

organized the bio-organic section of the new honours course in biological chemistry at Bristol, which coincides with his increasing interest in the biosynthesis of sugars.

#### Mineralogy in the British Museum (Natural History): Dr. G. F. Claringbull

DR. GORDON FRANK CLARINGBULL has been appointed to the keepership of the Department of Mineralogy in the British Museum (Natural History) in succession to Dr. F. A. Bannister, who has retired on account of ill-health. Dr. Claringbull was educated at Finchley County School and Queen Mary College, University of London. He joined the staff of the Department of Mineralogy in the Museum in 1935 and was at first engaged in petrological work; later he went on to work on X-ray methods of mineralogy. Early in the Second World War he joined a group working under Dr. E. G. Cox in the University of Birmingham on research for the Ministry of Supply. Later he took charge of the group until in 1943 he again joined Prof. E. G. Cox on Combined Operations Operational Research. He returned to the Museum in 1945. Since then he has been engaged on the X-ray study of minerals and on arranging special exhibits of crystal structure and gemstones. His discovery of the new gem mineral sinhalite attracted considerable interest. He is a vice-president of the Gemmological Association of Great Britain, and has been general secretary of the Mineralogical Society since 1938.

The retirement of Dr. Bannister is a great loss to science. It is the earnest hope of his friends that he may soon recover his health, and that he will then be able to resume the researches in mineralogy and X-ray crystallography by which he had already established an outstanding reputation.

#### Advisory Committee on Government Support of Universities and Colleges in the United States

THE National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C., has established an advisory committee to consider the question of government support to colleges and universities in the United States and its effect on their research and teaching functions. The committee is composed of a chairman, Chester I. Barnard, of the National Science Board, and twelve members as follows: Arthur S. Adams, president, American Council on Education; Vannevar Bush, president, Carnegie Institution of Washington; James S. Coles, president, Bowdoin College; Harold W. Dodds, president, Princeton University; Conrad A. Elvehjem, dean of the Graduate School, University of Wisconsin; T. Keith Glennan, president, Case Institute of Technology; Virgil M. Hancher, president, State University of Iowa; William V. Houston, president, Rice Institute; Clark Kerr, chancellor, University of California, Berkeley; C. N. H. Long, professor of physiology, Yale University; Don Price, associate director, the Ford Foundation; and Julius A. Stratton, provost, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

A feature of the post-war era in the United States is that very large sums of money have been paid by government agencies for technological development in universities and colleges, whereas much smaller amounts have been provided for pure research and education in the sciences, although in many respects these institutions are uniquely fitted for carrying on such activities. A closely related question to which the committee may also give attention is

how the Federal Government itself, in co-operation with the colleges and universities, may best develop and encourage research and education in the sciences. Statistics compiled by the Foundation indicate that during the year ending June 30, 1952, educational institutions received almost 300 million dollars from Federal agencies for development and research. Approximately 136 million dollars (46 per cent) was spent by instructional departments, and of the rest, about 3 million dollars was spent by affiliated research organizations, 12.5 million dollars by agricultural experimental stations, and 143.5 million dollars by research centres which were administered by educational institutions for specific Federal agencies but segregated with regard to their organization from the normal activities of the institutions. A total of 225 educational institutions received some Federal support for development and research during 1951-52, and these included 86 universities, 95 liberal arts colleges, 41 professional-technical schools, and three other educational institutions.

#### Help for Foreign Scientists visiting Britain

THE Horse Shoe Club, the Ciba Foundation and the Society for Visiting Scientists wish to make known the various forms of help which they can offer to scientific men visiting Britain. The Horse Shoe Club was formed in 1932 and now has British, United States and Canadian sections, there being more than four hundred members. The objects of the Club are the fostering of friendship and the exchange of medical research and clinical workers between the United States, Canada and Great Britain, and the British section offers its help and hospitality to all visiting United States and Canadian medical workers, both on a professional and personal basis. Further information can be obtained from the honorary secretary, Dr. C. S. Nicol, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, E.C.1. The Ciba Foundation is an international centre, supported by contributions from the chemical and pharmaceutical firm which has its headquarters in Basle, but is entirely independent of the firm in its operation, being registered as a scientific and educational charity under British law. It operates in the field of medical and chemical research, its function being to provide information and to arrange from time to time conferences, lectures, etc.; in addition, it will provide free accommodation to scientific workers visiting London for short periods in the course of their work. Further details can be obtained from Dr. G. Wolstenholme, Director, Ciba Foundation, 41 Portland Place, London, W.1. The Society for Visiting Scientists, Ltd., seeks to be a centre for all scientists visiting the United Kingdom and to put them in touch with British scientists and one another. The House of the Society provides a meeting place, a refectory, a bar and some residential accommodation. Any scientist arriving in Britain can, if he wishes, proceed at once to the House and be given such advice and information as is available. In addition, a body of information concerning science and scientists, not easily available elsewhere, is freely at the disposal of individual scientists and scientific institutions. All inquiries should be directed to Miss E. Simpson, Assistant Secretary of the Society, 5 Old Burlington Street, London, W.1.

#### Investigation of Oil Pollution by Drift Envelopes

ARRANGEMENTS have now been completed by the National Institute of Oceanography and the Royal