

the groups led by Dr. Foy, Dr. Baker, Dr. D. L. Mollin of the Hammersmith Laboratory, and a Royal Army Medical Corps team in Singapore; £25,000 for the continued support of Dr. Baker's unit in Vellore; £15,000 for new X-ray equipment at Vellore.

Awards in the United Kingdom and the United States

OTHER major grants in aid of research out of the total of £248.00 distributed by the Trust during the past half-year included: £40,000 to Prof. H. O. Schild and others for the extension to the Pharmacology Building at University College, London; £15,000 to Prof. J. D. Lever to purchase an electron microscope for the Department of Anatomy, University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, Cardiff; £13,500 to Prof. D. H. R. Barton for the purchase of a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer for the Department of Organic Chemistry, Imperial College of Science and Technology; £10,500 to Dr. D. P. Cuthbertson for the purchase of new radiographic equipment for the Rowett Research Institute, Aberdeen; £10,000 to Prof. H. E. de Wardener, Department of Medicine at the Fulham branch of Charing Cross Hospital; £9,850 to Prof. F. W. Rogers Brambell to increase the accommodation for post-graduate research workers in the Department of Zoology, University College of North Wales, Bangor; £4,000 to Dr. A. H. Harthoorn, to provide a mobile laboratory for field research in comparative physiology, University College of East Africa, Nairobi. A five-year senior Wellcome research fellowship has been provided for Dr. Karlis Adamsons in the Columbia-Probyterian Medical Center, New York City, at a cost of 50,000 dollars. His work will be concerned chiefly with the physiology of the newborn.

New Member of Trust

THE Wellcome Trust announces that Mr. Lancelot Claude Bullock, who was appointed a trustee under the will of the late Sir Henry S. Wellcome, has retired. For many years he was senior partner in the London firm of solicitors, Markby, Stewart and Wadesons, where his associations with Sir Henry Wellcome go back to the time he was asked to advise and draft the will under which the Trust was created. He is succeeded by Mr. Robert Malleson Nesbitt, also of Markby, Stewart and Wadesons.

The State and the Freedom of the University

PROF. M. BOUCHARD, writing in *Science and Freedom* (No. 19; June 1961) on "The Universities in France: Freedom and Autonomy", expresses some concern at the effect on university autonomy of the growing dependence of the universities on State support. While the maintenance of university freedom depends in the last resort on the moderation and liberal outlook of the State, Prof. Bouchard is no less concerned that the individual members of the universities must be allowed full scope for their inquiries and research in whatever field they please, without let or hindrance. They must be free to form their own conclusions and say what they believe to be true. In France, university teachers have the status of civil servants and are protected from all arbitrary measures by a special legal clause which offers security so long as the spirit of independence is kept alive in the universities, and Prof. Bouchard pleads that care should be given to the preservation

of this vital principle. To the same issue, Prof. L. Massart contributes a note on the problems and prospects of the Belgian universities. Pointing out that the appointments of teaching staff are not immune from political influence, he stresses, however, that the real problems of the universities in Belgium arise out of their growing dependence on State support and the increasing number of students. He is disturbed at the persistence of obsolete methods of teaching, the failure to increase the number of students trained for research commensurately with the national needs and the effects of inbreeding from which the university system suffers. He believes that a thorough reappraisal of the university structure in Belgium is required. While the number of students has increased from 10,307 in 1938-39 to 26,057 in 1958-59, and the number of graduates from 1,995 to 4,930 over the same period, the number of doctorates has only risen from 79 to 120, a 40 per cent drop in the rate per 100 graduates.

The Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalists' Trust, Ltd.

THE first annual report of the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalists' Trust, Ltd., which was incorporated as a limited company on January 9, 1961, covers the year 1960 (Pp. 7. Kennington, Oxford: Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Trust, Ltd., 146a Poplar Grove, 1961). At its incorporation the Trust had 328 members, and the major task of the Provisional Executive Committee during the first year was the preparation of a draft constitution which was approved at a meeting of members on November 12, 1960. The objects of the Trust, as set out in its memorandum of association, are to record and investigate places and objects of botanical, zoological, geological, archaeological or scientific interest, or of natural beauty, and to protect these from injury, ill-treatment or destruction; to establish, form, own, maintain and manage nature reserves or bird sanctuaries; to encourage the breeding of wild-birds, insects and plants which are harmless, useful, beautiful or rare; and to promote, organize, carry on and encourage study and research for advancing knowledge in the natural sciences. The Trust has already been concerned with threats to several important sites. In December 1959 it joined with the Nature Conservancy and other bodies in successfully resisting the proposal to build a 250-ft. radio tower in Little Lenham Wood, near Beacon Hill. It has also joined with the Banbury Ornithological Society in asking for the preservation of certain woods in that neighbourhood if further large-scale ironstone working is authorized, and has also sought to preserve the heronry at Chievsley Furze, the famous crocus field at Inkpen, Berkshire, and the sites on which the military and monkey orchids, the red helleborine and the wild fritillarias grow.

Museums Journal

THE second issue of the new format of the quarterly *Museums Journal* (61, No. 2, September 1961) maintains the high standard and deals with a variety of topics. Mr. F. I. G. Rawlins emphasizes the value of the scientific outlook in conservation, Mr. Philip Rawson describes the new Gulbenkian Museum in the University of Durham and Mr. Robert Hill deals the various types of electronic lecture guide systems which are now proving of such absorbing interest to museum curators. Much of this issue is devoted to a