

play our part but made no comment on the statement that it cost 50s.-70s. per thousand words to obtain a translation, and referred again to the discussions on co-operation in this field proceeding between the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research and the National Science Foundation.

### The Professional Engineers Appointments Bureau

THE Professional Engineers Appointments Bureau, now of 39 Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.1, in its report for 1957 states that a steady demand for engineers of all grades was maintained, although some reduction in the numbers of vacancies notified became apparent toward the end of the year. Enrolments of engineers with the Bureau showed no obvious fluctuations and were similar to 1956, although not so high as in the two previous years, when approximately 2,000 enrolments were recorded. The number on the register was comparatively constant throughout the year, enabling fair selections to be made for the majority of vacancies notified. Notified vacancies covered most branches of engineering, many being located in areas widely spread over the world. Civil engineering especially offered some interesting and well-paid posts abroad, whereas vacancies in the mechanical and electrical branches tended to be for design, development and research engineers, based in the United Kingdom. The more senior posts were mainly managerial or administrative. Salary and location requirements insisted upon by individuals continued to be the major factors governing the selection and numbers of placements achieved. Engineers seeking guidance on careers were given assistance, and advice was offered when difficulties arose in securing positions which would be regarded as carrying professional responsibilities. The number of engineers from the Armed Services increased on account of the reduction in personnel in the Forces and some success was achieved in placing many of these men in civilian posts. There was a continued increase in those over fifty registering with the Bureau, without any comparable increase in vacancies for which employers were prepared to consider men in this age-group. Efforts initiated by organizations interested in this difficult problem seemed to make no progress in improving the opportunities for these men. For this reason a more realistic attitude had to be adopted in discussing prospects before accepting their enrolment.

### Higher Technological Education

THE ninth annual report of the Regional Advisory Council for Higher Technological Education, London and Home Counties, for the year ended August 31, 1957 (pp. 33. London: Regional Advisory Council for Higher Technological Education, 1957), refers to the setting up of a new committee to consider the location of courses, which has already held five meetings, while an organization committee has been examining the structure of the advisory committees. Some concern is expressed about recruitment for part-time agricultural courses, and in applied chemistry the London County Council was asked to consider limiting provision in its area to one sandwich diploma course in pure chemistry for the present. A new sandwich diploma course in pure and applied physics at the Brighton Technical College was supported and a diploma sandwich course in applied biology at the Brunel College of Technology (Acton). The Council adopted the report of a study group on the proposal to establish a college of advanced

building technology in central London, and also approved a report of the committee on the regional provision of full-time and sandwich courses in civil and structural engineering. The Council also agreed in principle to concentrate sandwich diploma courses in electrical engineering in a relatively small number of centres. An increasing demand is noted for sandwich diploma courses in mechanical and production engineering. The theme of the fourth conference of lecturers in management subjects, in June 1957, was "Communications in Industry".

### Technical Education in the Post Office

THE Post Office, in consultation with the trade unions concerned, has produced a scheme for increased facilities for technical education of technical staff. Until recently, such facilities (as distinct from the technical training which the Post Office itself supplies) have been available in normal circumstances only for employees under 18. The new scheme takes three forms—university bursaries, sandwich courses and a certain amount of release during the day for people over 18. It is proposed to award up to ten university bursaries each year for degree studies in technological and scientific fields to be granted to promising members of the staff. It is also intended to award up to ten sandwich course places each year to members of the staff selected on the basis of progress reports from technical colleges, paper qualifications, reports from supervising officers and a final group selection test. Details of the scheme for day release of staff are still under discussion. But the intention is that preference will be given to people who are already taking technical education during the day at their own expense, by taking special leave without pay; and to people for whom evening classes in the subjects they need are not available.

### Building for Technical Education in Scotland

DETAILS of the technical education building programme of £10,725,000 covering projects in Scotland on which work is expected to start in the five years ending March 31, 1961, was given by the Secretary of State for Scotland in a written answer on April 1 to a question in the House of Commons. They included £160,000 for an extension to the Robert Gordon's Technical College, Aberdeen (for which plans and tender have been approved); £500,000 for an extension to Paisley Technical College; £400,000, £300,000 and £840,000 for new technical colleges at Ayr, Clydebank and Falkirk, respectively, for all of which the accommodation schedule has been approved. Plans have been approved for £132,000 for a new technical college at Inverness, and proposals are under consideration for a £600,000 extension to Kirkcaldy Technical College.

### Scientific and Technical Students

IN a reply circulated with Hansard for April 3, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education gave the number of full-time students in further educational establishments who took engineering and craft courses leading to university degrees in 1956-57 as 1,594, and of part-time students as 994. A further 3,581 full-time and 83,569 part-time students obtained national diplomas and certificates; 192 and 71,131, respectively, took City and Guilds examinations, and 3,605 and 5,706, respectively, other examinations, including Dip. Tech. For science, the corresponding figures were: university degrees, 2,145 full-time and 3,348 part-time; national diplomas