

to embody in permanent legislation certain emergency powers in regard to the use of inventions and designs which are not patented or registered, and to compel the disclosure of information about them which the Government now possesses under the Defence Regulations. The first clause lists the specified purposes for which the use of inventions or designs may be authorized, including the supply of goods for defence purposes outside the United Kingdom, and the production of drugs, medicines or appliances for the Ministry of Health. The second clause enables a government department to authorize the use, for the services of the Crown, of any unpatented invention or unregistered design or any information relating to it, and to reproduce any model or document, notwithstanding copyright, for that purpose, and to override any agreement regulating its use, subject to compensation from the government department giving the authority.

Although Lord Mancroft claimed that the Bill only retained essential powers and terminated others which were not required, strong objection to the Bill was raised in the debate, and especially to the third clause, which empowers the Ministry of Supply and the Admiralty to call for the disclosure of information relating to any invention or design, whether or not patented or registered, if it appears to be necessary for defence purposes. Lord Mancroft said that the Government recognizes that this is an extreme power to be used very sparingly, but the power was challenged in the debate as a substantial invasion of the liberties of the subject, and as likely both to violate the sanctity of commercial contracts and to have effects on arrangements for the exchange of technical information with overseas firms which would be very detrimental to the interests of Great Britain. Lord Woolton, in replying for the Government, admitted that consultations with industry are still incomplete and, acceding to the pleas of Lord Wilmot, Lord Balfour of Inchrye, Viscount Simon, Lord Silkin and others, moved the adjournment of the debate.

Florida State University

THE State University of Florida has recently published under the aegis of its Research Council the ninth in its series of research studies. These studies were begun in 1950, and, since that time, separate volumes have been published dealing with the University's contribution to the natural sciences, the social sciences, modern languages and literature, history and political science, English and American literature, literature and philosophy, papers from the Oceanographic Institute, and, the most recent, developments in education. The latter includes a study of the Abbé Grégoire and his contribution to education at the time of the French Revolution, the growth of education in Florida during 1821-45 before it became a State, the relation of schools to local and national administration, the problems of junior high-school children, and the use of the cattle industry in Florida as an educational medium for children.

Royal Society: Election of Officers

THE following have been elected officers and Council of the Royal Society for the ensuing year: *President*, Dr. E. D. Adrian; *Treasurer and Vice-President*, Sir Thomas Merton; *Secretaries and Vice-Presidents*, Sir Edward Salisbury and Sir David Brunt; *Foreign Secretary*, Sir Cyril Hinshelwood; *Other Members of Council*, Dr. F. P. Bowden, Prof.

F. Dickens, Prof. H. J. Emeléus, Mr. A. E. Ingham, Dr. G. M. Lees, Prof. E. G. T. Liddell, Prof. R. A. McCance, Prof. P. B. Medawar, Sir Edward Mellanby, Prof. P. B. Moon, Prof. W. H. Pearsall, Prof. R. O. Redman, Prof. Alexander Robertson, Dr. C. Sykes, Prof. G. Temple and Prof. C. M. Yonge.

Announcements

MR. H. BONDI, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, has been appointed to the University of London chair of mathematics tenable at King's College, in succession to Prof. G. Temple, now Sedleian professor of natural philosophy in the University of Oxford (see *Nature*, 171, 911; 1953).

THE Minister of Supply has appointed Dr. R. Cockburn, scientific adviser to the Air Ministry, to be the principal director of scientific research (guided weapons and electronics), and Mr. J. E. Serby, deputy director of the Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, to be director-general of guided weapons.

THE Chemical Engineering Group and the Food Group of the Society of Chemical Industry are arranging a conference on "Chemical Engineering in the Food Industry", to be held at the Wellcome Research Institution, 183-193 Euston Road, London, N.W.1, during March 18-19, 1954. Further information can be obtained from the Assistant Secretary, Society of Chemical Industry, 56 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

THE third congress of the International Association of Gerontology will be held in London during July 19-23, 1954. The meetings and discussions will be divided between three main sections: biology and pathology; geriatric medicine and psychiatry; and sociology and psychology. Following the congress a number of tours will be arranged to study the care of the elderly in various parts of Britain. Further details can be obtained from the British organizing secretary, Mrs. A. Humphrage, B.M.A. House South, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

THE Swedish Academy of Sciences has issued two supplementary parts to the "Bibliography of J. J. Berzelius", edited by Arne Holmberg, the first dealing with printed works by or about Berzelius, and the second with manuscripts ("Bibliografi över J. J. Berzelius", second supplement, parts I and 2. Stockholm: Svenska Vetenskapsakademien, 1953). These include some items which have come to light since the earlier publications and also references to recent works in which statements about Berzelius appear. These supplements are indispensable to those possessing the former publications.

THE Pacific Science Council Secretariat has compiled for the Pacific Science Association a booklet which lists the "Organizations engaged in Scientific Research on an International Scale in the Pacific" (pp. 32; from the Association, Honolulu; 1953). Besides the address, scope of membership and publications of the organizations listed, the booklet gives their objectives and, for some of them, lists the projects on which they are engaged. There are also charts showing the organization and inter-relations of the various government and non-government agencies concerned, including the Specialized Agencies of the United Nations, but the projects of these Agencies are not elaborated. Besides the islands of the inner Pacific, the Pacific rim territory is covered, but national and local agencies are not listed.