

ment of the Natural Environment Research Council's Institute of Tree Biology. It would seem singularly inappropriate, therefore, to suggest now that the "more interesting" parts of the Commission's own research programme might be transferred to the research councils. Moreover, such transfer could hardly be justified on the grounds that the research councils are commercially profitable.

Yours faithfully,

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These arguments are not compelling.

(1) Professor Wareing's suggestion that existing forests would be commercially profitable if the capital cost of their formation had been saddled with an interest rate equal to the expected rate of return from new planting does not invalidate the assertion that this rate of return is much less than that expected from other forms of public investment, by which test the Forestry Commission's operations are unequivocally unprofitable.

(2) On the scale of the Forestry Commission's research programme, the question raised in *Nature* was whether a research programme costing 8 per cent of the commission's annual operating budget is justifiable when there is no prospect that research and development will make the publicly owned forests commercially viable in the ordinary sense.

(3) It is true and was acknowledged that much of the research is relevant to other aspects of British life, but the question is whether, in those circumstances, the appropriate customer (in Rothschild's sense) should be some

other organization than the Forestry Commission.

(4) Humdrum was not intended to apply to the practical work of the research division of the Forestry Commission but to such projects as the attempt to quantify the recreational benefits of British forests, referred to in the leading article of which Professor Wareing complains.

Editor, *Nature*

Addendum

A NOTE in proof should have been added to the article "Action of Black Widow Spider Venom on an Aminergic Synapse" by S. G. Cull-Candy, H. Neal and P. N. R. Usherwood (*Nature*, 241, 353; 1973) as follows: "N. Kawai, A. Mauro and H. Grundfest (*J. Gen. Physiol.*, 6, 650; 1972) have recently shown that BWSV also acts on lobster nerve-muscle synapses, thus confirming our report of the action of this toxin on non-cholinergic systems".

Erratum

In the article, "Further Investigations of the Transfer of Bomb ^{14}C to Man", by D. D. Harkness and A. Walton (*Nature*, 240, 302; 1972), the following corrections should have been made. Paragraph 1, line 7, should read "... differed significantly from ..."; paragraph 5, the equation should read "... $D_i = 0.95 A_i + 0.05 O_i$ "; paragraph 5, lines 8-10, should read "It seems that the finite turnover time for carbon in the human body can be measured via the temporal changes in environmental ^{14}C concentrations"; paragraph 7, penultimate sentence, should read "Smaller variations in the ^{14}C concentrations in individual soft tissues, although statistically not significant, do appear to be real".

Reports and Publications

not included in the Monthly Books Supplement

Great Britain and Ireland

Local Government Boundary Commission for England—Report No. 1. (Cmnd. 5148.) Pp. vii+217+10 maps. (London: HMSO, 1972.) £1.30 net. [2211]

Report of the Agricultural Research Council for the year 1971-72. Pp. vi+68. (London: HMSO, 1972.) 47p net. [2411]

Medical Care in Developing Countries. Pp. 40. (London: Office of Health Economics, 1972.) 25p. [2411]

London and Home Counties Regional Advisory Council for Technological Education. Science Education in the Region, 1972/73. Pp. 52. (London: London and Home Counties Regional Advisory Council for Technological Education, 1972.) 50p. [2411]

Government Statistical Service. Statistical News No. 19. Developments in British Official Statistics. Pp. iv+48. (London: HMSO, 1972.) 30p net. [2411]

National Children's Bureau. Ninth Annual Report, 1971/1972. Pp. 43. (London: National Children's Bureau, 1972.) [2411]

The International Commission on Radiological Protection. ICRP Publication No. 18: The RBE for High-LET Radiations with respect to Mutagenesis. (A Report prepared by a task group of Committee 1 of the ICRP.) Pp. iv+45. (Oxford and New York: Pergamon Press, 1972. Published for ICRP.) £1.50. [2411]

Royal Observatory Bulletins. No. 171: Computer Programmes for Differential Curve-of-Growth Analysis. By A. L. T. Powell. Pp. 1-24. 35p net. No. 172: The Allocation of Objective Gratings to Faint Star Photometry. By G. A. Harding, R. S. Harbour and K. P. Tritton. Pp. 25-60+3 plates. 65p net. No. 173: An Abundance Analysis of Alpha Centauri. By Valerie A. French and A. L. T. Powell. Pp. 61-104. 60p net. (Herstmonceux: Royal Greenwich Observatory, 1972.) [2411]

Reading University Geological Reports. No. 5: A Collection of Computer Programs in Basic for Geology and Geophysics. By Roger Till, David T. Hopkins and Clive McCann. (Reading: Geology Department, The University, 1972.) 50p. [2711]

The Geological Record. 1968, Vol. 105, Section 14: Protochordata together with Pogonophora, Enteropneusta, Graptolithina, Pterobranchia and Phoronidea. Compiled by D. B. Carlisle and R. O. Connick. Pp. 45. 1969, Vol. 106, Section 2: Protozoa, Part 1 (Recent) and Part 2 (Fossil). Compiled by the Staff of the Zoological Society of London. Pp. 214. £8; \$19.30. 1969, Vol. 106, Section 3: Porifera. Compiled by S. Ware. Pp. 19. £3.50; \$8.50. (London: Zoological Society of London, 1972.) [2711]

Koch-Light Laboratories, Ltd. 1973 Catalogue. Pp. 583. (Colnbrook, Bucks: Koch-Light Laboratories, Ltd., 1972.) *Gratis*. [2711]

At the Farmers' Service: A Handy Reference to Various Services Available to Farmers in England and Wales. Pp. 79. (Pinner, Middlesex: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Tolcarne Drive, 1972.) *Gratis*. [2811]

Concorde: Ten Years and a Billion Pounds Later. By Chris and Liz Edwards. Pp. 46. (London: Pluto Press for the Anti-Concorde Project, 7 Chalcot Road, NW1 8LH, 1972.) 30p. [3011]

University of Nottingham, School of Agriculture Report 1971-1972. Pp. 132. (Sutton Bonington, Leicestershire: University of Nottingham, School of Agriculture, 1972.) 60p. [3011]

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