

maximum allowance for university education or professional training will be raised to £300. The income scale against which the parental contribution is read off after the appropriate deductions against gross income have been made has been adjusted so as to decrease the contributions of parents with "scale" incomes of £900 a year upwards and bring into the range of assistance some parents whose sons or daughters at present only qualify for the honorarium. Special attention is directed to the arrangement now proposed for the benefit of families where more than one member holds an award. Under this the parental contribution expected is no greater than if there were only one scholar, and the Minister proposes to make arrangements with local education authorities for a similar provision where one or more members of the scholar's family hold local education authority awards. The new income scale and allowances come into force next October.

#### University of Reading

THE Chancellor of the University of Reading, Viscount Templewood, on May 18 laid the foundation stone of the new Faculty of Letters building. This marks the beginning of a scheme which will ultimately result in the transfer of the whole University to Whiteknights Park, a parkland site of three hundred acres on the southern outskirts of the town. The architects are Messrs. Easton and Robertson, and the builders Messrs. Taylor Woodrow Construction, Ltd. It is hoped that the building will be fully occupied by October 1956.

#### Desert Locust Control Organization

THE East Africa High Commission has appointed the following Commission to investigate the Desert Locust Control Organization: Sir Francis Mudie (*chairman*), Dr. B. P. Uvarov, director of the Anti-Locust Research Centre in London, and Mr. G. B. Crichton, a member of H.M. Treasury and head of one of the branches of the Organization and Methods Division; the secretary will be Mr. A. J. Fairclough, of the Colonial Office. The terms of reference of the Commission are: "To review the present operations of the Desert Locust Control Organization with particular reference to the desirability or necessity of the present level and geographical spread of expenditure on locust control work, and to make recommendations for the future; to review the arrangements for financial control and accounting methods of the Organization, and to make recommendations".

#### Science and Progress in Under-developed Areas

ANOTHER seminar on science in the tropics, entitled "Science and Colonial Development", was held in the Institute of Commonwealth Studies (University of London) from January to March. The seminar comprised thirty-one members under the chairmanship of Dr. W. F. Jepson (Imperial College of Science and Technology, London), who, with Prof. G. Macdonald (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) and Dr. J. R. Raeburn (London School of Economics), organized and led the proceedings. Sessions were also led by Mr. J. Rose (Colonial Office) on administration, Prof. B. S. Platt (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) on human nutrition, Dr. A. P. Stirling (London School of Economics), social anthropologist, on social aspects of development, and Dr. H. Greene (Rothamsted Experimental Station) on soil science. The seminar provoked lively discussion on the ends and means of the scientific

worker and the administrator, some salient points being the retention of fundamental research largely in the cultural centres, and the strengthening of the life-line towards the scientist working in under-developed areas, who will seek every means to interpret scientific techniques to his colleagues in other fields, to administrators and, most of all, as a member of a team, to the peasant population. An Indian speaker referred to the possibilities of using troupes of actors to present scientific results in palatable dramatic form. This technique is familiar in Britain in army instruction by means of playlets. All were agreed on the desirability of making a wider use of district teams and of paying more heed to the results of anthropological studies before embarking on social and economic development. It is hoped to arrange a similar seminar during the academic year 1955-56.

#### Soviet Researches in the Arctic

THE Canadian Defence Research Board has made available a translation of a brief report of the Soviet Arctic Research Institute, under the title "New Soviet Researches, Explorations and Discoveries in the Central Arctic" (translated from *Izv. Akad. Nauk., Ser. Geog.*, 5, 3-16 (1954), by E. R. Hope (Ottawa: Defence Scientific Information Service, Defence Research Board, 1954)). The report is a broad review of the achievements of recent Soviet studies in the Arctic. This includes the discovery of a great underwater mountain range dividing the arctic basin; also new information concerning the ice cover and its drift motions. There is a qualitative description of the meteorological conditions and heat balance and, lastly, a description of the geomagnetic results including the pattern of diurnal variation of the field that occurs at high geomagnetic latitudes. The organization and logistics of Soviet arctic exploration are also briefly mentioned. The report will be of interest to geographers, oceanographers, geologists, meteorologists and geomagneticians. It presents only the major conclusions reached in the various fields of study concerning this vast region. Many would no doubt like to have access to the detailed data as well.

#### The University Education Department

FOLLOWING his appointment as professor of education in the University of Sheffield, Prof. W. H. G. Armytage delivered an inaugural lecture on the role of an education department in a modern university. After describing the evolution of the education department, Armytage suggests that its present role is "to afford a little breathing space of one year to all intending teachers, in which we try and help them put together something that has, in many cases, been progressively taken apart and broken down into its constituent elements. We hope in this year that students can learn something about their knowledge, and, in doing so, become the kind of teacher needed in the twentieth century". Copies of this interesting and wide-ranging lecture can be obtained from the Registrar, University, Sheffield 10.

#### Investigations of Flower Colour

IN biochemical and genetical investigations of flower colour, and using the method of paper chromatography, Tōru Endō (*Jap. J. Bot.*, 14, 2, 187; 1954) has carried out an analytical study of the inter-relationships of various pigments in their constituents underlying the flower colour in *Viola*