

fully maintained its impartial attitude, described by one of its producers as "beleagued neutrality".

It is just as well it did for a good deal of the evidence is contradictory. DDT was said to circulate in the air and soil, ultimately contaminating the sea but Dr George Harvey of Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, Massachusetts, described his failure to find it there. When DDT was seen to distend the livers of mice it was said to lower their tolerance to some chemicals like carbon tetrachloride but actually increase their resistance to others such as aflatoxin. Almost all the evidence in the programme pointed to the sublethal effect of DDT but there was little opposition to the charges that

it was responsible for deaths due to eggshell thinness in birds and increased mortality in fish eggs.

Out of 23 factories which once produced DDT in the United States only one, Montrose Chemicals, survives. Its workers are continuously exposed to a high level of DDT and if there is any truth in the charge that DDT is carcinogenic then it should be found here. But the programme showed that these workers actually have a lower incidence of cancer than normal. On the dangers to human beings perhaps the most pertinent comment came from Professor James Busbine of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine who felt that DDT has never been proved to cause the death of a single

person but has undoubtedly saved up to ten million lives.

Just before the end of the film the increasing resistance of many insects to DDT was briefly mentioned. Nature itself seems to be passing the final judgment on DDT as more and more pests become immune to its effects. As the future of many underdeveloped countries depends on effective pest control and the use of DDT and other insecticides is becoming increasingly unsatisfactory (even leading to an increase of the pest in some cases), insect resistance is surely important enough to warrant more than this cursory treatment in an otherwise informative and balanced production.

JOHN WILSON

## Announcements

### Appointments

**Anthony Kelly** has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the **University of Surrey**.

**A. J. Leadbetter** has been appointed to the chair of physical chemistry at the **University of Exeter**.

**M. A. Sleight** has been appointed to the chair of biology at the **University of Bristol**.

### International meetings

September 19–20, **551st Meeting of the Biochemical Society**, University of St Andrews (The Meetings Officer, The Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, Holborn, London WC1R 5DP).

September 24, **The Use of Molten Salts in Surface Treatment**, Leatherhead (Dr A. J. B. Cutler, C.E.R.L., Kelvin Avenue, Leatherhead, Surrey, UK).

September 24–25, **552nd Meeting of the Biochemical Society**, University College, Galway (The Meetings Officer, The Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, Holborn, London WC1R 5DP).

September 25–26, **Symposium on the Chemistry of Liquid Metals**, University of Leicester (Dr John F. Gibson, The Chemical Society, Burlington House, London W1V 0BN).

October 3, **Symposium on Micro Organisms in Food**, University of Leeds (Mr A. J. Crowther, The Metal Box Co. Ltd., 24 Fennel Street, Manchester M4 3FH, UK).

October 6–9, **6th Lunteren Lectures on Molecular Genetics**, Netherlands (Dr W. P. M. Hoekstra, Department of Microbiology, State University of Utrecht, Padualaan 8, Utrecht, The Netherlands).

October 7–12, **22nd International Meeting of Transportations and Communications**, Genoa (Segretaria Generale I.I.C., Villa Piaggio, Via Pertinace, 16125 Genoa, Italy).

October 10–12, **Genetic Engineering: Danger or Hope**, Davos (Rudolf Brun, Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute for Economic and Social Studies, CH-8803 Rüschlikon, Switzerland).

October 24, **Inaugural Meeting of the Hydrogeological Group of the Geological Society of London**, London (Dr J. D. Mather, Geological Society of London, Burlington House, London W1V 0JU).

### Errata

In the article "Memory in enzyme membranes" by A. Naparstek *et al.* (*Nature*, **249**, 490; 1974) the legend to Fig. 1 should read . . . internal pH as a function of decreasing (a) and increasing (b), the external pH values.

In the article "Bioassay of a *Drosophila* pheromone influencing sexual selection" by J. E. Leonard, L. Ehrman and M. Schorsch (*Nature*, **250**, 261; 1974) the blocks for Figs 1 and 2 were reversed.

