attempt" to overcome environmental problems by better use of present resources-for example, by building cars to last fifteen years rather than four. The factor in pollution which chiefly concerns the Royal Commission, he said, is the impact that each unit of goods and services produced has on the environment. It is the belief of the commission that reducing this impact, either by new production methods-as has happened in the case of steel and ammonia-or by legislation, could be a key factor in limiting pollution. To alter that parameter alone will not change the future, said Sir Eric, but at least it would be a constructive policy with which to face the problems.

TECHNOLOGY

Planned Futurology

ARTHUR D. LITTLE has acquired 80 per cent of the assets of Cambridge Consultants Ltd, the British contract research organization which started out as a one-man organization in 1960.

Cambridge Consultants is a company to gladden the heart of a Rothschild, for its sole source of income is contract research and development work. Last year its turnover was in excess of £200,000 and the company has shown a profit for the past three years—in spite of its connexion with AIM Associates Cambridge Group, which went into the hands of the receiver in 1971.

The link-up is expected to be mutually beneficial. Cambridge Consultants feels that as it grows from a small to a medium-sized company it could benefit from the organizational advice and contacts of an experienced management consultancy, particularly one that already specializes in high technology fields. Arthur D. Little sees CCL complementing its operations in Britain, forming a base within Europe, and cooperating with its American technological and research divisions. Indeed, although ADL has acquired 80 per cent of CCL's assets, at a cost of £100,000 including the injection of working capital, the link-up has more the air of a merger than a takeover. CCL will continue to operate under its present management, with its expertise made available to its American parent.

In the past, Cambridge Consultants has worked on projects as diverse as carpet looms and stereophonic amplifiers, teaching machines and radiation pyrometers, as well as defence work. One-third of its work is undertaken for the government and two-thirds for industry. With the experience and new capital of ADL behind it, CCL expects early expansion—up to 20 per cent next year, when turnover should exceed £250,000. Richard Cutting, CCL's managing director, believes that the proposals in the Rothschild report, if

Independent Contract Research Organizations in the U.K.				
Tu (£th	urnover housands)			
Huntingdon Research Centre 2,000				
International Research and				
Development	1,100			
Robertson Research				
International	740			
Ricardo and Co.	740			
Fulmer Research Institute	360			
Inveresk Research				
International	250			
Yarsley Research				
Laboratories	230			
Cambridge Consultants	200			

adopted, can only be to CCL's advantage, and predicts a "dramatic growth in contract research".

Certainly with the expertise of ADL behind it, Cambridge Consultants could well cease to be the comparative baby of the independent research organizations in Britain (see Table). The increase in contracts which CCL has received from blue chip organizations such as ICI, British Oxygen, BAC and Honeywell, the possibilities that the European Community will offer, and the combination of management consultancy and high technology could give the two companies the kind of success that ADL has enjoyed in America.

EUROPEAN SCIENCE Doubling up Exchanges

THE number of postdoctoral and higher research awards for British scientists to carry on further study in Europe should be doubled, according to a Council for Scientific Policy working party under the chairmanship of Sir Harold Thompson. This increase should be brought about by expanding the present Royal Society European Fellowship scheme which in 1969 resulted in 198 scientists coming to Britain and 150 British scientists going to European laboratories for further study.

The working party recommends increased collaboration within Europe because it feels that "a period spent working abroad at an early stage of [a scientist's] career should be regarded as a highly desirable feature of his training". According to the working party, collaboration with European laboratories is even more desirable now than it was in the past because of the cutback in research funding in North America.

Since 1945, most British scientists who have gone abroad have worked in North America and it is only in the past few years that there has been a significant number of scientific exchanges with European laboratories. But with the advent of Europeanism exemplified by the setting up of the European Physical Society and the Royal Society European Programme scientific traffic between Britain and the rest of Europe has rapidly increased.

Between 1966 and 1969, more than 1,100 awards were made by various organizations for scientific exchange within Europe, and half of these were provided by the Royal Society. These include both fellowships and study visits and the working party felt that the average of 85 outgoing fellowships awarded every year to British scientists is too small.

The financing of the Royal Society scheme has, however, received a setback during the current year (1970-71) because £40,000 from private funds has been spent during the past three years, and money from private sources is no longer available. The result is that the £255,000 now available is only slightly more than the £250,000 spent last year. Since the Royal Society scheme was started in 1967-68, the total annual increased from expenditure has £110,000 to the present amount. The Department of Education and Science matches the total contribution of the fourteen European countries involved in the scheme with a balancing contribution to the Royal Society.

Awards made by the Royal Society, the Research Councils and EMBO					
	Fellowships		Study visits		
]	From Britain	To Britain	From Britain	To Britain	
Royal Society European Programme	145	122	208	76	
Agricultural Research Council	_		26	—	
Medical Research Council (own funds)	2	11	39 24		
(paid by others) Natural Environment	14	_	24 21		
Research Council	2		1		
(with NATO)	86	4	6	56	
NATO (European countries other than Britain)		257	_	38	
European Molecular Biology	5	1	20		
Total	254	395	344	171	