

Universities draw Government money for research from two main sources: from the University Grants Committee and from the three large research councils. The expenditure of the former was more than £70 million last year; while the budgets of the latter exceeded £30 million. By no means all the latter went to universities or technical colleges, for the three councils run large separate research institutions. Yet the tendency for money going to universities through the University Grants Committee to be closely tied to increased numbers of students makes it more difficult to get money for research, and is unlikely to be reversed. In consequence the research councils have a powerful influence on the development of research in universities, which is related to the policy for dividing advanced scientific research, especially that requiring very expensive equipment, between universities and specialized research institutions. Hence the two main sources from which universities receive money for research exercise quite different influences: the University Grants Committee reaches a co-operative agreement on the form

of the growth of each university; the three councils plan, in their respective spheres of application, the development of scientific research nationally. If the arguments outlined here carry weight—that there is an important need for more educational research, and that there are several linked functions which should be planned on a national basis—then the claim for an Educational Research Council is strong. The expenditure involved would be very small in comparison with the existing research councils. It would not by itself have any effect on the present situation as regards the importance of scientific research, and the growing expenditure by the Government on it. But these may lead, in any event, to a review of the machinery of Government which would affect the independence and responsibilities of universities, the University Grants Committee and perhaps even the research councils, which have shown how planning on a national basis can be combined with adequate freedom and scope for initiative for those engaged in scientific research.

## NEWS and VIEWS

### Bacteriology at Glasgow : Prof. R. G. White

DR. ROBERT G. WHITE, reader in bacteriology at the London Hospital, has been appointed to the Gardiner chair of bacteriology at the University of Glasgow in succession to Prof. J. W. Howie, who has been appointed director of the Public Health Laboratory Service Board (see *Nature*, 197, 749; 1963). Dr. White was educated at the Queen's College, Oxford, and qualified from the London Hospital Medical College in 1942. He gained his D.M. at Oxford in 1953. After a period of training in bacteriology under Sir Samuel Bedson in the Emergency Medical Service Laboratory at Epping (1943–44) and of supervising the Central Emergency Medical Service Laboratory in the University of Liverpool (1944–45), he spent two years of service with the Royal Navy as a specialist in bacteriology. On his return to the United Kingdom he joined the Department of Bacteriology at the London Hospital, first as registrar in pathology and later as Freedom Research Fellow. He was appointed reader in bacteriology under Prof. C. F. Barwell in 1954. Visits to the United States were made during this period when, in 1952, he spent a year with Dr. A. H. Coons at the Harvard Medical School as a Medical Research Council Travelling Fellow, and in 1961 when he was travelling professor to the University of Florida and worked there with Prof. E. Suter. Dr. White's research interests have been concerned with a wide range of experimental work bearing on such topics as cellular reactions in immunity, the adjuvant activity of mycobacterial peptido-glycolipids, the role of the thymus gland and auto-antibody responses.

### The Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute: Prof. J. D. Mackenzie

DR. J. D. MACKENZIE has been appointed to the newly established professorship of materials science at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York. The appointment will strengthen the teaching and research of non-metallic solids in the Department of Materials Engineering at Rensselaer. Dr. Mackenzie graduated at Birkbeck College, London, in 1952 with honours in chemistry, and was awarded a Ph.D. and the Diploma of Membership of Imperial College of Science and Technology in physical chemistry by Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, in 1954. He was a Post-doctoral Fellow at Princeton University from 1954 until 1956. In 1956 he was elected to an Imperial Chemical Industries fellowship at Cambridge, and became a Fellow of the Royal Institute

of Chemistry in 1958. Since 1957 he has been with the General Electric Research Laboratory, Schenectady, New York.

### The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

A UNITED Kingdom and Eire Section of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) has been established to serve the interests of the Institute's members in Great Britain and Ireland resulting from the merger of the Institute of Radio Engineers and the American Institute of Electrical Engineers to form the IEEE. The new Institute is a 'non-national' professional society of some 160,000 members, organized in nine Regions and with learned society activities designed to serve the expanding field of electrical and electronics engineering. Membership of the United Kingdom and Eire Section is made up of IEEE members of all grades who are living in Great Britain or Ireland and represents about half the present membership of the European Region of the IEEE, the territory of which is bounded by the Urals and the north coast of Africa and includes other sections in Benelux, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Norway and Switzerland.

The officers of the United Kingdom and Eire Section are: *Chairman*, Dr. R. C. G. Williams; *Vice-Chairmen*, Sir Harold Bishop and Sir John Hacking; *Treasurer*, Dr. R. L. Smith-Rose; *Secretary*, Mr. F. S. Barton; *Assistant Secretary/Treasurer*, Mr. R. C. Winton. Until the Section Executive Committee is established, its functions are being carried on by the Advisory Committee of the IEEE in the United Kingdom and Eire which acts on behalf of the Board of Directors of the IEEE. The aim of the Section will be to achieve close co-operation with the Institute of Electrical Engineers, the British Institute of Radio Engineers and other professional societies, which between them already hold several hundred meetings, colloquia and conferences a year throughout Great Britain and Ireland covering all aspects of the electrical and electronic field. In these circumstances, the role of the Section will be primarily to join in or initiate joint meetings or conferences, and to carry out the special function of providing a two-way link with professional activities in the United States and elsewhere. In this way more opportunities will be created for lectures and papers by American engineers in Britain and by British engineers in the United States. Further information can be obtained from Mr. J. R. Smith, 2 Savoy Place, London, W.C.2.