### Reports and Publications

#### Great Britain

Science Research Council. The Work of the Rutherford Laboratory in 1973. Pp. 215 (Chilton, Didcot: Rutherford Laboratory, 1974). [246  
Standing Stones of Maeshowe of Stenness. By Magnus

Spence. Pp. 25. (London: Research into Lost Knowledge Organization, Mrs. Janette Jackson, 36 College Court, Queen Caroline Street, Hammersmith, 1974.) [246

CIRCA—International Centre for Co-operation in Agricultural Research. Intensive Agriculture and the Environment. (North Western European Region Symposium, School of Agriculture, The University, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 19–21st September 1973.) Pp. iv + 123. (Dublin: An Foras Taluntais, 1974.) £2. [266

National Radiological Protection Board. NRPB-R17: The Determination of Plutonium in Urine by Ultrafiltration. By G. N. Stradling, D. S. Popplewell and G. J. Ham. Pp. 12. NRPB-R18: Measurement of Activity of Surfaces Contaminated by Electron-capture Nuclides. By W. J. Iles and D. F. White. Pp. 43. (Harwell, Didcot: National Radiological Protection Board, 1973 and 1974.) [266

Oundle School Natural History Society Annual Report for 1973. Pp. 56. (Oundle, Peterborough: Oundle School Natural History Society, 1974.) [266

Rothamsted Experimental Station. Report for 1973. Part 1: Pp. 412. Part 2: Pp. 276. (Lawes Agricultural Trust.) (Harpenden, Herts: Rothamsted Experimental Station, 1974.) £3 the two parts. [266

#### Other countries

National Research Council of Canada. NRC Associate Committee on Scientific Criteria for Environmental Quality. Picloram: The Effects of Its Use as a Herbicide on Environmental Quality. (Subcommittee Report No. 1.) Pp. 128. (Ottawa: Publications, NRC, 1974.) [216

National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md. Annual Report of International Activities, Fiscal Year 1973. Pp. vi + 100. (DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 74-374.) (Bethesda, Md.: National Institutes of Health, 1974. For sale by US Government Printing Office.) \$1.35. [216

*Journal of Cutaneous Pathology*, Vol. 1 No. 1, February, 1974. Edited by Leopoldo F. Montes. Pp. 71. Subscriptions: Vol. 1 (6 issues) D.kr. 220.00 plus postage D.kr. 14.00 (US \$38.60, £15.40, DM109.50) subject to exchange rate fluctuation. (Copenhagen, Denmark: Munksgaard, 1974.) [216

Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology, No. 154: *Ataenius*, *Aphotaenius*, and *Pseudataenius* of the United States and Canada (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Aphodiinae). By Oscar L. Cartwright. Pp. iv + 106. (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1974. For sale by US Government Printing Office.) \$1.85 [216

Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology, No. 169: Studies of Neotropical Caddisflies, XVIII: New Species of Rhyacophilidae and Glossosomatidae (Trichoptera). By Oliver S. Flint, Jr. Pp. iv + 30. (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1974. For sale by US Government Printing Office.) 80 cents. [216

*Environmental Conservation*, Vol. 1 No. 1, 1974. Edited by Nicholas Polunin. Pp. 80. Subscriptions: Vol. 1 (Quarterly) SFrs 120 (approx. US \$41) (Lausanne, Switzerland: The Foundation for Environmental Conservation, 1974.) [216

Smithsonian Contributions to Paleobiology, No. 20: Ultrastructural Studies on Graptolites, I: The Periderm and Its Derivatives in the Dendroidea and in *Mastigograptus*. By Adam Urbanek and Kenneth M. Towe. Pp. iii + 48. (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1974. For sale by US Government Printing Office.) \$1.35 [216

Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology, No. 171: Spider Mites from Northwestern and North Central Mexico (Acarina: Tetranychidae). By D. M. Tuttle, E. W. Baker and M. Abbatiello. Pp. 18. (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1974. For sale by US Government Printing Office.) 60 cents. [216