13: Education and the Environmental Crisis. (Proceedings of a Conference held in Canberra, 24–26 April 1970 under the auspices of the Australian Academy of Science through its National Committee for the International Biological Programme.) Edited by Jeremy Evans and Stephen Boyden. Pp. 117. (Canberra: Australian Academy of Science, 1970.) [195]

Evaluation of Food Additives: Specifications for the Identity and Purity of Food Additives and their Toxicological Evaluation—Some Extraction Solvents and Certain other Substances; and a Review of the Technological Efficacy of some Antimicrobial Agent. (Fourteenth Report of the joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives, Geneva, 24 June–2 July 1970. FAO Nutrition Meetings Report Series, No. 48. WHO Technical Report Series, No. 462.) Pp. 36. (Rome: FAO; London: HMSO, 1971.) 30p; \$1. [205]

National Academy of Engineering—Committee on Public Engineering Policy. Federal Support of Applied Research. Pp. 16. Priorities in Applied Research: an Initial Appraisal. Pp. 33. (Washington, DC: National Academy of Engineering, 1970.) [215]

Mercury in the Environment—The Human Element. By Robin A. Wallace, William Fulkerson, Wilbur D. Shults and William S. Lyon. (ORNL-NSF Environmental Program. ORNL NSF-EP-1.) Pp. vii+61. (Oak Ridge, Tennessee: Oak Ridge National Laboratory, 1971.) [215]

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